

[6 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

sensing applications and agreed to supply satellite data free of charge for two years.

The infrastructure projects will help build long-term linkages between our North-Eastern States and Myanmar and will help promote trade, travel and people-to-people contacts.

Support to people of Indian Origin In Fiji

1622. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people of the Indian origin in Fiji have sought Indian support for their struggle for economic, political and human rights there;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Government of India is engaged with the Government of Fiji as well as with leaders of the people of Indian origin in Fiji, with a view to ensuring equitable political, economic and social rights for all its citizens.

In addition, Government is working with the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), of which India is a member, to keep Fiji on its agenda until the resolution of the Constitutional case on power sharing.

Indo-US treaty on non-extradition

1623. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US treaty on non-extradition to third countries signed between the USA and India ensures immunity to armed forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) According to the agreement

between the Governments of India and the United States regarding the surrender of persons to international tribunals, signed on 26 December 2002 in Delhi, the two Governments have agreed not to surrender or transfer each other's citizens, including armed forces personnel, to an international tribunal, unless otherwise obligated to do so by an international agreement to which both India and the United States are parties, and without the express content of the other Government.

UN Weapons Inspectors' report on Iraq

1624. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT:
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief UN Weapons Inspector, while presenting his report to the Security Council, observed that the inspections conducted in Iraq had found no weapons of mass destruction in her possession;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the stand proposed to be taken by Government with regard to the US stand that war was the only measure to force Iraq to disarm; and

(d) whether India would like to play the role of a mediator for preventing war and ensuring peace and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The UN Weapons Inspectors (UNMOVIC & IAEA) have submitted two reports to the Security Council on January 27 and February 14, 2003. The Inspectors have opined that so far there is conclusive evidence concerning the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Their inspections are continuing in accordance with UNSC Resolution 1441.

(b) to (d) 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