

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.

**Sunning 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