

VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have been countering Pakistani propaganda by informing foreign governments and the public abroad of the true facts of the situation in East Bengal, through its Diplomatic Missions and publicity media.

#### Reopening of Suez Canal

9. SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Will the VIDESH MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) whether any negotiations have been held to reopen the Suez Canal, and if so, what is the present position with regard to the reopening of this Canal;

(b) whether India has taken any initiative in the matter of reopening of the Suez Canal, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and success achieved therefrom ?

VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI (SHRI SURENDRAPAL SINGH) :  
(a) Yes, Sir; a proposal regarding the reopening of the Suez Canal has been made by the United Arab Republic and is now being discussed with the parties concerned.

(b) and (c). Government of India have welcomed the U.A.R. Government's proposal for the reopening of the Suez Canal within the framework of an overall settlement of the West Asian crisis in terms of the U. N. Security Council Resolution of November 22, 1967.

#### Request by Republic of Bangla Desh for its Recognition

10. SHRI R.S. PANDEY :  
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :  
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA :

Will the VIDESH MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) whether East Bengal has declared

itself as an independent nation known as Republic of Bangla Desh;

(b) whether the newly formed Government of Bangla Desh has asked for India's recognition, and if so the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether any decision has also been taken to establish diplomatic relations with the new Republic of Bangla Desh ?

VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI (SHRI SURENDRAPAL SINGH) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Government are carefully watching the situation and will take a decision as and when necessary in the national interest of India and in the interest of the peace and security of the sub-continent.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Restrictions Imposed on Indian Diplomatic Missions in Dacca and Islamabad

11. SHRI R. S. PANDEY :  
SHRI BISHWANATH  
JHUNJHUNWALA :  
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :

Will the VIDESH MANTRI be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has put many restrictions on the personnel of the India Diplomatic Missions in Dacca and Islamabad and they are put to great difficulties to discharge their functions there; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken for the safety and security of the staff of Indian Missions in Pakistan ?

VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI (SHRI SURENDRAPAL SINGH) :  
(a) The Deputy High Commissioner for India in Dacca and members of his staff have been subjected to restrictions which are in violation of the Vienna Convention.