

(d) whether it is also a fact that all these warships were allowed to dock at the Colombo ports by the Sri Lanka Government;

(e) whether the Indian docks were also used by them; and

(f) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure that the Indian Ocean is not a place of war?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) U. S. B-52 bombers reportedly flew over the Indian Ocean in January 1980.

(c) A record number of warships have been deployed by both the USA and the USSR in the Indian Ocean during recent months.

(d) Some of the foreign warships operating in the Indian Ocean are known to have visited Colombo from time to time.

(e) No warships of the USSR, the USA and France have docked in Indian ports in the recent past.

(f) The Government of India's commitment to the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean is well known. The Government of India has expressed its concern about the mounting escalation of military tension in this region in international forums. This view has also been stressed in our discussions with foreign dignitaries. We have emphasised that it is vitally necessary that the present tense situation, created as a result of growing super power confrontation in the region, especially through dangerous arms build up, should be defused and peace and stability in this sensitive region should be restored.

Statement on india by the Adviser to Pakistan President

265. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'States man' of the 4th February, 1980 to the effect that the Foreign Affairs Adviser to President of Pakistan is reported to have stated that even with the Soviet at their doorsteps, the main threat to Pakistan is from India; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have conveyed to the Government of Pakistan at various levels that India remains committed to the Simla Agreement which enjoins upon both parties respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. India therefore poses no threat whatsoever to Pakistan.

Conversion of Madras-Madurai-Tirunelveli railway line into broad gauge

266. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to convert the 700 km. Madras-Madurai-Tirunelveli Railway line from metre gauge into broad gauge;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) Representations have been received in regard to the conversion of the MG line from Madras to Tirunelveli.

(b) Reappraisal of the earlier survey for the construction of a new BG line from Karur to Dindigul and conversion of the MG line from LMdighul to Tirumellveli/TuticorifL has already been taken up, and it is in progress. The new BG line from

Karur to Dindigul has been preferred for the reason that the conversion of Tiruchirapalli-Dindigul section will snap the existing through MG line between Tiruchirapalli and stations on Dindigul Podanur and Olavakot sections.

There is no proposal under consideration for the conversion of the MG line between Madras and Trichy.

Discriminatory treatment towards the immigrants of Asian origin by U. K. Government

267. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the immigrants of the Asian origin are subjected to discrimination at the Heathrow Airport, London, in violation of the immigration laws and regulations of that country;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to stop the discriminatory treatment meted out to the immigrants; and

(c) whether Government are aware of any secret instructions issued by the British Government to the immigration staff in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Some cases have come to notice in which Indian citizens complained of harassment by the British Immigration authorities at the time of their entry into the United Kingdom.

(b) Government is alive to the problems of Indian visitors to the U. K. and have been taking up the matter with the British authorities from time to time including specific complaints where details are furnished.

(c) No. Sir.

Sharing of Ganga waters between India and Bangladesh

268. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will

the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission talks have failed and there is no possibility of an early settlement of the problems of sharing Ganga waters between the two countries;

(b) whether the dispute has been referred to the Prime Minister of India and the President of Bangladesh; and

(c) whether both the heads of Governments are meeting soon to settle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):

(a) The eighteenth session of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held at New Delhi from the 27th February to the 29th February 1980. As the Commission could not complete its deliberations on two items of its four points agenda, the meeting was adjourned. The Commission is likely to resume its session at an early date.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise at this stage.

Production of Weapon Grade Uranium by Pakistan

269. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report appearing in a section of press on 29th February, 1980 captioned "Pak N-plans disturb Washington";

(b) whether Pakistan Government is continuing its efforts to produce weapon's grade uranium;

(c) whether the Government of India have approached the U.S. Government that the U. S. programme to provide 400 million dollars military and economic aid to Pakistan over two years be not implemented; and