

UN role in facilitating post war political arrangements and reconstruction are currently under discussion among members of the UN. India is engaged in these consultations. It is also understood that some Indian companies are in contact, with companies that have reportedly been awarded reconstruction contracts.

(c) Government is not aware of any accurate estimate of the total value of reconstruction work.

Prime Minister's statement regarding Iraq war

5042. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has stated in Srinagar that Iraq war is a warning to both India and Pakistan; and

(b) whether it implies that there is direct or indirect U.S. threat to India and Pakistan to negotiate on Kashmir and cross border terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The Prime Minister made his remarks in the context of his view that war cannot solve problems.

(b) No.

U.S. pressure on India for negotiations with Pakistan

5043. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. administration is putting pressure on Indian Government to start negotiations with Pakistan on the question of Kashmir;

(b) whether the Prime Minister's offer of talks with Pakistan in Srinagar is a result of this "U.S. initiative"; and

(c) what is response of the Pakistan Government to the Indian offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) Pakistan's Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan Jamali telephoned the Prime Minister on 28 April, 2003 to express appreciation and to thank him for his

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statements in Srinagar and in the Parliament. Prime Minister Jamali also condemned terrorism.

US report on Indian weapons

5044. SHRI UDAI PRATAP SINGH :

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the US Director of Central Intelligence Report to U.S. Congress on weapons of mass destruction developed by India; and

(b) whether this concern of the US Government and its intelligence agencies on the development of India's nuclear capability and its missile system poses a threat to India's defence capability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes. In a report to the U.S. Congress on "the acquisition of technology relating to weapons of mass destruction and advanced conventional munitions" for the period 01 January to 30 June 2002, released on 10 April 2003, the U.S. Director of Central Intelligence has conveyed a brief assessment, *inter alia*, of India's nuclear weapons and missiles programme.

(b) No.

Consulate general office of Canada and USA in Punjab

5045. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal with Government to open Consulate General Office of Canada and USA in Punjab for the convenience of a large number of people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) There is no proposal for opening of a U.S. Consulate General in the Punjab. However, in September 2001, Government of India approved the upgradation of the Canadian High Commission's Visa Collection Centre in Chandigarh to a full Consulate, on the basis of a request by the Government of Canada.

(b) and (c) The Canadian Visa Collection Centre currently has a staff of seven India-based employees whose positions will be transferred to the new