

tion led by the Foreign Secretary visited Beijing in the first week of October, 1988, essentially for this purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

#### **Amnesty International Report**

168. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen a recent report of the Amnesty International which has made certain references to India; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report of Amnesty International presents happenings in India in a very one-sided and distorted manner. The Report tends to highlight stray incidents of alleged violations of human rights but fails to emphasise the numerous rights and freedoms enjoyed by Indian nationals and the independence of the press in India.

India's commitment to universal human rights is total and unqualified. Its epic manifestation is our freedom struggle and our continued support to freedom for all nations. Its inevitable implication is the final elimination of all forms of exploitation. The enshrinement of the Fundamental Rights in our Constitution, our open society, our rule of law and our independent judiciary are well known as major vehicles for ensuring proper checks on the violations of human rights. Specific charges of alleged violations, however, are thoroughly investigated. While most of the charges made in the Report of Amnesty International have been found to be baseless, wherever such charges have been provided, action had already been taken against the guilty.

The point of view of the Government has been made known suitably from time to time.

#### **Sino-Indian Relations**

169. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of the recent steps taken to improve the Sino-Indian relations?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): In pursuit of improved relations with China, Government have recently exchanged several delegations and concluded a number of agreements to further functional cooperation. A bilateral Cultural Agreement was signed in May 1988 and the annual bilateral trade protocol in June 1988. Discussions have also been held in the areas of Science and Technology and Civil Aviation. The Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to China is expected to give a further fillip to this process.

#### **Withdrawal of IPKF in Sri Lanka**

170. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:  
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA:  
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to withdraw the Indian Peace Keeping Force from Sri Lanka by the end of December, 1988;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) if not, whether any other deadline has been fixed for the withdrawal of the IPKF from Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The duration of the IPKF's stay in Sri Lanka has to be seen in the perspective of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.