

and collectively by some supplier States, on the transfer of nuclear material, equipment and technology for the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India have consistently opposed any measures aimed at placing obstacles in the way of developing countries exercising their inalienable rights to develop their programmes for the peaceful utilisation of atomic energy for economic and social development in conformity with their priorities, interests and needs.

Pak. Purchases Submarines

288. SHRI MAGAN BHAI BAROT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are aware that Pakistan has recently purchased submarines;

(b) whether this poses any problem to India; and

(c) whether Government propose to buy submarines from the defence view point?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). India's defence capabilities with reference to its security needs are under continuous review and such measures as are appropriate are taken from time to time. It is not in the public interest to disclose the details of these measures.

U.S. Bomber Flies Over Indian Ocean

289. SHRI FAROOQ ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 21st February U.S. B-52 bombers flew over the Indian Ocean for the second time in another demonstration of U.S. ability to project power into the turbulent Persian Gulf region;

(b) if so, is it also a fact that Soviet Union has now record 31 war ships in the Indian Ocean, 11 more than the United States;

(c) if so, whether heavy concentration of big powers in the Indian Ocean after the Afghanistan conflict has been reported;

(d) if so, whether this concentration in the Indian Ocean has posed a great threat to the Indian security;

(e) if so, what immediate steps have been taken to improve our naval force; and

(f) steps being taken to meet this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Government have taken note of the reported flight of US B-52s over the Indian Ocean area during January-February this year.

(b) and (c). Government are aware that there has been an increase in the U.S. and Soviet Naval strength in the Indian Ocean.

(d) The Naval build-up by the super powers in the Indian Ocean does cause us concern with regard to the security of India.

(e) and (f). Keeping in view the developments in the region that have a bearing on the security of our maritime boundaries, the Indian Navy is being progressively modernised.

Government have also emphasised the need for the implementation of the U.N. Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and have called for necessary follow-up action in this regard.

Closure of Kamani Group of Industries, Bombay

290. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to infighting in the proprietors, the