

**U.S. Arms supply to Pakistan**

770. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA  
BOSE ALLURI:

SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has told U.S. of its fear of arms race in South Asia as a sequel to the three-billion dollar, five year economic and arms package deal (most of arms) that the Reagan administration has concluded with Pakistan; if so, the reaction of that Government thereto;

(b) whether the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Alexander Haig, has publicly stated that the U.S.A. is arming Pakistan because it is vulnerable to threats not only from the Soviet Union but also from India;

(c) whether Government have voiced their concern over this statement; and

(d) if so, its outcome?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The Government of India have made it clear to the US Administration on several occasions that the induction of large quantities of sophisticated US arms into Pakistan will have to detrimental effect on regional stability and set back the process of normalisation between India and Pakistan, sparking off another arms race in the sub-continent. The Government of the United States are of the view that the security of Pakistan needs to be strengthened against the so-called Soviet "threat" and also in order to reduce Pakistan's motivations for seeking security in the nuclear field.

(b) In a Television interview on June 28, the US Secretary of State reportedly alluded to the possibility that Pakistan felt itself threatened not only from the Soviet Union but also from India. However, the general position of the US Administration remains as stated in part (a) above, and was reiterated to me by Mr. Haig personally.

(c) and (d). Government have made their position clear repeatedly that Pakistan faces no threat from India and in fact we have interest in the stability and integrity of Pakistan. While we believe that our efforts have met with some response from some quarters both in U.S.A. and Pakistan it is too early to spell out any definite outcome.

**Measures to prevent Railway Accidents**

771. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI MANGAL RAM  
PREMI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has lately been a spurt in Railway accidents causing considerable loss of lives and property such as Bagmatj mishap, Bilaspur train accident; train mishap in Gujarat etc.;

(b) whether after the analytical study of the Inquiry Reports into these grim accidents, any measures have been or are being taken to prevent these accidents which seem to have become a matter of routine and to pinpoint their causes human failure technical, or sabotage pinpointed; and

(c) if so, the broad details thereof and whether any expert cell has been set up to monitor all these preventive measures to protect human lives and Railway property and to make legislation to prevent travelling on roofs by the public, which is mostly ticket-

less, in certain vulnerable areas in the Eastern states?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALIKARJUN):** (a) Since May, 1981, there have been three serious train accidents involving heavy casualties, viz. (i) Accident to 416 Down Passenger on N.E. Railway on 6-6-81, (ii) Collision between a Goods train and 33 Down Passenger on S.E. Railway on 16-7-81 and (iii) Derailment of 1 Up Delhi Mail on Western Railway on 18-7-81.

(b) and (c). All these three accidents have been inquired into by the Commissioners of Railway Safety. They have submitted only the preliminary reports. According to the provisional findings, while the first of these accidents was due to a combination of factors—human and natural, the second was ascribed to failure of railway staff and the third was due to an act of sabotage. The final reports have not yet been received. Suitable action will be taken on receipt of the final reports. In the meantime to counter-act human failures, Safety Organisations on the railways are carrying out an intensive campaign to create greater safety consciousness amongst the staff connected with running of trains and to ensure that the staff do not violate rules or indulge in short-cut methods that may lead to accidents. Breathlyser test has also been introduced to ensure that the staff do not come on duty under the influence of liquor. Rolling stock which requires greater attention is being segregated from the rest so that concerted attention could be paid to the rolling stock requiring closer attention at frequent intervals. Greater care is being paid for proper maintenance of track.

A special safety team has been constituted in the Railway Board to carry out field checks. The trend of accidents is being constantly reviewed

by the Railway Board and remedial measures are being taken.

General Managers have programmed to make a special safety inspection of all the trunk routes by November, 1981.

Travelling on the roof of a train is already prohibited under Section 118(2) of the Indian Railways Act and is a punishable offence.

#### **Suggestion to check the increase in population**

**772. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had given any suggestions in May, 1981 to check the increasing growth of population. If so, the details thereof and the way Government propose to implement them; and

(b) whether Government propose to enact such a law which may apply to any one equally irrespective of caste, creed and religion so that the increase in population may be checked and if not, the reasons thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):** (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister in her inaugural address at the First National Conference of the Indian Association of Parliamentarians for Problems of Population and Development, on the 25th May, 1981, had stressed the importance of checking the rapid growth of population in India so that the benefits of economic advancement are not overtaken by population growth. The Government will intensify the programme by utilising all resources at its disposal by means of information, education, motivation and provision of adequate services for being