

(b) whether it has also been reported that Russian forces have also encircled the Indian territory;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) No reports have come to the attention of the government which suggest that Russian forces have encircled Indian territory.

Deployment of American and Russian Naval fleet in the Indian Ocean

123. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the American and Russian naval fleet have been deployed in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

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

(b) The Government of India view this escalating military presence of the Super Powers in the Indian Ocean as a matter of grave concern. Consistent with our established policy, we would like the elimination of all foreign military presence from this area.

Increase in the salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament

124. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the salaries and allowances of the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c) No proposal is at present under the consideration of Government to increase the salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament. Ordinarily Government initiate action in the matter of increase in the salary and allowances of Members on the recommendation of the Joint Committee on Salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament.

Introduction of new fast trains in the Southern region

125. SHRI B. SATYANARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce more fast running trains to Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala in view of the growing public demand and long distance involved; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, not at present.

(b) Due to line capacity constraints on trunk routes it is not operationally feasible to introduce in the immediate future additional trains from Delhi to the Southern States, like Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Licentiate course in medicine

126. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the three year licentiate course in medicine, which was persistently being opposed by the Medical Council of India, has been revived;