

of certain favourable developments recently, the financial implications of carrying out the necessary studies with a view to preparation of a techno-economic feasibility report on the project are under consideration.

Steps to Re-organise External Publicity

553. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to re-organise external publicity ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) The organisation of its external publicity is constantly under review for improving it further but there is no specific proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Death of Indians in Earth Quake in China

554. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any loss of life or property of any Indian national residing in China has been reported during the recent earth quake in that country ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) and (b) The Government of India has not come across any such information.

555. [*Transferred to the 25th August, 1976*]

Invitation to Indian Cultural Team to visit China

556. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received an invitation from the Government of the Republic of China to send a cultural team to that country ;

(b) if so, whether Government have agreed to send such a team to that country ; and

(c) whether Government have also reciprocated by inviting their cultural team to visit India ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Visas to Visit Pakistan

557. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Pakistani nationals who have been issued visas to visit India after the resumption of diplomatic ties with Pakistan together with the number of those who have been refused visa for such visits ; and

(b) the number of Indians who have been issued visas by the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi during the above period together with the number of those who have been refused visa for such visits ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS) : (a) Since the resumption of diplomatic relations on 24-7-76, 5023 visas have been authorised to Pakistan nationals wishing to visit India. The number refused is 11.

(b) The issue of visa to visit Pakistan is the prerogative of the Government of Pakistan. This Ministry has no information on the number of Indians who have been granted or refused visas to go to Pakistan.