

Indo-U.S. relations

104. SHRI GURMUKH SINGH MU-SAFIR ; SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: SHRI SARDAR AMIAD ALI: SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger recently visited India;

1(b) if so, the nature of talks held with him; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The talks covered various aspects of bilateral relations, situation in South Asia and neighbouring regions, and a review of the global situation including the world economic situation.

(c) The visit has laid a Sound framework for a new relationship between the two countries on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual understanding. The United States has reaffirmed its support for the Simla process and the initiative taken by India in bringing about regional peace and cooperation. U.S.'s acceptance of the positive role of the non-alignment in the world, appreciation of India's national interests and her role as a major factor for peace, progress and stability in Asia, the discarding of the notion of parity of balance of power on the subcontinent, continuing recognition of the realities of the situation on the sub-continent and its welcome of India's policy of using nuclear technology for peaceful purposes only are some of the other results of the visit. An Agreement was also signed to set up an Indo-U.S. Joint Commission.

105. [Transferred to the 21st November, 1974.]

Destitutes from Bangladesh

106. SHRI B. P. NAGARAJA MURTHY : SHRI GANESH LAL MALI : SHRI B. RACHAIAH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that following famine conditions in Bangladesh, destitutes have started crossing into India since October, 1974;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that among the treckkers is a group of people who are not exactly destitutes as they carry 'exit permits' allowing them to cross the border; and

(c) if so, the number of such persons who have crossed into Indian territory and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) After June 1974 a number of persons have attempted to cross over into India from Bangladesh.

(b) It is a fact that among those attempting to cross over into India some persons were found to be in possession of exit permits issued by some officials of the Government of Bangladesh.

(c) According to present information available from our Border Security Force, from June, 1974, till the third week of October, approximately 9500 persons have been prevented from entering India from Bangladesh and approximately 250 persons, who had entered India from Bangladesh, have been apprehended within India. Our High Commission in Dacca has taken up the matter with the Government of Bangladesh and exit permits are no longer being issued. Our Border Security Forces have also been alerted to prevent unauthorised entry from Bangladesh.