

(a) whether there is any likelihood of having normal ties with China in the near future; and

(b) If so, what attempts have been made to normalise relations and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The re-establishment of normal ties with China is dependent on a suitable response from the latter to the various measures we have taken to normalize relations.

India's First Communications Satellite

*410. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GAN-
GULI : SHRI
SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with which India has decided to collaborate in launching the first communications satellite ; and

(b) what are the other details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI S. D. SHARMA): (a) and (b) The whole question whether India could have a domestic satellite for meeting telecommunication and allied needs is under consideration.

Presence of French Warships In Indian Ocean

*411. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
SHRI HARSH DEO
MALAVIYA : SHRIMATI
LEELA DAMODARA MENON
: DR. V. B. SINGH : SHRI
KHYOMO LOTHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that France has recently deployed warships equipped with { anti-aircraft rockets and ship-to-ship missiles in the Indian Ocean ;

(b) whether it is a fact that France had sent two sub-marines to the Indian Ocean earlier also;

(c) whether Government of India conveyed to the French Government a desire to keep the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace; and

(d) if so, what has been the reaction of the French Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government have seen press reports to this effect.

(c) The consistent support that the Government of India have extended to the UN proposal for the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace is well-known to international community and therefore to the Government of France. However, the Govt, of India took advantage of the recent visit of the Prime Minister of France to India to restate its position on the subject.

(d) It may be recalled that France has not supported the UN resolutions on the declaration of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The Government of India are not aware of any change in France's position.

DTC bus services from Karol Bagh Telephone Exchange to Central Secretariat

♦412. SHRI NATHI SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no DTC bus service from Karol Bagh Telephone Exchange/Pusa Road to Central Secretariat complex and that the people living in those areas have to either come to Karol Bagh Police Station or to Shankar Road to get a bus;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no DTC bus service between Railway Station to Central Secretariat and route No. 760 plying between Kirby Place to Railway