

SOVIET ARMS TO PAKISTAN

- *47. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY :
 SHRI RAM SINGH :
 SHRI MAHABIR DASS :
 SHRI U. S. DUGAL :
 SHRI JAGAT NARAIN :
 DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI
 TALWAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the 'Indian Express' of the 29th June, 1966 (Bangalore Edition) to the effect that Soviet Union has agreed to supply arms to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Soviet Government have assured us that they had not supplied any arms or armaments to Pakistan nor had any agreements been made in this regard with Pakistan.

DELEGATIONS ABROAD

*48. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government-sponsored delegations which were sent to foreign countries during the last six months;

(b) the names of the members of these delegations and the names of the countries to which the delegations were sent; and

(c) the number of the delegations which have submitted their report to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) The information is

being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House soon.

SUBSIDY TO SMALL AND MEDIUM NEWSPAPER UNITS

- *49. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI
 TALWAR :
 SHRI U. S. DUGAL :
 SHRI M. D. NARAYAN :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that small and medium newspaper units have represented to Government for a subsidy to run their newspaper; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from the Indian Language Newspapers Association and the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society and others asking for a subsidy from Government to offset the increased cost of imported newsprint following devaluation.

(b) Government do not favour the grant of any direct subsidy to newspapers. Certain measures to provide relief to the newspaper industry have already been taken and a few more are under active consideration.

MR. BHUTTO'S STATEMENT ON INDO-PAKISTAN WAR

*50. SHRI OM MEHTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report of the interview recently given by Mr. Bhutto appearing in 'Urdu Digest' to the effect that an India-Pakistan war was the only solution to their disputes; and