

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

ALLOTMENT OF JEEPS TO BHARAT SEWAK SAMAJ

416 SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA Will the Minister of SUPPLY be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a few jeeps and two trucks were allotted to Bharat Sewak Samaj, Andhra Pradesh Branch in the year 1966 and 1969-70, and

(b) how many jeeps and trucks have so far been allotted to Bharat Sewak Samaj Andhra Branch so far?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) (a) No, Sir

(b) Three Jeeps were allotted in February 1967 and two lorries in March, 1968.

WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

417 SHRI BHILAI VILLALAN

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are taking initiative to convene the World Disarmament Conference, and

(b) if so what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) and (b) The Government of India have always been in favour of holding a World Disarmament Conference with the participation of all States. India alongwith the other non-aligned States, had taken the initiative for the convening of a World Disarmament Conference at the Summit Meetings of the Non-aligned States held in Belgrade in 1961, in Cairo in 1964 and in Lusaka in 1970 and at the U N General Assembly in 1965.

Under Resolution 2833 (XXVI), the UN General Assembly, during its 26th session held in 1971, had invited views and suggestions of all States on the various aspects of the question. Government's views are contained in the reply which was sent in pursuance of that resolution. The reply is placed on the Table of the House. The question of convening a World Disarmament Conference is currently being discussed at the 27th Session of the U N General Assembly, where we have reiterated our strong support to the idea of convening such a Conference.

India's reply to the U N Secretary General Pursuant to the U N. General Assembly Resolution No 2833 (XXVI) on World Disarmament Conference (Doc A/8817)

In the present nuclear age, the most vital and urgent problem of disarmament, with the ever spiralling arms race, diverts valuable resources from essential economic and social development to unproductive and destructive ends, increases international tensions, threatens world peace and continues to create a grave danger for the survival of mankind and indeed for all living species.

Being deeply conscious of the serious implications of a continuing arms race in the present circumstances and desirous of achieving lasting international security based on disarmament, the General Assembly of the United Nations has, by its resolution 1378 (XIV), established the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. Equitable and stable world peace cannot be built on any legitimization or attempts at stabilization of the so called balance of terror. Disarmament in the nuclear age has to be comprehensive and total.

The achievement of disarmament is made difficult by the existence of deep-seated suspicions and mistrust among nations, and serious concerns of States for preserving what each of them might consider to be its vital security interests. General and complete disarmament cannot, therefore, be brought about by one single and speedy action. It has to be

achieved step by step through what has been termed partial or collateral measures. Such measures could be designed to prevent armament, to limit armament and for actual disarmament, with a proper balance among them, the emphasis being on actual disarmament, which remains the primary objective.

It is now generally recognized that to be successful, disarmament discussions should be held at two levels: a deliberative level and a negotiating level. A deliberative forum is needed so that all States of the world should have the opportunity of expressing their views and the international community could lay down guidelines for concrete negotiations. But actual negotiations can better be conducted in a small committee. It is essential that multilateral disarmament discussions should be further intensified on both the deliberative and negotiating planes, and a link should be maintained between the various deliberative forums and the negotiating body.

So far the General Assembly has held discussions on disarmament questions every year, and the United Nations Disarmament Commission has also met on a few occasions. The convening of a world disarmament conference would ensure the participation of all States, whether they are Members of the United Nations or not, and focus the attention of the entire international community on the vital problem of disarmament. It would then be possible for the world community to take stock of the total situation in the field of disarmament, make an assessment of the progress achieved so far, and develop clearly stated principles and priorities with a view to providing the proper orientation and impetus to further disarmament negotiations.

On the negotiating plane, the Committee on Disarmament has been meeting since 1962 and has done some useful work. This is the first time in the world's history of disarmament discussions that an international negotiating body has survived and functioned for so long. The Committee on Disarmament would now need to be strengthened and revitalized, particularly with the participation of the remaining two nuclear weapon States, so

that it could become a better and more effective instrument of disarmament negotiations and work in future on the basis of the guidelines and priorities that would be developed at a world disarmament conference.

As regards the specific questions on which the General Assembly has, by its resolution 2833 (XXVI), invited the views and suggestions of all States, the comments of the Government of India are as follows:

(a) *Main objectives*.—As a world disarmament conference would provide a forum for the expression and exchange of views by all States, the discussion should naturally cover the entire range of disarmament problems, including partial and collateral measures, keeping in view the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control. However, in order that a sense of direction and purpose is maintained utmost attention would need to be focused on two main objectives.

(i) the highest priority should be given to measures of nuclear disarmament and the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

(ii) savings from measures of disarmament should be channelled to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries.

(b) *Provisional Agenda*.—An agreed agenda should be drawn up keeping in view the above-mentioned main objectives.

(c) *Venue*.—Agreement could be reached on any venue which would ensure universality of participation of all States and proper facilities for the conducting of the conference.

(d) *Date and Contemplated Duration*.—A world disarmament conference could be convened shortly after the preparatory work has been completed. The duration of the conference could be fixed at about eight weeks. The actual dates would have to be decided keeping in view the calendar of other important international conferences and the availability of facilities.

(e) *Procedures to be adopted for carrying out the preparatory work.*—In considering arrangements for the carrying out of the preparatory work for the conference, the expertise and experience available with the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and its members should be borne in mind and full advantage taken of them.

(f) *Relationship to the United Nations.*—The competence of the United Nations in the vital field of disarmament should be fully acknowledged. As the United Nations has responsibility under the Charter for disarmament, international peace and security, a world disarmament conference open to all States should be organized by, and held under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Government of India is convinced and has consistently taken the view that a world disarmament conference, held after adequate preparation and with the participation of all States, would promote the strivings of the peoples of the world to achieve the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control and thereby ensure lasting world peace and security.

CHANGING SITUATION IN ASIA

418 SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exchanged views with Government of Japan, Russia and Mongolia after the rapid changes in the relations of Japan with China and Russia and also with North and South Korea; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) A Ministry of External Affairs delegation led by the Foreign Secretary visited Moscow, Ulan Bator and Tokyo in September 1972. Visits to the first two places were part of a regular series of bilateral consultations, while visit to Tokyo was in

transit. There was a general exchange of views on bilateral matters as well as matters of common concern with the Foreign Offices of the 3 countries.

VIJAYANAGAR STEEL PLANT

419. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present progress of the Steel plant at Vijayanagar near Hospet; and

(b) whether the site for the plant has been acquired;

(c) the time by when the plant will be commissioned; and

(d) the estimated expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) Out of a total area of about 6,000 acres recommended by the Consultants for the Vijayanagar Steel Plant (excluding township) an area of 4,500 acres has already been acquired. Land acquisition proceedings are in progress in respect of the balance of 1,500 acres.

Preliminary site work such as testing of soil samples, plate bearing tests etc. have been completed. The Railways have taken up the survey for the exchange yard and sidings. The Government of Mysore have drawn up a scheme for meeting the requirements of water of the plant and township and this is under technical examination. Action has been taken on a number of other preliminary steps such as assessment of power requirements both during the construction stage as well as during the operation and maintenance stage, testing of raw materials etc.

(c) According to the Consultants, the Vijayanagar Steel Plant can be commissioned in about eight years, on the basis of maximum indigenous effort for the manufacture of plant and equipment.

(d) It was originally estimated that the Vijayanagar Steel Plant would have a capacity of about 2 million ingot tonnes per