

के लिए प्रधान मंत्री से भी मिलने गए थे। श्री टालबट तथ्यों का पता लगाने के सिलसिले में यहाँ आये थे और इन मोहों पर उन्हें हाल के पाकिस्तान-चीनी सम्झौते तथा पाकिस्तान से अल्पसंख्यक जाति के लोगों के यहाँ आने के बारे में बताया गया। कुछ दूसरे आपसी हित के मामलों पर भी सरकार के विचारों से अवगत कराया गया।

(ग) चूँकि श्री टालबट ने कोई प्रस्ताव या सुझाव नहीं रखा था, इसलिए उनके प्रति सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) Mr. Talbot was in Delhi from 7th to 10th March, during the course of a visit to this area.

(b) He called on the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Defence, the Minister without Portfolio, Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs. He also made a brief courtesy call on the Prime Minister. Mr. Talbot was here on a fact finding tour and this opportunity was utilised for informing him of Government's views on Pakistan-China collusion, the influx of minorities from Pakistan and subjects of mutual interest.

(c) Since Mr. Talbot did not put forward any proposal or suggestion, the question of Government's reaction does not arise.]

ABDUCTION OF GIRLS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN EAST PAKISTAN

*8. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government have made enquiries into the reports of abduction or conversion of a large number of girls and women of mino-

rity communities separated from their families either as a result of abduction or prevention from crossing over at the border with their refugee parents coming into India from East Pakistan and their being sold to different Arab countries; if so, what is the number of such girls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): The reply to this question is in two parts. Firstly, the Government is aware of abduction, conversion, etc., of girls and women of the minority community in East Pakistan. This matter forms an important part of the discussions between the Home Ministers of India and Pakistan.

Secondly, as regards the report of such girls being sent to the Arab countries for sale, enquiries have been made by our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca who has stated that there is no truth in it.

DISCUSSION ON INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT OF IRAQ

*9. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Pakistan relations were discussed with the President of Iraq during his visit to India recently; and

(b) whether the attention of the President of Iraq was drawn particularly to the treatment of minorities in East Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Indo-Pakistan relations along with other matters of mutual interest were discussed with President of Iraq during his visit to India last month. A joint communique issued at the end of his State visit is placed on the Table of the House.