

(b) if so, what are the details of the issues discussed with him and the Prime Minister; and

(c) what was the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c). The Afghan Foreign Minister handed over a written message from President Babrak Karmal to our Prime Minister. In the discussions, Mr. Shah Mohammad Dost gave details of the Afghan proposals of August 24, 1981 for a political settlement with respect to Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that the flexibility shown in the Afghan proposals would enable early commencement of negotiations amongst the countries directly involved.

**Remarks by the official of Pak Embassy regarding condition of Muslims in India**

3111. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:

SHRI NARASINGHA  
PRASAD NANDA:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA  
BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the remarks made by a Pakistan embassy official about the conditions of Muslims in India; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) As I had stated in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1032 on 28-8-1981, Government have taken note of the letter written by Second Secretary in the Pakistan Embassy, Capt. Masood Akhtar, published in a Pakistani newspaper "Pakistan Times" on 26th July, 1981, wherein the Embassy official had alleged, *inter alia*,

that the deteriorating economic conditions of Muslims in India had prompted them to seek settlement in Pakistan.

(b) Government have taken objection to a responsible official of the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi writing a letter with such unfounded and unjustifiable content. A protest has been lodged both by our Embassy in Islamabad with the Pakistan Foreign Office and by this Ministry with the Pakistan Embassy. The Embassy of Pakistan here have expressed their regret and a letter by the Pakistani Ambassador in India has been published in the Pakistan Times on 23rd August expressing regret for the hurt caused by the remarks of the Embassy official.

**Setting up of Labour Export Corporations**

3112. SHI V. P. MUNUSAMY:

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a Labour Export Corporation have been set up in China to make offers of un-skilled labour supply to those countries which can bag contracts in West Asia, Africa and elsewhere;

(b) if so; what steps Government propose to take to set up such an agency in India; and

(c) what are the salient features thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India are considering a proposal to set up a Central Overseas Manpower Corporation for undertaking recruitment of India personnel for employment abroad.