

Visit by Defence officials for procuring defence equipment

376. SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries visited recently by the teams of the officials of the Defence Ministry for procuring defence equipment;

(b) the names of members of the delegations; and

(c) the details of purchases negotiated and finalised as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Officials of the Defence Ministry recently visited USA for the specific purpose of procuring Defence equipment.

(b) and (c) It is not in the public interest to disclose the details.

Fleets of warship in Indian Ocean

377. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to press reports to the effect that since the outbreak of Iraq-Iran war in the Middle East, fleets of warship belonging to several countries like U.S.A. France, Britain and the USSR, have moved into the Indian Ocean in good strength thus posing threat to different countries in the region including India;

(b) if so, the estimated strength of such moved forces; country-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by Government in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir; Government are aware of the presence of foreign war-ships in the Indian Ocean. The Naval Build-up by the big powers in the Indian Ocean does

cause us concern with regard to the security of India.

(b) It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the strength of such foreign Naval forces operating in the Indian Ocean.

(c) Keeping in view the developments in the region that have a bearing on the security of our maritime boundaries, India's defence capabilities are under continuous review and such measures as are appropriate are taken from time to time. It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of these measures.

Agarwal Committee on import substitution

378. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agarwal Committee on import substitution has submitted its report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the report and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee on Import Substitution has made a large number of recommendations under the following headings:

(i) Policy framework.

"(ii) Important areas (industry-wise)

(iii) Infrastructure.

(iv) supporting measures, and

(v) Monitoring and Coordination.

The report of the Committee was formally submitted to Government on 16 October, 1980 and as such it is too early to indicate action taken on the