

commemorate the 50th Anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations. Both Prime Ministers during their meeting in New York in September 2002 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly agreed to further strengthen relations on the basis of the India-Japan Joint Declaration issued on 10 December 2001.

The Japanese delegations that visited India since December 2001, *inter alia*, include the following:

- (i) Four delegations in March, September, October 2002 and January 2003 to study and review economic co-operation between the two countries. ODA for India during fiscal 2002 amounting to Japanese Yen 110 billion was announced.
- (ii) Two Missions in March and September-October 2002 in connection with the Japanese offer of assistance for projects to clean the Ganga River. A Scope of Work for study on Water Quality Management Plan for Ganga River was signed.
- (iii) Former Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori in October 2002 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister Koizumi.
- (iv) Foreign Minister of Japan Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi paid an official visit to India on 7-8 January 2003. Bilateral and multilateral issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Indian view on Iraq war

1630. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been India's endeavour to achieve a stand-off over the Iraqi war issue;

(b) the other nations, who depend on Gulf crude supplies, who are in touch with India to avoid a conflict in the Gulf region threatening disruption in oil supplies; and

(c) whether India has expressed its views in the United Nations over the issue, calling for moderation on the part of US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (c) India is vitally interested

in the peace and prosperity of the Gulf region and has therefore consistently called for the resolution of the crisis relating to Iraq through political and diplomatic means under the auspices of the UN. India recognised the validity of the unanimous decision of the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 1441 which provides for the disarmament of Iraq. Iraq has to faithfully comply with the provisions of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. The work of the inspectors in continuing in Iraq, and UNMOVIC and IAEA have submitted two reports to the Security Council on 27th January and 14th February 2003. The Security Council should decide on what further action needs to be taken. All concerned should fully cooperate in finding a peaceful resolution to the issue. India's position on the issue has been conveyed by our Permanent Representative to the U.N. during the open meetings of the Security Council on 17.10.2002 and 18.2.2003.

(b) During the recent visits of Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Myanmar to India, both the Ministers shared their concerns over the possibility of a conflict in the Gulf that could have an adverse impact on peace and development globally.

US evaluation of infiltration

1631. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US State Department spokesman on the eve of the Republic Day this year, sharing India's concern, had observed that cross border infiltration by Pak-backed militants in Jammu and Kashmir had increased, after a little drop and added that it should stop completely; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to apprise the US and the world about the Pakistan's double speak, regarding militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, in the context of Pak-President's promise to stop cross border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) Government's purposive international engagement has led to acknowledgement by the international community, including the United