

(b) if so, a brief outline of the extension programmes in this regard and the likely dates by which the benefits would cover the entire village population; and

(c) the number of maternity care and child welfare centres planned to be set up for this purpose during the Sixth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The proposals for expansion of infrastructure for maternal and child health as well as family welfare and primary health care services during the Sixth Five Year Plan 1980—85 include, addition of 600 Primary Health Centres, 40,000 sub-centres, 174 Upgraded Rural Hospitals, 1,000 subsidiary Health Centres, 300 postpartum centres in the Tehsil level hospitals and the training of village daīs to ensure availability of such a trained dai in each village.

Five Year Plan of USA to expand Military Bases

7067. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

SHRI R. N. RAKESH:

SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI DAULATSINHJI

JADEJA:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR

SINGH:

SHRI N. E. HORO:

SWAMY INDERVESH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States has embarked on

a Five-Year Plan to construct or expand a string of military bases across the Middle East and the Indian Ocean in support of American naval, air and ground forces in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b). Government is aware of US plans to further increase their military presence in the Indian Ocean. Specifically, on March 12, 1981, US Defence Officials indicated that the USA has begun a five year Project to improve military facilities in Egypt, Oman, Kenya, Somalia and on the Indian Ocean base of Diego Garcia. The project calls for improvement of air fields and ports to support US naval, ground and air forces which may use them either in actual crises or in field exercises. US Defence Officials further said that the precise cost of this Five Year Plan depends on operational decisions that can only be made if the "dynamic situation" in the area changes or a crisis occurs.

(c) India has consistently opposed Great Power Military presence in the Indian Ocean area. We have voiced our opposition to this both at the UN and other international forum as the presence of outside powers introduces tensions and conflict in our neighbourhood and constitutes a threat to peace and stability. India supports the holding of the Conference on Indian Ocean, scheduled to be held in Colombo in 1981, with a view to implementing the 1971 UN Resolution on the concept of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.