

(b) if so, whether any target has been fixed taking into account the growing requirements of the country; and

(c) what steps Government propose to ensure smooth handling of cargo at the ports after augmenting the cargo carrying capacity of ships?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. By the end of the Sixth Plan period the country's total tonnage is envisaged at about 7.5 million GRT.

(c) In the Sixth Five Year Plan 1980—85, emphasis has been laid on the development of infrastructure at Major ports. The various schemes included are construction of berths, acquisition of container handling equipment and floating crafts and construction of the container terminals at Madras and Nhava-Sheva.

Higher Wages for Indian Seamen

517. **SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Union of Seafarers of India has submitted to him a memorandum demanding among other things higher wages for Indian seamen;

(b) if so, what is the specific demand in regard to wages;

(c) whether Government will take necessary steps to concede the demand;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Union of Seafarers of India, Bombay have requested for payment of need based minimum wage for Indian seamen.

(c) to (e). The wage terms and service conditions of all Indian foreign going ratings (Seamen), whe-

ther serving in Indian flag vessels or foreign flag vessels, are decided by the National Maritime Board. This is a bipartite machinery comprising representatives of Indian seamen and shipowners. The National Maritime Board has recently revised the wages of Indian Seamen.

Pakistan's offer to trace out missing Indian Soldiers

518. **SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:**
SWAMI INDERVESH;
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH;
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Government has offered its cooperation in conducting another investigation on the whereabouts of Indian soldiers believed to be still in Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government will accept the offer and conduct another investigation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE and COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c). Forty defence personnel are reported to be missing since the Indo-Pak conflict of 1971 and are believed to be held in Pakistani Jails. Government have on several occasions taken up with the Government of Pakistan the question of their release and repatriation to India. Prime Minister had herself taken up this matter with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan during the latter's visit to India in July 1980, and again earlier this month.

The Government of Pakistan have been taking the position that there are no Indian military personnel in Pakistani Jails. We are unable to accept this, and have shared with them the information available with us indica-

ting our belief that some Indian military personnel are most likely, still held in Pakistani jails. We have requested the Government of Pakistan to investigate this matter on the basis of information provided to them by us.

Libyan Diplomat seeking Asylum in Iraqi Embassy

519. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after his defection, a Libyan Diplomat in India had sought asylum in the Iraqi Embassy in India despite the fact that Government had issued unequivocal directions to the foreign missions not to grant asylum to any one; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Chinese Support to Pakistan on Kashmir issue

520. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of China's assurance to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan during his recent visit to China regarding their full support to Pakistan in solving the Kashmir issue on the basis of U.N. Resolutions; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government with regard thereto particularly in the context of India's efforts to normalise relations with China?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) On Decem-

ber 24, 1980 in his speech at his banquet welcoming the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Huang Hua, is reported by the Chinese official news agency, NCNA as having said: "We appreciate your policy for improving and developing relations with neighbouring countries and support the efforts you have made to seek a fair settlement of the Kashmir issue in the spirit of the Simla Agreement and in accordance with the relevant U.N. resolutions".

(b) The well known fact that whatever resolutions may have been passed in the UN on Kashmir in the past are no longer relevant was reiterated by me in my statement in the UN General Assembly recently. It is our hope that both Pakistan as well as Third Countries will recognise that the essence of the Simla Agreement is that all issues between the two countries should be settled through bilateral negotiations. In this context it may be recalled that Mr. Deng Xiaoping, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, while speaking to an Indian journalist on 21 June, 1980, was reported to have stated that Kashmir is a question only between India and Pakistan.

Raising Indian ocean issue Before the Non-Aligned Countries

521. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been demand from certain quarters that the question regarding continuous arms build up in the Indian Ocean be taken up before the non-aligned countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. As in previous conferences of non-aligned countries, the question of the Indian