

(SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). No Sir. However, U.S. Government has expressed its general willingness to sell military equipment to India.

(c) The Government of India has not considered this matter in depth because there are certain conditions to weapons sales that it does not find acceptable.

Pak's Claim on Siachin Glacier Area

378. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has disputed India's claim on Siachin glacier area as reported in Hindustan Times dated 9 June, 1985:

(b) whether the Government of Pakistan has officially put forward their claim in this regard;

(c) if so, the grounds on which they base their claim; and

(d) Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Pakistan Government have based their claim on the area stating without any basis, that it forms part of the so-called "Northern Areas".

(d) The Government of India have rejected Pakistan's claim, as the Siachin glacier area is a part of the territory of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir and has always been under India's administration and control. Indian mountaineering expeditions have been going into the area regularly.

Protests have been lodged with the Pakistan Government on different occasions both in writing and verbally, against the acts of violation of Indian air space in the area by Pakistani aircraft.

Proposal for Change in Office Hours

379. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI CHITA MAHATA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to change the office timings in Central Government offices where 9 AM to 5 PM has been fixed;

(b) whether the women employecs have complained and represented to the Government to change their office timings either from 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM or from 10.00AM to 6.00 PM; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c). In the light of some representations received and points raised in the National Council of JCM, the question of office timings under the five-day-week system is proposed to be discussed in the Standing Committee of the National Council of the JCM soon.

Compensation to Riot Victims

380. DR. C.S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently decided to pay 50 percent of the estimated loss or Rs. 50, 000/- whichever is less to those properties have damaged during the November, 1984 riots ;

(b) the number of parties which submitted their applications in response to Government's decision ;

(c) whether several persons/parties have lost their properties worth crores of rupees ; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to compensate those ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The Central Government have decided that the State Governments/Union Territories may pay 50% of the estimated loss or Rs. 50,000/- whichever is less, to persons who had taken insurance policies, without riot covers and had suffered damages during the November, 1984 riots. The expenditure incurred in providing this relief will be reimbursed to the State Governments/Union Territories by Government of India.

(b) 308 parties have submitted their applications in response to the above orders in Delhi. Informations from other States is awaited.

(c) and (d). In addition to the compensation mentioned in reply to part (a) above, instructions have been issued to the Commercial Banks to grant loans on liberalized and concessional basis to traders, transport operators etc. who suffered during the riots. Furthermore, gratuitous relief has also been disbursed to persons whose houses were wholly or partially damaged during the riots.

News Item Captioned "Rivers Pose Health Hazard"

381. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item captioned "Rivers pose health hazard" reported in Indian Express dated 17 June, 1985 ;

(b) if so, whether according to a recent study, it has been revealed that millions of people who are living on the banks of Ganga, Jamuna, Kali and Hindon are facing a serious health hazard ;

(c) if so, steps contemplated by Government to save the millions of human beings who are living on the banks of the rivers ; and

(d) further steps proposed to purify the water of these rivers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, a generalised conclusion cannot be arrived on the basis of sporadic surveys.

(c) and (d). The steps taken by the Government to prevent pollution of the rivers include.

(i) River basin-wise pollution status has been evaluated for the Ganga (including the Yamuna), subarnarekha, Damodar and Brahmani. Similar study has been initiated for the Krishna and the Brahmaputra. The rest of the major rivers will be progressively covered. Based on the findings of these studies an Action Plan for the prevention of pollution of the Ganga has been launched.

(ii) Zoning and classification for designated uses of water have been made in stretches of major rivers.

(iii) Industries are being directed to provide necessary treatment facilities before discharging effluents into water bodies.

(iv) Fiscal incentives are also being provided to industries for taking pollution control measures.

(v) Recalcitrant industries are being prosecuted.

(vi) Guidelines for siting of industries have been evolved.

Abolition of Office of Governor

382. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to abolish the office of Governor in some of the States ;

(b) if so, the names of the States ; and

(c) what other alternative is proposed to be made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.