

It expressed the resolve of these countries to strengthen the security of the member States through cooperation and solidarity of Islamic countries in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Charter of the Islamic Conference and those of non-alignment.

Government have taken note of this resolution. Government do not consider it necessary to seek any clarification of the resolution from the Government of Pakistan.

Shri R.D. Sathe's visit to Kabul

340. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

SHRI HARI SHANKER BHABHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the objectives and proposals carried by India's emissary; Shri R.D. Sathe when he made a dash to Kabul on the eve of the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference at Islamabad in the middle of May 1980;

(b) whether Government's attempts with regard to securing withdrawal of the Russian Forces from Afghanistan have borne fruit; and

(c) what further measures Government propose to take to secure the withdrawal of Russian forces from Kabul?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Shri R. D. Sathe, Foreign Secretary visited Kabul from May 16 to 19, 1980 with a view to continuing the process of bilateral consultations with the Afghan Government on matters concerning the situation in the region and Indo-Afghan relations. While in Kabul he also took the opportunity to obtain from the Afghan Government an elucidation of the Afghan proposal of May 14 which sought a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

(b) India has continued its consultations with a large number of countries with a view to de-escalating tensions in the region and working towards a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan, including withdrawal of Soviet troops therefrom. The process continues.

(c) Government have continued to reiterate its opposition to the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan and has at the same time continued to make diplomatic efforts in the direction mentioned in the answer to (b) above.

Enquiry into the disappearance of ship 'Araba'

341. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-level enquiry has been ordered into the disappearance of the ship 'Araba'; and

(b) whether the ship was 'arrested' by some country for violating any rules?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT. (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) We have no authentic information in this regard.

Export of medicinal herbs

342. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to export medicinal herbs to increase the employment potential in the country; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that clinical studies on herbs are being carried out on a substantial scale for their effective utilisation and industrial exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Yes.

Non-maintenance of Inventory of loco parts at Bikaner

343. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works despatched spares worth Rs. 6.22 lakhs of loco components to the Northern Railway Stores at Bikaner during 1971-72 for which no proper records were kept at Bikaner;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the debits raised by the CLW for these spares were accepted in July 1974 by the Works Manager, Bikaner, without physical verification of the materials;

(c) whether it is a fact that some items were untraceable when a physical check was made in November, 1976; and

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard and what are the findings thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) Yes. In November, 1976 it came to the notice of the Railway that 209 items had remained unaccounted. Out of these, 105 items had been cleared upto February, 1980, leaving a balance of 104 items valuing Rs. 52,000 which are still to be cleared.

(d) A special team from the Mechanical and Stores Departments of the Railway are scrutinising records to trace the balance items.

AIIMS doctors on Strike

344. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that doctors at the A.I.I.M.S., New Delhi, went on strike recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of their demands; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.

Statement

The Resident Doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences have been on strike without proper notice since 21st April, 1980. Their main grievances and reasons for the strike demands are as under:—

(i) Thesis as a part of the MD/MS Course be abolished with immediate effect starting from the batch of candidates appearing for the Final Examination in December, 1980.

(ii) All residents should be given appropriate residential accommodation immediately on their joining the residency.

(iii) The residents should not be required to do any laboratory investigations or go to laboratories to collect investigation reports. Appropriate arrangements be made to revise duty rosters so as to ensure that all residents get Sundays/Gazetted holidays off except the resident on duty who should get a week day off in lieu thereof. After a day and night duty of 24 hours a resident should get the next 24 hours off.

(iv) All residents should be entitled to one months earned leave/vacation, one month unpaid extra-