

Computerisation of Reservation in the Railways

398. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to introduce computerisation of reservation in the Railways; and

(b) if so, how many posts are likely to be abolished as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) Computerisation of passenger seat/berth reservations, on a programmed basis, is already envisaged. Studies with regard to the strategy for establishing computer networks for this job are on hand.

(b) As and when computerisation is introduced, there will be no retrenchment of the existing staff. It will also be ensured that their interests are protected.

Pakistan's Request for admission in non-aligned community

399. SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan requested India's support for seeking admission to the non-aligned community; and

(b) if so, what was Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are certain well established criteria for participation in the

Non-aligned Movement. Our approach to the question of membership has always been a principled one. Since the general consensus was that as a result of recent decisions of the Pakistan Government, she now fulfilled the criteria, Government went along with the consensus arrived at during the recently concluded Ministerial level meeting of the non-aligned Coordinating Bureau at Colombo to recommend the admission of Pakistan to the Movement.

Summit meeting between Presidents of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R.

400. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent summit meeting held in Vienna between the U.S. President and Soviet President relating to the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement arrived at, and what is the reaction of the Government of India in relation to the Indian Government's nuclear strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The full text of the agreement including the SALT II Treaty and related documents has been widely published and also reported in the national newspapers. The Government of India has welcomed the agreement, as an important step towards creating a more favourable climate for achieving progress in the field of disarmament. However, at the same time, in India's view, greater, determined efforts will be needed to secure the total abolition of nuclear weapons in order to save the world from the grave danger of the catastrophic effects of such weapons.