

(d) whether Government is planning to increase the defence expenditure through Supplementary Grants;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. For the calendar year 1999 Pakistan has reported to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms the import of 105 T-80UD battle tanks from Ukraine, 8 Mirage-V fighter aircraft from France and one Agosta 90B submarine from France. Pakistan also has extensive cooperation with China, including in the transfer and co-production of conventional armaments.

(c) Government closely monitors all developments related to research, development and acquisition of armaments by Pakistan. Government remains committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security in accordance with its own assessment of security threats.

(d) and (e) The budgetary requirements of the Defence Services are finalised keeping in view their assessed needs; the final assessment is made at the RE stage.

American delegation in India

2757. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:

SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after the Prime Minister's visit to USA, a number of delegation visited India from USA;

(b) if so, whether power, trade and defence delegation had number of discussions with Indian counterparts;

(c) if so, whether any concrete agreements were reached between India and USA over these sectors;

(d) if so, whether US continuous sanctions has failed to achieve any objective of these visits; and

(e) if so, how many agreements have been signed including

defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. After the visit of Prime Minister to USA in September 2000, the US delegations that have visited India include Admiral Dennis Blair, Commander-in-Chief of the US Pacific Command on 20-22 September, US State department Coordinator for Counter-terrorism Michael Sheehan for the second meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism on 25-26 September, Mr. Michael Copps, Assistant Secretary for Trade Development; an Inter-agency team of US officials for the first meeting of the Indo-US joint Working Group on UN Peacekeeping Operations on 1-2 november; Mr. James M. Bodner, US Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defence for Policy on 15-17 November; and, Mr. Karl F. Inderfurth, US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs on 29-30 November.

(b) and (c) During these visits, the two sides discussed bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, reviewed their bilateral cooperation in these areas and agreed to work together for further strengthening cooperation. No concrete agreements were signed during these visits.

(d) The US has lifted a number of unilateral restrictions that it had imposed on India following the nuclear tests of May 1998. Government has conveyed to the US side that all unilateral sanctions against India are unjustified and counter-productive and should be completely lifted. The two sides continue to work together to expand cooperation and intensify bilateral dialogue with a view to building closer and qualitatively new relationship, in accordance with the vision outlined by Prime Minister and President Clinton in New Delhi in March 2000.

(e) In the period after the Prime Minister's visit to the United States, no agreement has been signed with the United States.