

**Construction of Air and Naval Bases by USA at Diego Garcia**

674. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of air and naval base at Diego Garcia by U.S.A. is proceeding at full speed despite the concern expressed by littoral States, including India, over the setting up of military bases in the Indian Ocean; and

(b) if so, what further steps Government intend to take to see that the Indian Ocean is kept free from military bases

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) The Government has seen Press Reports to this effect.

(b) India's support to the establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean is well-known. India shall continue to press for the implementation of the U.N. Resolutions on the subject in accordance with the wishes of the overwhelming majority of littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in all international fora, including the United Nations and the Non-aligned Group. India shall also continue to appeal to the great Powers and to the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to cooperate with the littoral and hinterland States of the Indian Ocean in translating the concept of the Zone of Peace into reality and to eliminate foreign military presence and the resulting tension from the region. India shall also continue to welcome and encourage any move towards extension of the spirit of detente to the Indian Ocean.

**State-wise Deaths due to forced Sterilisation**

675 SHRI SHEO SAMPAT:  
SHRI NAWAB SINGH  
CHAUHAN:  
SHRI DHANNA SINGH  
GULSHAN:  
SHRI PRASANNBHAI  
MEHTA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons reportedly died as a result of forced sterilisation and their age-group in various parts of the country during 1976, State-wise;

(b) the total number of persons reportedly suffering from various after-effects as a result of forced sterilisation in various parts of the country during 1976, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure quick relief to the people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the States and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

**Reservation of Posts for S.C. and S.T. in Ministry of Steel and Mines**

676. SHRI SHEO SAMPAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) percentage reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for various categories of posts from top to bottom in the Ministry, its attached and subordinate offices and in various undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) the extent to which the reserved quota has been fulfilled at all levels;

(c) whether there is any category of posts where the representation of this category is not adequate; and