

Statement

List of retired Government Officers who have been appointed Head of Missions

Name of Ambassador/High Commissioner	Country	Date of appointment at the station	Remarks
1. Gen. G. G. Bewoor	Denmark	9-2-76	Ex-Chief of Army Staff.
2. Shri Chhedi Lall	Panama	5-10-76	Retired IAS.
3. Shri M.A. Qurashi	Saudi Arabia	25-4-76	Retired ICS.
4. Shri S. Sen	(a) Permanent Rep. of India to UN.	28-1-69	Retired ICS/IFS and re-employed.
	(b) Bangladesh	10-7-74	
	(c) Sweden	13-12-76	
5. Shri R. Jaipal	Permanent Rep. of India to UN.	7-11-74	Retired IFS and re-employed.

Ties with West Asian Countries

1214. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have recently been made to further strengthen economic and political relations with the West Asian Countries; and

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

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

(b) Government attaches the highest importance to consolidating, expanding and diversifying India's political and economic relations with West Asian countries. The Union Minister of Works and Housing and Supply and Rehabilitation, and the Union Minister of Industry, have visited various countries in this region during the last three months as the Prime Minister's Special Emissaries. These visits gave a new impetus to our political and economic relations with these countries.

The Sixth Session of the Indo-Iranian Joint Commission met in New Delhi in September, 1977. The 3rd Session of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission was held in Baghdad in June, 1977, and the 4th Session in New Delhi in November this year. As a result of these meetings new areas of co-operation and exchanges between India and Iran and India and Iraq have been identified which will lead to a further strengthening of our ties.

The annual Haj Delegation led by Shri Arif Beg, Minister of State for Commerce, Civil Supplies and Co-operation, visited Saudi Arabia in November, 1977.

Industrial Unrest in the Country

1215. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is widespread industrial unrest in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such unrest; and