

(b) They called on the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and met some officials of the External Affairs Ministry.

(c) The discussions in such meetings are confidential and cannot be divulged.]

SHORTAGE OF RAW MATERIALS

936. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of raw materials, such as iron, steel and other scarce categories of materials are causing hindrance to the expansion of small-scale industries to a great extent;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take for solving the problem; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Governments' consideration to liberalise its import policy?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHODHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) to (c) The existing import policy has not placed restraints on the creation of new capacity in the small scale sector. Unitwise assessments of industries are being made jointly by the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, State Directors of Industries and the Federation of Associations of Small Scale Industries. Import requirements of the units in the small scale sector will be met on the basis of these assessments having regard to the availability of foreign exchange resources.

HOSTILE ACTIVITIES OF PAKISTAN TOWARDS INDIA

937. SHRI S. D. MISRA:
CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD:
SHRI B. K. KAUL :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government of India to persuade the Governments of the countries like USSR and U. S. A. to stop supplies of arms, ammunitions and other kind of help or warlike preparations to Pakistan and the reactions of those Governments;

(b) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is again trying to start hostile activities against India; and

(c) if so, whether the countries as mentioned above have also given defence supplies to India and if so, to what extent?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) India's well known views regarding arms supplies to Pakistan are constantly brought to the notice of foreign Governments through diplomatic channels. They have been made fully aware that any further arms build up by Pakistan poses a threat to the security of India, creates tension in the sub-continent, and retards the chances of normalisation of relations between the two countries. We hope the concerned Governments will take our views into consideration before taking any decision to supply arms to Pakistan.

(b) The House has been kept informed from time to time of Pakistan's policy of hostility towards India and the threat posed by her individually and in collusion with China. There has been no significant change in this position.

(c) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

PRESENCE OF RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN NAVAL UNITS IN INDIAN OCEAN

938. SHRI S. D. MISRA:
SHRI B. K. KAUL :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE:
SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI :
CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the presence of the Russian and American Naval Units in the Indian Ocean is fraught with danger that they would offer aid on a large scale to developing countries on the periphery of the Indian Ocean in exchange for establishing naval bases; and

(b) whether any of the Governments named above have offered any kind of aid to India or to any or more of the neighbouring countries on the coast line of Indian Ocean; and if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b) Government are not aware of offer of aid on a large scale either by the USSR or by the USA to developing countries surrounding the