

supply at New Jalpaiguri is Mahananda River. Due to scanty flow of water in the river during the summer season, there is shortage of water supply at this station. In order to tide over the difficulty, steps have been taken to sink one deep tube well during the current year and proposals for more tube wells are being considered.

Construction of additional retiring room at New Jalpaiguri Railway Station

1699. SHRI PRASENJIT
BARMAN :

SHRI SUDHAKAR
PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to the reply to Unstarred Question 1893 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th May, 1981 and state :

(a) whether the construction work of additional retiring room at New Jalpaiguri station on N.F. Railway has since been completed ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) when actually the construction work is likely to be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The construction work has been completed and the retiring room will be commissioned shortly.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Constructions work on Realignment of National Highway No. 31

1700. SHRI PRASENJIT
BARMAN :

SHRI SUDHAKAR
PANDEY :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to

refer to answer to the Starred Question 244 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th March, 1981 and state :

(a) whether the survey and investigation and acquisition matters, and detailed project estimates etc. in respect of phase I of the project realignment of National Highway 31 between Pundibari and Dhupguri in West Bengal have been since finalised ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) by when the construction work is likely to start ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT : (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) The field survey for Phase I work for realignment of National Highway No. 31, between Dhupguri and Pundibari has been nearly completed. The estimates/revised alignment plans for work are reported by P.W.D., West Bengal to be in different stages of preparation. It is premature to indicate the date of commencement of the work at this stage.

चीन के साथ सीमा विवाद का निपटारा

1701. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :
श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या चुम्बी घाटी या अन्य किसी क्षेत्र के संबंध में चीन के साथ समझौता करने का कोई प्रस्ताव भारत सरकार के विचारार्थ है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

विदेश मंत्रो (श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव) . (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Sale of Arms by U.S.A. at Special Discount

1702. SHRI N. K. P. SAVLE :
SHRI MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE :
SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to the reports that the US Administration propose to sell arms to Pakistan and other countries at a special discount ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard indicating specifically the nature and quantum of the arms, warships and aircraft to be sold at special discount and the extent of the discount to be granted ; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b) According to the agreement arrived at during the visit of the U.S. Under Secretary of State Mr. Buckley in June 1981 to Islamabad it was agreed that the U.S. would give military and economic assistance worth \$ 3 billion. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan stated on 29th June that out of this \$ 3 billion, \$ 2 billion would be in the form of military credits at 14 per cent rate of interest, repayment over 30 years and a grace period of 10 years and the remaining 1 billion would be in security related economic assistance with 3 per cent rate of interest, repayment period 30 years. In addition to this aid, to meet Pakistan's urgent need the U.S. Government has also agreed to supply certain equipment on cash

purchase basis. Aid and cash purchase arrangements are still under negotiation and details have not yet been disclosed.

(c) Our serious concern about the context, scale and level of sophistication of the arms proposed to be acquired by Pakistan has been conveyed in no uncertain terms to both countries. It was pointed out that such acquisition could upset the existing balance, trigger off an arms race and cause tension in the region, and have an adverse effect on the normalisation efforts that are under way between India and Pakistan.

Statement by Pakistani Foreign Minister

1703. SHRI N.K. P. SALVE :
SHRI MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE :
SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement given by Pakistan's Foreign Minister in an interview with a Pak-Magazine "Urdu Digest" as published in the Times of India dated June 1981 to the effect that "a rapprochement with India was possible if New Delhi confirmed its opposition to Soviet forces in Afghanistan";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in regard thereto ; and

(c) whether the matter was discussed by him with Pakistan Government during his visit to that country following the aforesaid statement ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Government have seen an interview, published by a Lahore journal, "Urdu Digest"