

category of service from Clerks/Senior Clerks to that of Guard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the Railway and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### बर्मा में असम के उग्रवादियों को प्रशिक्षण

4937. श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या असम के कुछ उग्रवादी तत्वों को बर्मा में हथियारों का प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है और ये उग्रवादी तत्व हथियारों से सुसज्जित होकर भारतीय क्षेत्र में अशांति पैदा कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) क्या इस संदर्भ में राज्य के विभिन्न स्थानों पर विभिन्न प्रकार के अवैध हथियार भी बरामद किये गये हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस खतरनाक स्थिति में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ए० ए० रहीम) : (क) से (ग) इस आशय की खबरें समय-समय पर देखने में आती रहीं हैं। सरकार इन पर गौर कर रही है लेकिन निश्चित रूप से अभी कुछ सिद्ध नहीं हुआ है।

### Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in South Asia

4938. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has reiterated its opposition to the proposal to set up a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia ; and

(b) if so, the purpose behind the opposition ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India believes that the whole world should be free of nuclear weapons. Nuclear disarmament is indivisible ; it cannot be piecemeal in terms of geographical extent. Also, as a matter of principle, India cannot subscribe to the legitimization of the possession of nuclear weapons by a few powers by agreeing to live under their professedly benign protection in the guise of a nuclear free weapon zone. Further, the movement and deployment of nuclear weapons in various regions of the world by the nuclear weapon States is fundamentally irreconcilable with the idea of nuclear weapon free-zones. We are, therefore, of the general view that the nuclear weapon free zone idea has become unrealistic.

As regards the specific proposal for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in South Asia, India has always been of the firm view that such regional arrangements cannot be imposed from outside or even foisted from within a region ; they should be developed and matured within the region concerned. South Asia cannot be treated in isolation as it is only a sub-region of the region of Asia and the Pacific, and it is necessary to take into account the security environment of the region as a whole. The existence of nuclear weapons in the region of Asia and the Pacific and the presence of foreign military bases in the Indian Ocean complicate the security environment of the region as a whole and make the situation particularly inappropriate for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the sub-region of South Asia.

### New Lines and Conversion of M.G. Lines into B.G. in Gujarat (Western Railway)

4939. SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the progress made in construction of new lines and changing metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines in Gujarat on the Western Railway Sector ;