

of military strength in the absence of any threat to her security will lead to increased tension in the region and hinder the process of normalisation between India and Pakistan set in motion by the Simla Agreement.]

Bhutto's desire for a dialogue on Kashmir

*116. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :

SHRI S. KUMARAN :

DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of Pakistan wants to have a dialogue with Indian Government on Kashmir question :

(b) If so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS) : (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports regarding Prime Minister Bhutto's statements on the subject.

(c) As made clear repeatedly, it is Government's policy to settle the issue arising out of Pakistan's illegal occupation of a part of Jammu and Kashmir territory peacefully through bilateral negotiations. This is a matter to be settled in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of the Simla Agreement which envisages discussions on this matter in the context of normalisation of relations and durable peace.

Special Duties List Officers in Indian Navy

*117. SHRI V. VISWANATHA MENON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there are different policies regarding the special duties list officers in Army, Navy and Air Force;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the officers in the special duties list in the Navy do not have the same prospects for promotion as those obtaining for the corresponding category in the other wings, viz., Army and Air Force on attaining commissioned ranks;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to enumerate a uniform policy for all the wings in Defence Services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Due to operational and other considerations, rules for promotion and also the rank structure of this branch in the three services are different. It is not practicable to have uniformity in regulating the promotion prospects in the various branches of the three services.

Rehabilitation of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)

*118. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) who are yet to be rehabilitated;

(b) the names of places where such refugees are staying or have been kept and the details thereof;

(c) what steps Government propose to take for their rehabilitation; and

(d) what were the causes for delay in their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) and (b) As on 31st December, 1974, about 21,115 families were awaiting resettlement in various camps. This does not include 4,310 P.I. families and 223 unscreened families. Attention is drawn to Table—III of the