

REOPENING OF SUEZ CANAL

*79. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: SHRI M. K. MOHTA: SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: DR. B. N. ANTANI: SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मंत्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of U.A.R. have taken any initiative for the reopening of the Suez Canal; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have received any communication from the U.A.R. Government in this regard and the reaction of the Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मंत्री** (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The Government of India have welcomed the U.A.R. Government's "constructive suggestions" for the reopening of the Suez Canal within the framework of an overall settlement of the West Asian crisis in terms of the U.N. Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967.

REPATRIATION OF DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER AND HIS STAFF FROM EAST BENGAL

*80. SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मंत्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made as to the repatriation of our Deputy High Commissioner and his staff from East Bengal;

(b) what is the total number of the staff and their families in the Indian Deputy High Commissioner's Office at Dacca; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to effect their immediate repatriation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Some progress has been made.

(b) 244.

(c) Efforts to secure the repatriation of our personnel from Dacca are being continued through the good offices of the Swiss Ambassador in New Delhi. It is hoped they will bear fruit shortly.

ARREST OF IAF OFFICER NEAR GAUHATI

*81. SHRI CHANDRAMOULI

JAGARLAMUDI: SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE/ **रक्षा मंत्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an I.A.F. Officer posted at Borjhar Air Base near Gauhati was arrested some time in May, 1971 for passing secret and classified information to Pakistan about I.A.F. formations in the Eastern Region;

(b) if so, whether Government have completed the investigations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE **रक्षा**

मंत्री (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to

(c) A Corporal of the Indian Air Force posted at Borjhar Airport near Gauhati was arrested on April 10, 1971 under the Officials Secret Act for being in possession of classified Service documents. The matter is still under investigation.

REVIEW OF WEST ASIAN RELATIONS

*82. SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB

DESHMUKH:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI

TALWAR :

SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH:

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मंत्री** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are thinking of a review of their relations with West Asian countries in view of their attitude towards Bangla Desh; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government to such an attitude of West Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/ **विदेश मंत्री** (SARDAR

SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India are of the view that there has been inadequate understanding in many West Asian countries of the issues involved in the situation of Bangla, Desh. Government have taken steps to make them aware of such issues.