

SHIFT IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY

863. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:
SARDAR HARCHARAN
SINGH DUGAL:
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shift in Soviet foreign policy which is more favourable to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) In recent years there has been considerable improvement in relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan, particularly in the economic field. The Soviet Union have also commenced the supply of arms to Pakistan. The Soviet Government have assured us that the development of their relations with Pakistan will not in any way affect the friendly relations between India and the Soviet Union.

(c) The Government have clearly expressed their concern to the Soviet Union about their supply of arms to Pakistan.

IMPLEMENTATION OF TASHKENT AGREEMENT

864. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have asked the new regime in Pakistan about the implementation of the Tashkent Agreement to normalize relations between the two countries;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(c) whether any proposal to ask for the assistance of USSR under whose auspices that agreement was signed, is under the consideration of the Government of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) We have conveyed our views on this to the new regime as well.

(b) The Government of Pakistan's response is awaited.

(c) Government are of the view that the Tashkent Declaration should be implemented through bilateral discussions and without outside intervention. The Government of the USSR also are of the same view.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CANTONMENTS

865. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of cantonments are being established in West Bengal, Assam and other places in the forward areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work on those cantonments is proceeding satisfactorily, if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to expedite construction of those cantonments; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide educational facilities to the people there?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (d) Some military stations are proposed to be established in the border States including West Bengal and Assam. It would not be in public interest to give particulars thereof. The State Governments will be requested to provide the educational facilities at these stations, and these will be supplemented if need be by Garrison Schools and Central Schools.