

(c) the result of the efforts made by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India have been maintaining contacts with all the parties concerned in the conflict including U.S., U.S.S.R., U.K., and France, with a view to assisting in bringing about a restoration of peace in Indo-China.

(c) It is not customary to divulge the substance of these consultations, as they are confidential. At present, the possibility of convening a Geneva type conference appears remote.

TECHNICAL STUDY OF THE COST OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*111. SHRI GODEY MURAHARI:
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH
BHANDARI:

Will the PE [THE MINISTER] be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a high power committee on science and technology to study the technological and cost aspect of India going nuclear in the matter of weapon;

(b) whether the committee has since submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

RECOGNITION OF PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

♦112. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: SHRI
KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

*113. [Transferred to the 4th. August, 1970].

CIRCULAR REGARDING HOLDING CONFERENCES OF STATE MINISTERS

*114. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: SHRI
RAJNARAIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary has recently issued a circular to the effect that no Ministry of the Union Government will be competent to call any conference of the State Ministers or senior officials without the prior permission of the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the circumstances which led to the issuing of such a circular; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Ministries to the circular?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c) In a circular letter recently, the Cabinet Secretary has reiterated the existing instructions on the subject which were issued in 1956. The genesis of these instructions was the complaint of some Chief Ministers that frequent conferences in Delhi requiring the presence of State Ministers and their senior officers affected their work in the States.

RETURN OF DR. MASCARENHAS TO INDIA

*115. SHRI S. KUMARAN:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE: SHRI
RAM SAHAI: SHRI B. N.
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the efforts that have been made by the Government of India to secure the return to India of Dr. Telo Mascarenhas the Goa freedom fighter who has recently been released from Jail in Portugal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Government has done all within its power to secure the release of Dr. Telo Mascarenhas from imprisonment in a Portuguese jail and for his early return to India. Government is glad to state that Dr. Mas--carenhas was released from jail on 29th May, 1970. He is at present in Madrid undergoing medical treatment and will according to our information be reaching India in a few days.

REORIENTATION OF NUCLEAR STRATEGY

*116 SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorient the nuclear strategy to meet the nuclear challenge from China; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government's policy regarding the development of nuclear energy has been explained to the House from time to time. Government are alive to threats to our border and also to possible forms which such threats may assume. They have been taking suitable steps to ensure our military preparedness to meet threats to the security of the country. Government believe that the policy of developing our scientific and technological capability in expanding our programme for the peaceful uses of atomic energy is in the best overall interest of the nation. There has been no recent development warranting change in the policy. Our assessment, as well as our plans, are, however, kept under constant review, the paramount consideration being given to the need for safeguarding national defence and security.

CONVERSION OF EXPORT LICENCES INTO IMPORT LICENCES

*117. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some export licences for brassware and

utensils have been recently converted into import licences for wool and synthetic fibre; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the value of such export licences which were converted; and

(c) the names of the parties or the licencees who have been permitted to convert these licences?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c), A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Under the import policy for Registered Exporters, a manufacturer exporter or a manufacturer nominated by a registered exporter is allowed to import against his replenishment licence the items of raw materials and components appearing in his actual User licence, even if such items are not used in the manufacture of the exported product. The flexibility has been given so that a manufacturer may be able to plan his production according to his export needs. Under this flexibility, import of raw wool and polyester fibre was also allowed against exports made up to December, 1968 for which applications for licences had been made before 1st February, 1969.

(b) and (c). This information is not readily available and the labour involved in collecting this information may not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved.

भारत में हिन्दू-मुस्लिम दंगों के विषय में श्री झा का वक्तव्य

*118. श्री श्रीकान्त मिश्र :

श्री निरंजन वर्मा :

क्या वैदेशिक कार्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र-संघ में भारत के प्रतिनिधि श्री झा ने 21 मई, 1970 को यह कहा था कि पाकिस्तान में होने वाली साम्प्रदायिक विद्वेष की घटनायें