

article appearing in the Times of India, dated the 11th June, 1972, to the effect that three Indian Journalists were actually shot down in Bangladesh by the Pakistani forces before the liberation of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?]

विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्रपाल सिंह) : (क) जी हां (यह लेख वास्तव में दो भारतीय पत्रकारों के बारे में है)

(ख) कार्यरत भारतीय पत्रकार महासंघ के अध्यक्ष श्री एस० बी० कोल्पे से जिन्हें टाइम्स आफ इंडिया में छपे लेख की सूचना का स्रोत कहा गया था और भी व्यौरा देने के लिए अनुरोध किया गया है; ढाका स्थित भारतीय हाई कमिशन को लेख में दिये गए विवरण को सत्यापित करने के लिए कहा गया है।

[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. (The article actually refers to two Indian journalists).

(b) Shri S. B. Kolpe, President of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists who was quoted as the source of information contained in the Times of India article has been requested to provide more details; the High Commission of India, Dacca, has been asked to verify the details as provided in the article.]

SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

353. SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA
SINGH: SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the
Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese ambassador to Czechoslovakia had indicated on the

[] English translation.

eve of Prime Minister's visit to that country recently that China was likely to exchange ambassadors with India and establish normal diplomatic relations with this country;

(b) whether the Prime Minister during her visit to Czechoslovakia had any talk with the said Chinese envoy; and

(c) what are the latest prospects of establishing normal diplomatic and economic relations with China, and the steps being taken in that direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) The Government have seen newspaper reports to that effect, but there has been no official indication from the Chinese Government in this regard.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of India are still awaiting a Chinese response to its earlier steps.

INDO-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

354. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGGARLAMUDI :

SHRI K. C. PANDA: SHRI
LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI SUNDAR
MANI PA-TEL : Will the Minister of
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to
state :

(a) whether attention of the Government of India has been invited to a report in the Statesman of 15th May, 1972, stating that parties representing the extreme right and vested interests and ultra-leftists in Bangladesh have joined hands to agitate issues that could create strained relations between India and Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether Government of India have received any report in this regard from its Mission in Dacca; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken thereon?