

along the Indo-Bangla border to stop illegal entry in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress made so far in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government decided in August 1983 to construct a wire fence on Indo-Bangladesh border. The actual survey work was started on 27th March, 1984 by the CPWD in Dhubri district of Assam after receipt by the report of a Technical Committee which advised that survey work is to precede before construction work can actually be taken up. The work continued upto the last week of April 1984 after which it was suspended. The work could not be continued later due to floods, monsoon, etc. The Government have not yet fixed a date for resumption of work on the wire fence.

U.S. to Aid Sri Lanka

1240. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appeared in the Indian Express dated 9 February, 1985 in which it has been pointed out that US is to aid Sri Lanka through economic curbs on India;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Government have examined these press reports; and

(c) if so, whether India has ascertained the facts from the US about these reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sri Lankan daily 'The Island' published a report by Lasantha Wickremetunge entitled 'Lalith flies to Delhi to talk with Rajiv' on 8th February, 1985. The report had stated that President Reagan's roving Ambassador had given the Government of Sri Lanka a guarantee that the U.S. would use economic pressure on India to decamp the terrorist bases. USA has not applied any pressure on India with regard to our relations with Sri Lanka. The Government of India has clearly stated that 'it fully respect the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and does not support any form of terrorism. India would like to see an early political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka so that all the refugees could return home in safety and with dignity.

(c) After the press report had appeared in the Sri Lankan daily, the US State Department issued a press guidance on the subject, which stated that the story was a complete fabrication and there was no truth to it. The U.S. Government has also informed us that it has never announced any such intention and has never contemplated such a step.

Border Dispute Between Karnataka and Maharashtra

1241. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to use their good offices with the Karnataka and Maharashtra State Governments to explore solution to the long pending Karnataka—Maharashtra border dispute; and

(b) whether the solution will be explored in a timebound manner ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) :

(a) The Government of India are of the view that the dispute can be resolved

only with the willing cooperation of the two state Governments and that towards this end the Central Government would be glad to extend all possible assistance to them. The Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Karnataka have met thrice and discussed the problem. The outcome of their efforts is awaited.

(b) It is difficult to lay down any time-limit in this regard.

**Centre's Approval to R. & D Centre
of Union Carbide, Bhopal**

1242 SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the R & D Centre of the Union Carbide at Bhopal had received approval of his department ;

(b) if so, whether the Centre had provided annual report about the type of research projects it was undertaking ; and

(c) whether any projects with possible application in biological warfare were being conducted therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) While the approval of Government is not required to establish a research centre, under a scheme of providing encouragement to industry to engage in the industrial research, the Union Carbide Research Centre at Bhopal has been recognised in 1974.

(b) The Centre provides periodical returns on the facilities, staff and activities at the time of renewal of recognition

(c) Under the Recognition Scheme, it is not mandatory for in-house R & D units to disclose all the programmes,

which they have undertaken in the past or they are planning to undertake in future. Their facilities do not seem to have possible application in biological warfare.

**Highlighting of small accidents in
India Airlines by the Press**

1243. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether press has been highlighting even small accidents in Indian Airlines operations and thereby eroding public confidence ;

(b) if so, the number of accidents that occurred during the last two years and number thereof attributed to negligence in supervision and the number out of them which were serious ;

(c) whether the safety measures and supervision correspond to international norms ; and

(d) if not, whether Government would make sure that supervision and checks are really effective so as to make flying safe for passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Reports in the press have been appearing on accidents and incidents to aircraft of Indian Airlines.

(b) In the preceding two years seven notifiable accidents occurred. The investigation into six of these has been completed and none of them has been attributed to negligence in supervision. One out of these accidents was of a somewhat serious nature.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.