

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS): (a) to (c). As stated on several occasions, the Government of India have an open mind on the question and will consider sending an Ambassador to China at an appropriate time

Purchase of Submarines for Indian Navy

572. SHRI S. N. MISRA. Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal which was under consideration of the Government to purchase Submarines for the Indian Navy has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the country from which the Submarines will be purchased and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) The Indian Navy has already a fleet of Submarines. The question of further development of our Submarine Arm, both by purchase from abroad and through indigenous construction is receiving constant attention of the Government.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose further detail.

Expenditure on Indian Missions Abroad

573. SHRI S. N. MISRA. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure of the Indian Embassies/Missions has considerably increased during the last three years;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on Indian Embassies/Missions all over the world during the last three years, year-wise and Embassy-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to reduce the expenditure?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS). (a) The expenditure during 1972-73 was less than that for 1971-72 (Rs. 31.43 lakhs) due to closing down of Missions in Pakistan (Rs. 35.18 lacs) and reorganisation of the High Commission, London (Rs. 25.82 lacs) partly off-set by excess expenditure on setting up of the High Commission in Dacca (Rs. 25.40 lacs). However, the expenditure during 1973-74 as compared to that for 1971-72 registered an increase (Rs. 50.36 lacs) due to:

- (i) opening of new Missions at Bogota, Abu Dhabi, Panama and Qatar (Rs 24.48 lacs),
- (ii) upgradation of the Consulates at Hanoi, Muscat and Bahrain to Embassies (Rs. 10.59 lacs), and
- (iii) a consequence of international monetary crisis and inflation, the need for upward revision of salaries of local staff, house rent and Foreign Allowance (Rs 15.35 Lacs).

(b) A statement is placed on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-74].

(c) Keeping in view the requirement of the functional efficiency of Missions, the Ministry have maintained continues efforts to economise on expenditure and to rationalise the staffing pattern on the basis of work studies and inspection missions. Despite worldwide phenomena of inflation the outlay on our missions abroad must by any standards be considered economical.

Setting up of a Steering Committee for Development of Paradip Port

574. SHRI S. N. MISRA. Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Steering Committee for the development of Paradip port;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee; and