

Visit by Jewish Delegation

945. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of American Jewish lobby visited New Delhi for India-Israel friendship last month;

(b) the Ministers and officials whom they met; and

(c) whether there is a change in Government's policy with relation to Israel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) A delegation of the American Jewish Committee visited India in June 2004 to enhance and promote relations between India and USA:

(b) The delegation made a courtesy call on National Security Adviser and interacted with officials of the Ministry of External Affairs dealing with bilateral relations with USA.

(c) There has been no change in the Government's commitment to the continued development of relations with Israel based on mutually beneficial cooperation. This would, however, in no way dilute our principled support for the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service

946. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service was of the peace initiatives by Government for promoting peace between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether this proposal has been postponed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) how far its postponement has come as a set back to the peace process between the two countries; and

(e) whether this proposal is proposed to be revived?