

SHRI A. D. MANI: According to the Speech from the Throne there was a reference to our Prime Minister visiting Ceylon in the early part of this year and it stated the reasons why this did not materialise. Does our Prime Minister propose to visit Ceylon in the near future to discuss this matter?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: As I mentioned earlier, no doubt some time the Prime Minister will meet but there is no proposal to meet immediately.

FLIGHT OF PRIME MINISTER OF CHINA OVER INDIAN TERRITORY

•47. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of China flew over India in Pakistani aircraft on his way to Rumania on or about 30th March, 1965?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON) : The Chinese Premier and party flew from Dacca to Karachi on their way to Rumania in a Boeing 720 belonging to the Pakistan International Airlines on March 23, 1965.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know if any prior information with regard to this flight was given either by Pakistan Government or by the Chinese Government; to our Government?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir. We received information both from Pakistan and the Chinese Bmbassy.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether it is a fact that the Chinese Prime Minister sent greetings to the Government of India while flying over the country and those greetings were reciprocated by the Government of India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I do not know whether the greetings were reciprocated but greetings were received.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister is not in possession of full facts will she try to And out and inform the House?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Certainly, I will.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: The Prime Minister is in the House and we would like to know from the Prime Minister himself whether he reciprocated the message that was sent by Mr. Chou En-lai?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I got the message no doubt but I did not send any reply; he must have reached hi* destination in the meantime.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: What is the protocol in such matters? Is it necessary for foreign Governments to take permission of the Indian Government whenever foreign personnel are flown over our territory?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: There is the Indo-Pakistan bilateral Air Agreement and the International Air Service Transit Agreement to which both India and Pakistan are signatories. Under that all that the Pakistan International Airlines has to do is to advise our Director-General of Civil Aviation about such flights. This was a non-scheduled flight.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: I would like to know from the Government why the Government thought it fit to give permission to the personality of an aggressor country to fly over our territory.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I have already mentioned that there is an international agreement by which the Pakistan Airlines can have non-scheduled flights by previously informing us.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: But China is not a normal country; it is an aggressor country.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: But it was Pakistan Airlines. (Interruptions)