

asked the Iraq Government to intimate the whereabouts of these stranded Indians; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and further steps contemplated by Government to bring them back?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). As a result of intervention by our Embassy in Iraq the Indian nationals who were stranded on the Iraq-Turkey border with their cars have since been given permission by the Government of Iraq to leave the country with their cars.

Pakistan Prime Minister's Reiteration of Support Secessionists in J & K

117. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:
SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT:
SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Prime Minister has recently reiterated his Government's support to the secessionists in Jammu and Kashmir and also stated that Simla Agreement is not binding on Pakistan.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto:

(c) whether the Government propose to have fresh dialogue with the Pakistan Government to solve this critical issue; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Government have seen the report in the Indian Express of 24.11.90 in which the Pakistan Prime Minister is reported to have said that Pakistan will continue to provide "moral, political and diplomatic support to Kashmiris.". He also reportedly stated the importance of resolving Indo-Pakistan issue "within or without the Simla Agreement" and that "nothing (including the Simla Agreement) is binding on us". The Pakistan foreign Office in a statement issued on 25 November said that the remark of Pakistan PM has been "incorrectly quoted" and that Pakistan remains committed to all its bilateral and international commitments including the Simla Agreement.

(c) and (d). The foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan held the Third round of Talks in Islamabad from December 18-20. It was pointed out that Pakistan's continued support to terrorism directed against India in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, was not only a violation of the Simla Agreement and of universally accepted norms of inter-State conduct, but also adversely affected the relationship between the two countries. It has been agreed that the foreign Secretaries will meet again towards the end of February 1991, to pursue these discussions further.

New Agricultural Policy

118. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI Y. S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since formulated a new National Agricultural Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the views from various quarters have been considered before finalising the policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new Agricultural Policy is likely to be announced?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The Agricultural Policy Resolution is under preparation.

(c) and (d). The Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have been consulted in the preparation of the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution. The Draft Resolution was also considered at a National Seminar held in new Delhi on 15th of June, 1990. Representatives of the State Governments, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and eminent scientists, agricultural Economists and Senior Administrators with long experience in the Field of Agriculture participated in the Seminar. The recommendations of the High Powered Committee on Agricultural Policies and Programmes as also the views of the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture on formulation of Agricultural policy Resolution are also being considered in the preparation of the Draft Resolution.

(e) Effort is being made to finalise the new agricultural policy as early as possible.

Scarcity of Fertilizer

119. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Fertilizer Scarcity to continue" appearing in the Indian Express dated 4 December, 1990;

(b) whether there is scarcity of two vital fertilizers namely nitrogenous and phosphatic; and

(c) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to remove the shortage of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been no scarcity of Fertilisers in the country, including nitrogenous and phosphatic.

(c) In view of reply to (b) above, question does not arise.

Construction of Yatri Niwas at Pahalgaoon (Kashmir)

120. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has allotted any land to India - Tourism Development Corporation for construction of Yatri Niwas at Pahalgaoon (Kashmir);

(b) if so, when the land was allotted; and

(c) whether its construction has since been started and if so, the progress thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) and (b). The Government of