

(b) The Government do not recognize the illegal occupation of Indian territory by China and Government's policy of endeavouring to recover such occupied territory through peaceful means remains unchanged. In view of China's attitude no specific steps in terms of that policy have so far been possible.]

TRADE AGREEMENTS

190. SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries with which Government have concluded trade agreements during the last three months; and

(b) to what extent our exports are likely to be boosted as a result of these agreements ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) No new Trade Agreements have been concluded by Government during the last three months.

(b) Does not arise.

INDIAN HELP TO AFGHANISTAN FOR BUILDING HIGHWAY

191. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : SHRI C. D. PANDE : DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : SHRI A. D. MANI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India have offered to help Afghanistan in building a highway through Iran providing an outlet to the Arabian sea;

(b) if so, what was Afghanistan's response in this regard;

(c) the progress made with regard to the execution of this offer; and

(d) whether Pakistan has objected to this proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) to (c) Afghanistan is giving urgent consideration to a project for constructing a road from Lashkargah to the Iranian border near Zahidan and connecting it to an Iranian road leading to the sea port of Bunder Abbas.

During the First Ministerial Meeting of the Joint Indo-Afghan Commission on Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation held in New Delhi from 16th to 18th March, 1970, in response to a desire expressed on the Afghan side, Government had agreed to depute a team of Indian experts to examine in consultation with Afghan experts and those of the Asian Development Bank various issues connected with the implementation of this project. This team is expected to go to Afghanistan in the near future.

(d) No official objection to the proposal by Pakistan has come to the notice of the Government of India.

DHAROI PROJECT

192. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in Economic Times dated the 7th April 1970 regarding the decision of Government of Gujarat to execute the Dharoi Project on the Sabarmati without awaiting settlement of the dispute with the Government of Rajasthan and Centre's clearance to the scheme; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India does not think it proper that any project with inter-State implications is started without the clearance of the Planning Commission.

Attempts are being made to settle amicably the differences between Gujarat and Rajasthan regarding the Dharoi project and it is hoped that these will be resolved soon.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

193. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to the Starrad Question No. 127 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 1970 and state :

(a) whether the Committee on unemployment has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the essential features of the report; and