

(b) The Agreement on Suspension of Operations has been extended 27 times, inclusive of the current extension which expires on the 28th February, 1969.

(c) and (d). According to the 1961 census, about 53 per cent of the population in Nagaland is Christian and the rest profess their ancestral faiths. It would not be correct to lend a religious colour to the activities of a very small section of the population indulging in anti-national activities. A large majority of people in Nagaland both Christians as well as others, want peaceful conditions to continue and are coming forward in increasing numbers to support the efforts of the State Government in this direction.]

211. [*Transferred to the 26th February, 1969.*]

RESPONSE OF CHINA AND PAKISTAN TO
P.M.'S OFFER OF SETTLEMENT
THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION

212. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-
APPA :

SHRI K. P. MALLIK-
ARJUNUDU :

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN :
SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :
SHRI MULKA GOVINDA
REDDY :

SHRI R. K. PODDAR :

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any response from the Governments of China and Pakistan after her statement in the press conference on the 1st January, 1969 to the effect that the outstanding differences could be settled through peaceful negotiations;

(b) if so, what are the reactions of both China and Pakistan in the matter; and

(c) what steps the Government of India have taken in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

As regards China :

(a) and (b) There has been no constructive response from China to Government of India's consistent stand, which was reiterated by Prime Minister at the Press Conference on 1st January, 1969, that we are willing to settle through negotiations all outstanding issues between India and China on a basis consistent with India's territorial integrity, sovereignty as well as national honour and dignity.

(c) Does not arise.

As regards Pakistan :

(a) and (b). The response from Pakistan to the Prime Minister's statement referring to the creation of a bilateral joint machinery to settle all differences between the two countries, has not so far been encouraging.

(c) The Government of India are considering what further steps should be taken to normalise relations with Pakistan.

COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE IN INDIA

213. SHRI T. SIDDALINGAYA :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any move for a Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference to be held in the near future at a place other than United Kingdom;

(b) the names of the countries which have urged for such a meeting;

(c) what is India's attitude in the matter; and

(d) whether Government have considered the advisability of holding such a conference in India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.