

Peace in West Asia

861. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the agreement signed in the middle of May, 1983 between Lebanese and Israeli Government's to prevent re-entry of Palestinian fighters to Southern Lebanon;

(b) if so, what is the Government's assessment about the outcome thereof and its impact on World peace, especially the peace in West Asia;

(c) whether any efforts have been made by Government to provide and authority for direct talks between USA and the PLO with a view to establishing peace in West Asia; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) The Government of India took immediate note of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement signed on May 17, 1983.

(b) The developing situation in West Asia is being closely watched by the Government.

(c) and (d) In connection with what role India is required to play, the Government of India has been in close touch with some West Asian countries, the PLO Chairman, members of the Non-aligned Movement, as well as other world leaders and governments, particularly the United States, directly and through diplomatic channels. Shri Romesh Bhandari, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has visited Syria, Libya and Tunisia, and is presently visiting Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Lebanon, with the objective of exchanging views with the leaders of these countries,

Derailment of Amritsar bound Shan-e-Punjab on June 2, 1983862. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI MANOHAR LAL SAINI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Amritsar bound super-fast Express 'Shan-e-Punjab' derailed on Friday, June 2, 1983 about two kilometres from Amritsar Railway Station on its inaugural run; and

(b) if so, the result of the inquiry made about the cause of the derailment?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A.B.A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) On 3-6-1983, 197 Up Shan-e-Punjab Express derailed about 3 kilometres short of Amritsar station.

(b) The cause of the accident has been determined as track defect at the spot where track alteration work was going on.

Outcome of Williamsberg meeting of developed countries863. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
SHRI R.R. BHOLE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the outcome of the deliberations of the Williamsberg Summit of major industrial nations, held towards the end of May, this year ;

(b) if so, what was the precise response of the Summit to the various specific proposals made by the non-aligned and developing countries for dealing with their problems and restructuring international economic relations; and

(c) what was the Government's reaction thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) The Government has followed with due attention the Summit of the major industrialised countries which took place at Williamsburg, USA at the end of May, 1983. In pursuance of the recommendations of the meeting of Non Aligned Foreign Ministers convened in New Delhi in April our Prime Minister as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement addressed messages to the participants of the Williamsburg Summit (the leaders of US, Canada, UK, FRG, France, Italy and Japan and the President of the EEC Commission) bringing to their notice the important decisions and recommendations of the 7th Non-aligned Summit on economic matters.

(b) The Williamsburg Summit did not give any concrete response as such to the specific proposals made by the Non-Aligned Summit. However the communique made several references to the problems of the developing countries. The Williamsburg leaders expressed their "concern over the debt burdens of many developing countries" and agreed that "the weight of the recession has fallen very heavily on developing countries" saying "We are deeply concerned about their recovery". They have asked their Ministers of Finance in consultation with the Managing Director of the IMF to define the conditions for improving the International Monetary System and to consider the part which might be played in due course in this process by a high level international monetary conference. The Summit also agreed that "special attention will be given to the flow of resources in particular Official Development Assistance to poorer countries and for food and energy production and reaffirmed "commitments to provide the agreed funding levels for the International Development Association". Referring to the Non-aligned Summit in New Delhi the industrialised countries leaders said "they welcome the openness to dialogue that the developing countries evinced at the recent conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in New Delhi and the Group of 77 in

Buenos Aires" and went on to say that "we share their commitment to engage with understanding and cooperation in the forthcoming meeting of the UNCTAD". The Williamsburg Summit also declared that "we commit ourselves to halt protectionism and as recovery proceeds to reverse it by dismantling trade barriers."

(c) In a statement issued after the Williamsburg Summit the Government of India commented that in the Williamsburg Communique "regretfully there is no response to the many specific proposals made by the Non aligned and other developing countries.". However, the Government noted that the Williamsburg Summit had welcomed the openness to dialogue and said that the Williamsburg decision to give special attention to the flow of resources, in particular ODA is a matter of satisfaction and expressed our hope that "reaffirmation in the Williamsburg Declaration of the commitment to provide agreed funding levels for the IDA will lead to full contributions on schedule by all members to IDA VI and will enable IDA VII to commence on schedule with adequate resources to meet the needs of all IDA borrowers both old and new". In our statement we also welcomed the commitment to halt protectionism stressing that these commitments should see early fulfilment. The Government also noted the Williamsburg decision to have their Ministers of Finance and the IMF to initiate a study on improving the international monetary system and expressed our hope that this "indicate at least implied recognition of the need for reform of the international monetary system" adding that "we shall welcome a dialogue on the modalities and scopes of such a conference with developed countries".

Replacement of old and overaged machinery

864. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to provide funds for replacement of 75 percent of the machinery which has grown aged in the Railways three production units, namely