

With a view to avoiding adverse publicity in a foreign capital concerning our Ambassador, Government of India deputed a senior officer to go to Tunis and look after arrangements to ensure a smooth change-over, and to arrange details of the Ambassador's departure.

(b) As stated above, the senior officer was sent to Tunis to ensure a smooth change-over and to arrange details of the Ambassador's departure.

(c) In addition to the cost of passages to and from Tunis for this officer, a sum of Rs. 1,246 was incurred as TA and DA.

(d) Yes, Sir. There were already numerous serious charges of irregularities and it was decided not to add this.

(e) Disciplinary action before a Commissioner for Departmental Enquiries belonging to the Central Vigilance Commission for 20 serious charges of administrative and financial irregularities is currently in progress.

Inquiry against a former Ambassador

517. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE;
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2755 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th December, 1980 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a departmental enquiry, a former Ambassador cited several instances of irregularities and non-observance of the principles of natural justice to the Commissioner for Departmental Enquiries of the Central Vigilance Commission and if so, what were the findings item-wise;

(b) what action has been taken in the matter; and

(c) whether the former Ambassador had demanded in writing that the charges levelled by him against certain I.F.S. personnel should be inquired into along with the allegedly

false counter-complaints made against him and whether the former Ambassador's complaints were investigated and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (c) As the Departmental Inquiry against the officer is currently in progress by the Commissioner for Departmental Enquiries of the Central Vigilance Commission, Government would not be able to provide details of their findings as also on all attendant factors and evidence being adduced by the charged Officer and by the Government, until after the conclusion of the Inquiry.

Reservation of seats in Medical Colleges on payment of Capitation Fees

518. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seats are reserved for the students paying capitation fees in medical colleges in Karnataka State;

(b) the number of seats reserved and the number of students who were admitted during the last three years on the payment of capitation fees from India and abroad;

(c) what are the names of these Medical Colleges; and

(d) what steps the Central Government is taking for abolition of capitation fees in such colleges in Karnataka and in other places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) The requisite information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) As per information available, the following medical colleges in the State of Karnataka are charging capitation fee:—

1. J. N. Medical College, Belgaum.

2. J. J. M. Medical College, Devangere.

3. M. R. Medical College, Gulbarga.

4. Kasturba Medical College, Manipal/Mangalore.

Apart from the above certain other institutions in Karnataka are also contemplating charging capitation fees.

(d) The Government of India have already advised all the State Governments which have medical colleges charging capitation fees, to do away the system altogether.

Tension due to increased Military capabilities at Diego Garcia

519. SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:
SHRI GANAPAT HIRALAL BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent attempts of U.S.A. to increase military capabilities at Diego Garcia and round about places have created further threat and tension in the sub-continent;

(b) whether Government are aware of the rivalry between the super powers to use the Indian Ocean for military purposes; and

(c) if so, whether Government have conveyed its views to the respective countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) and (b) Government has noted with concern a sharp escalation in US naval activity in the Indian Ocean, following which Soviet naval presence too has increased. This has resulted in the introduction of further tensions in our neighbourhood and has, therefore, had a detrimental impact on our security environment.

(c) In bilateral contacts as also at various international and multilateral forums like the U.N. and the 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 UN Resolution of 1971 which envisages the elimination of Great Power military presence from the Indian Ocean. The Non-aligned Foreign Ministers Conference in New Delhi reiterated in February 1981 that the Indian Ocean should be free of Great Power military presence.

Modernisation of Major Ports

520. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernise the major ports in the country under the Sixth Five-Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980—85) for Major Ports has been finalised and a sum of Rs. 531 crores has been allocated for the development of major ports. Some of the important development schemes of major ports being taken up during the current Plan period are:

(i) Installation of container handling facilities at Bombay, Cochin and Madras.

(ii) Construction of new berths equipment by all the ports.

(iii) Construction of new berths with modern facilities at Kandla, Mormugao, Mangalore, Paradip, Tuticorin and Visakhapatnam.