

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) As 101/102 Rajdhani Express trains do not pass through Patna, the question of providing stoppage of this train at Patna does not arise.

(b) Not in the immediate future.

(c) 153/154 Bi-weekly Jayanti Janata Express and 167/168 Vikram Shella Bi-weekly Express trains are stopping at Danapur, Arrah and Buxar. Due to the acceleration of 155/156 Tinsukia Mail from November 78, the stoppages at Arrah and Buxar were withdrawn. It is, however, stopping at Danapur primarily for operational reasons. There is no proposal to withdraw these stoppages for the present.

Leasing out of houses to foreign missions

99. SHRI S. SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officials of his ministry have leased houses, owned by them or their dependants to foreign missions or their officials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that such transactions are against the Central Government conduct rules;

(c) whether Government will place on the Table of the House a list of such officials with the names and designations of the tenants and the rents received; and

(d) whether any such officials are in occupation of Government accommodation?

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

(b) Under the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, Government servants can enter into transactions with any foreigner, foreign Government, foreign organisation or concern for leaving their immovable property, but

only with the previous sanction of the Government.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Anti-India tirade by Bangladesh Authorities

100. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the virulent anti-India tirade being carried on by Bangladesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Bangladesh Treaty of 1972 is being condemned as a document of slavery; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to improve relations with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) From time to time certain sections of the Bangladesh press and political circles have expressed anti-India sentiments during recent months. The attention of Bangladesh authorities was drawn to these trends both here in Delhi as well as through our High Commission in Dacca. As for the press we were informed that in view of the prevailing freedom of press in Bangladesh, the Government was not in a position to curb such adverse publicity. However, in the official statements or in the Government owned press reporting on India has been responsible and restrained. We have noticed that after the recent visit of President Ziaur Rahman anti-India propaganda in the non-official press has also receded.

(b) There has been no official comment from Bangladesh on this Treaty in the recent past. We on our part have also not made a mention of this Treaty in bilateral meetings or in other official exchanges.

(c) The Government of India remains committed to a policy of friendship

with all its neighbours, including Bangladesh. We would like to increase contacts at all levels with Bangladesh; this would not only help us to resolve our bilateral problems but also to lay the foundations for enduring friendship and understanding. President Zia's visit to India from 21st to 22nd January provided a valuable opportunity for a useful exchange of views.

Running of a fast train between Delhi and Bhubaneswar

101. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to run a fast train from Delhi to Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

President Zia-ul-Haq's Statement on Developments in Afghanistan

102. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq, President of Pakistan, to the effect that the Soviet Union borders have been extended to the Khyber Pass and Chaman and also to the report appearing in a section of press that there is a possibility of Soviet troops entering Pakistan in pursuit of Afghan rebels;

(b) if so, what was Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what action is being taken to safeguard the country's security?

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

(b) and (c) Government have expressed concern at the developments in our region and emphasised that any situation arising out of the use of force in international relations and intervention or interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States is inadmissible. Government believe that in order to stop further escalation of tension, all States should refrain from any action which could intensify great power rivalry and bring back the cold war, especially through dangerous arms build-up liable to threaten peace and stability in sensitive regions.

The Government have been in touch with the countries in the sub-continent, the Soviet Union, U.S.A., China and other countries in this regard.

Indo-Soviet Friendship treaty

103. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take a fresh look at the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty in view of the recent developments in Afghanistan;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by Dr. L. M. Singhvi, an eminent jurist in this connection, which appeared in the Press on 7th January, 1980; and

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting of construction accounts Office from Trivandrum Railway Division

104. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to