

[14 December, 2000]      RAJYA SABHA

**Enlargement of NATO**

2753. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his two weeks tour in USA, Prime Minister has failed to utter a single word in UN about the enlargement of NATO and its expansion eastward at a time when the Cold War has ended and the Warsaw Pact is no longer in existence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's address to the UN 'Millenium' General Assembly focussed on the major peace, security and developmental challenges facing the world today, especially the developing countries, and the need for the international community to work together to face these issues.

**Strategic Partnership between India and Russia**

2754. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad outlines of 'strategic partnership' documents signed between India and Russia during recent Russian President's visit;

(b) the details of other agreements signed and exchanged and also details of 'Declaration Highlight;

(c) the mode of 'Joint Working Group' (JWG) agreed upon to combat terrorism and whether it is for 'Joint Action' or for 'Sharing Intelligence Information' or for both; and

(d) the specific definition of declaration that 'this effort will also involve special services'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) During the State Visit to India by the President of the Russian