

except Pakistan. We have also recalled our Ambassador from Rabat and our Charge d'affaires from Amman.

BRITISH PLAN TO IMPOSE TARIFF ON TEXTILES FROM INDIA

*93. SHRI A. D. MANI :

SHRI K. DAMODARAN :

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any talks have been held on the official level between India and Britain on the British plan to impose tariffs on textiles from India and other Commonwealth countries; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) In accordance with the statement made in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th July, 1969, India's High Commissioner in London brought to the notice of the British Government India's serious concern in the matter. The matter has since been taken up through diplomatic channels and it has been agreed that talks will be held between the two countries' representatives early in December in New Delhi.

MERGER OF SICK TEXTILE MILLS WITH STRONGER UNITS

*94. SHRI K. DAMODARAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 252 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st July, 1969 and state :

(a) whether the working group set up by Government to assess the implications of the possible merger of sick textile units with stronger ones has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations made by the working group; and

(c) what decisions have been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

RECOGNITION OF N.L.F. GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH VIET NAM

*95. SHRI RIZAK RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SHRI G. GOPINTHAN NAIR

SHRI K. DAMODARAN :

SHRI Z. A. AHMED :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised consideration of the question of recognising the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet-Nam established by the National Liberation Front as the Government of the territory controlled by it and

(b) If so, by when it will be formally recognised ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government are not at present considering the recongition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

DIALOGUE WITH CHINA

*96. SRI N. SHRI RAMA REDDY :

SHRI A. D. MANI :

SHRI RAJNARAIN :

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI KALYAN ROY :

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD :

DR. SALIG RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL :

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister while speaking to the editors of newspapers on her recent visit to Calcutta stated that she was "trying to open a dialogue with China";

(b) whether China has also shown any interest in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps have so far been taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) The Government of India have on more than one occasion declared their willingness to talk with China on a basis consistent with India's territorial integrity, sovereignty and national honour.

The Prime Minister during an informal talk with members of the Calcutta Press Club on 14th September, 1969, reiterated Government of India's well-known policy.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

REMOVAL OF INDIAN MILITARY POSTS IN NEPAL

*97. SHRI RAM SAHAI :

SHRI RAJNARAIN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal had expressed her desire for the removal of Indian Military check posts from that country; and

(b) if so, what has been the final outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) and (b) India has no military check-posts in Nepal. The phased withdrawal of some Indian personnel attached to the border checkpoints of Nepal was discussed at the official level talks between the two countries in New Delhi from 29th August to 4th September, 1969. Agreed joint recommendations have been made in regard to this matter which are now under study by the respective Governments.

SHIFTING OF CHINESE NUCLEAR BASES TO NORTHERN TIBET

*98. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news reports that the Chinese are shifting their nuclear bases to Northern Tibet;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative whether it amounts to an increase in nuclear threat to India; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to secure the country's integrity against a possible Chinese attack?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) The reported shifting of the nuclear installations even if true cannot be considered to have materially altered the nature of threat to India.

SEPARATE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*99. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether she has taken any decision to create a separate Ministry of Science and Technology; and

(b) If not, the reasons therefor ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) The Government have carefully considered the suggestion of creating a separate Ministry of Science and Technology. They are, however, of the view that no change in the existing arrangement is required at present.

SUPPORT PRICE FOR RAW JUTE

*100. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :

SHRI KALYAN ROY :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about the continuance of the support price for raw jute for the year 1969-70;

(b) if so, the rate at which this support price is likely to be fixed;

(c) whether Government have obtained the views of the Jute Buffer Stock Association and the Indian Jute Mills Association in this regard;

(d) whether Government have recently received any representation from the Government of West Bengal in this regard;

(e) whether Government are aware that the actual prices received by the cultivators are much lower than the announced prices; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to see that the cultivators get adequate return?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.