

have contributed to better understanding of each other's view point on matters of common interest and to the strengthening of existing friendly relations between the two countries.

सिंगापुर के प्रधान मंत्री के वक्तव्य

*413. श्री मधु लिमये : क्या बंदेशिक का मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारत में सिंगापुर के प्रधान मंत्री द्वारा दिये गये वक्तव्यों में व्यक्त इस सुझाव पर विचार कर लिया है कि भारत को एशियाई मामलों में अधिक योगदान देना चाहिये;

(ख) क्या इस बात को दृष्टि में रखते हुए सरकार ने अन्य एशियाई देशों से सम्पर्क स्थापित करने के लिये व्यापक कार्यक्रम तैयार किया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस के उद्देश्य क्या हैं और यदि नहीं, तो इस के क्या कारण हैं ?

बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री विनेश सिंह) : (क) भारत एशिया महाद्वीप का एक अंग है और एशियाई मामलों में विशेष दिलचस्पी रखता है ।

(ख) और (ग) भारत सरकार आर्थिक तथा सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र में एशियाई देशों के बीच ठोस क्षेत्रीय सहयोग के पक्ष में है । वह इकाफे, कोलंबो योजना जैसे संगठनों के माध्यम से पहले ही द्विपक्षीय और बहुपक्षीय आधार पर ऐसा सहयोग दे रही है ।

Release of Shri Mohan Ranade

*414. Shri Alvares:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to secure the release of Shri Mohan Ranade from the Portuguese prison; and

(b) if so, the nature of efforts made and the response thereto?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b). All possible efforts have been and continue to be made for Shri Mohan Laxman Ranade's release, through diplomatic channels. The International Committee of the Red Cross also took up the matter with the Government of Portugal. These efforts have not met with any success so far in persuading the Portuguese authorities to release Shri Ranade.

Help to South Vietnam

*415. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of publicity pamphlets being put out in certain countries about India being one among thirty-five or so countries that are despatching help to South Vietnam;

(b) whether it is a fact that such help is being despatched;

(c) if so, the items that are being despatched and their quantity; and

(d) whether any help is being sent like-wise to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The report is not correct. The Government of India are not despatching any help to either the Republic of Vietnam or the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Army Strength of Pakistan

*416. Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri E. Barua:
Shri Lilaadhar Kothari:
Shri N. E. Lakshmi:

Shri P. E. Chakraverti:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the recent issues of the Annual Report entitled "The Military Balance 1966-67" by the Institute of Strategic Studies, London giving an assessment of the rapid build-up of Armed Forces by Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) whether the Institute have also observed that in contrast to the rapid military build-up in Pakistan, the size of the Indian Army has remained virtually static or even fallen; and

(c) how far Government's assessment agrees with the Report?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c). While the publication has given its estimate of the strength and equipment of Pak armed forces and Indian armed forces, it does not make any comment on the build-up of Pak and Indian armed forces, nor does it make any assessment of the comparative build-up of the armed strength of India and Pakistan. The fighting element in the Indian Army has not remained static or fallen.

A comparison between the Pakistani army strength as shown in the 'Military Balance' 1965-66 with that shown in the 'Military Balance' 1966-67 does show a very substantial increase in the Pakistani build-up of armed forces. This tallies broadly with our own information on the subject.

Setting up of Transmitters with U.S. Assistance

*417. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 170 on the 1st August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether there has been any proposal from either side to revive the

idea of setting up Radio Transmitters with U.S. assistance in every District of India;

(b) if so, the stage at which the negotiations now stand; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether the project has been abandoned?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Sikh Shrines in Pakistan

*418. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee has sought the help of Government in securing from Pakistan the complete right of management, service and protection of all the Sikh shrines in that country to the S.G.P.C.; and

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

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee endorsed to Government a copy of a letter addressed to the Chief Secretary, Punjab, urging that a settlement should be arrived at with Pakistan for getting for the S.G.P.C. or its nominees the control of Gurdwaras and their properties located in Pakistan.

(b) Negotiations on this subject between the Governments of India and Pakistan have taken place through the Indo-Pakistan Joint Committee on shrines, which set up following the Pant-Mirza Agreement of 1955. The first meeting of the Committee was held in January, 1958. The Second meeting of this Committee has not yet been agreed to by the Government of Pakistan though we have repeatedly pressed for it.