

ment, whether at land or at sea. Government have no information that the USA is helping Pakistan to acquire nuclear bombs.

India has consistently opposed Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean area. There has been a sharp increase in the US military presence in the Indian Ocean in the recent past. We have voiced our opposition to this both at the UN and other international fora as the presence of outside powers introduces tensions and conflict in our neighbourhood and constitutes a threat to peace and stability. India is working with other-Non-Aligned as well as littoral and hinterland States with a view to implementing the 1971 UN Resolution on the concept of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

**USA's intention to scrap 1963 nuclear agreement**

1669. SHRI CHITTA BASU:  
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:  
 SHRI R. K. MHALGI:  
 SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:  
 SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:  
 SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:  
 SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:  
 SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:  
 SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:  
 SHRI B. V. DESAI:  
 SHRI BHERAVADAN K. GADHAVI:  
 SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI:  
 SHRI HARINATH MISRA:  
 SHRI BHOGENDR A JHA:  
 SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:  
 SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:  
 SHRI RAMGOPAL REDDY:  
 SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:  
 SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA:

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALICK:

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANDWAR:

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S.A. has since expressed her intention to disengage herself from the nuclear agreement of 1963 between the two countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) During the last round of Indo-US talks on Tarapur held in New Delhi last month, the US side once again indicated, as they had in April 1981, that they are not in a position to continue our nuclear supply relationship.

(b) The Government of India have made it clear to the United States that all obligations flowing from the 1963 Agreement would cease to be binding on either side if the contractual supply relationship is terminated.

**Recommendation for conversion of shipping corporation of India into a joint sector enterprise**

1670. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state: \* |

(a) whether it is a fact that the Working Group headed by Shri Ajit Haksar (set up by experts committee on public enterprises) has recommended conversion of the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. into a joint sector enterprise;

(b) what are the reasons, given by the said working Group in support of this recommendation;