

Talks held with British Foreign Secretary

146. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Foreign Secretary visited India in the 2nd Week of January, 1980 and had discussion on various issues;

(b) if so, whether issue of Afghanistan and Soviet threat to Pakistan was also discussed; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir, Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, visited India from 16 to 18 January, 1980 and had discussions with us on a number of issues including Afghanistan and the induction of arms into Pakistan. While there was agreement that the danger to peace and stability in this region had increased, there were differences in perception between the two sides. No agreed solutions were proposed.

Trains Suspended due to shortage of Coal, Diesel and Electricity

147. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of trains which were suspended for shortage of coal, diesel or electricity during the past three years 1977 to 1979, alongwith the dates on which they were suspended;

(b) whether some of them have since been restored;

(c) if so, the names of such as have been restored alongwith the dates on which they were resorted;

(d) the likely date by which the remaining trains would be restored; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure that such suspension can be avoided in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). The number of trains which stood cancelled on account of shortage of loco coal was 183 pairs on 31st July, 1978, By April 1979 the position improved to some extent enabling the Railways to restore some of the trains and the number of cancelled trains stood at 116.5 pairs. This rose to 255 pairs by the end of September, 1979 due to deterioration in the supply of loco coal. However, with improvement in the availability of loco coal the figure has now come down to 120 pairs as on 27-1-1980.

The information about details of such trains cancelled/restored from time to time over the last three years is not readily available being voluminous in character.

(e) All possible efforts are being made to improve the coal supply position in consultation with the coal producing authorities and the Department of Coal.

Chinese Arms Aid to Pakistan

148. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged any protest against the reported move of China to give arms to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the date on which the Chinese move first came to the notice of Government; and

(c) the date on which the protest was lodged, the nature of the protest and the response, if any from China?