

producing new ballistic missile at a secret factory with Chinese support; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen press reports in this regard.

(b) Government have been aware of Pakistans attempts to develop and produce Half series of ballistic missiles with Chinese assistance and consider it a matter of great concern. Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

US Report on Pak's Support to Militants

1324. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government are aware of the latest report of the US Government "Patterns of Global Terrorism 1995" admitting Pakistan's support to the militant groups in Kashmir and Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to project the report in the international fora;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the US in view of its massive arms supply to Pakistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). The State Department's Annual Report on Patterns of Global terrorism for 1995 states, interalia, that there are credible reports of official Pakistani support to militants fighting in Kashmir, including Pakistani, Afghan and Arab nationals, and to groups that claimed responsibility for various terrorist bombings in Kashmir. In the context of the on-going hostae crisis in Kashmir, it mentions that the Harkat-ul-Ansar (HUA), a militant group headquartered in Pakistan, is believed to be linked to Al-Faran, the group that has claims responsibility for the kidnappings. The Report also mentions that India claims that Pakistan harbours and supports Sikh militant groups.

The above statements in the Report on Patterns of Global Terrorism support our position that Pakistan continues to be directly involved in large scale promotion and support of terrorist activities in India, with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration.

(c) Government has been sharing with friendly government on a continuous basis the evidence

available with us from various sources of Pakistan's active involvement in terrorism in India.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government has repeatedly made it clear to the US Government that the US decision to transfer the \$368 million arms package to Pakistan under the Hank Brown amendment would not promote peace and stability in the region and should be viewed, interalia, in the light of Pakistan's major and direct involvement in international terrorism.

Raids on the Residence of Health Department Officer

1325. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Raids on the residence of the officer of Health Department" appearing in the 'Hindustan' on June 28, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage of investigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is under investigation and details are being collected to be laid on the table of the House.

Report on Conditions of Indian Girls

1326. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent report on conditions of Indian girls published by the UNICEF;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government towards the improvement of the conditions in regard to their equcational rights?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government is aware of the recent Report on the "Progress of Nations" brought out by United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF).

(b) The Report which is an International publication gives a global update of how children are faring in both industrialised and developing countries. They are in the areas of health, nutrition, gender gap in education,