

**Reported secret talks between LTTE
and Sri Lankan Ministers**

4405. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI SHARAD DIGHE:
SHRI V. TULSIRAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are aware of the reported talks going on between LTTE and certain members of the Sri Lankan Government; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b). Government has received reports on secret talks between the LTTE and some members of the Sri Lankan Government. According to reports, some of the proposals discussed were for the LTTE to vacate the Eastern Province in return for which the LTTE would be allowed to keep its arms and assume control over the administration in the Jaffna peninsula, without having to face elections. It was reported that it was also envisaged, in such an eventuality, that both the Sri Lankan Government and the LTTE would call for the withdrawal of the IPKF from Sri Lanka.

The Government of Sri Lanka have, however, assure the Government of India that it is committed to the full implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Any ad-hoc, unilateral or self-serving arrangements against the spirit of the Agreement will be rejected by both Government.

Musical Instruments for Mauritius

4406. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has presented musical instruments to Mauritius;

(b) if so, the details of the instruments and cost thereof;

(c) whether the prescribed procedure was followed to purchase the instruments;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether a firm which was black listed earlier has been awarded the contract for supplying musical instruments costing Rs 32 lakhs; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Government of India had agreed in 1987 to supply 1000 sets of musical instruments to Mauritius on 50% cost sharing basis with the Government of Mauritius. The ICCR was asked to procure the same.

(b) The details of instruments and cost thereof are given in the Statement below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). The tender was issued to reputed suppliers with whom ICCR has had past dealings and who are not known to have been black-listed. The contract was awarded to the most competitive bidder amongst them.