

New Rural Health Scheme

1938. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS :
 DR. LOKESH CHANDRA :
 SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE :
 SHRI ROSHAN LAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch a new rural health scheme ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b). No new rural health scheme is proposed to be launched. However, the revision of the Community Health Volunteers Scheme, popularly known as the Rural Health Scheme is under consideration of the Government.

Visit of the Prime Minister of U.K. to India

1939. SHRI JASWANT SINGH :
 SHRI F. M. KHAN :
 SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI :
 SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister of U.K. visited India during the month of April, 1981 ;

(b) the nature of discussions held with the Indian Leaders ;

(c) whether the racial issue in the U.K. was also discussed ; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) International issues were generally discussed. Indo-British bilateral relations were also reviewed.

(c) The following questions were discussed : The British Nationality Bill, the treatment of Indian nationals in the UK, and the repercussions arising from the problems of UK citizens of Indian origin.

(d) The British Prime Minister reiterated her view about the need for a new Nationality law and at the same time the policy of the UK Government to ensure equal rights for all citizens and other Commonwealth nationals settled in UK irrespective of race or colour. Government will continue to review the situation.

U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea

1940. SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :
 SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR :
 DR. LOKESH CHANDRA :
 SHRI ROSHAN LAL :
 SHRI MURLIDHAR :
 CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :
 SHRI N.K.P. SALVE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recent U.N. Conference on Law of the Sea has failed to arrive at a settlement of the issue involved ;

(b) which forces are instrumental in blocking the signing of the convention on the Law of the Sea ; and

(c) what stand Secretary-General of the Asian-African Legal consultative Committee had taken regarding the review of the draft convention on the Law of the Sea ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the eve of the 10th Session in New York, the new U.S. Administration announced that it would not be able to commit itself to the formalisation of the Convention and conclusion of the Conference until it had an opportunity to review thoroughly the entire package of solutions so far achieved at the Conference. As a result, the Conference could not finalize its work at its recent session in New York.

(c) We are not aware of the stand the Secretary General the Asian African Legal Consultative Committee (AALCC) took regarding the U. S. decision to review the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Secretary-General of AALCC attended the 10th Session of the Conference as an observer. He held private consultations with a number of delegations from different countries. His impressions, views and recommendation will be considered by AALCC at its next annual session to be held in Colombo from May 24 to 30, 1981. India is a member of AALCC.

Deployment of Nuclear-weapons in Diego Garcia

1941. SHRI N.K.P. SALVE :
SHRI MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE :
SHRI SWAMY DINESH
CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the PTI report published in different news-

papers on April, 21, 1981 to the effect that the pentagon has already started deployment of nuclear weapons and equipments in Diego Garcia ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the Indian Ocean is kept as a nuclear free zone ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Government are aware of news reports to this effect.

(b) On being asked about the veracity of these reports, US authorities have stated their official policy is to neither confirm nor deny US nuclear weapons deployment, whether at land or at sea.

(c) In bilateral contacts as also at various international and multi-lateral fora like the U.N. and Non-aligned meetings, Government of India have consistently opposed Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean area. India is working with other Non-aligned as also with the littoral and hinterland States to preserve the concept contained in the U.N. Declaration of 1971 which envisages the "elimination from the Indian Ocean of all bases, military installations, logistical supply facilities, the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and any manifestation of Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean conceived in the context of Great Power rivalry." The Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference in New Delhi, in February, 1981, reiterated that the Indian Ocean should be free of Great Power military presence, and reaffirmed their determination to work for the success of the conference on the Indian Ocean scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka in 1981.