

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government's policy in regard to Pakhtoonistan was explained in detail during the half-an-hour discussion raised by Shri Prakash Vir Shastri in the Lok Sabha on November 13, 1968. There has since been no change in this policy.

**Pak. Refusal to Hold Bilateral Trade Talks with India**

446. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan was opposed to the resumption of trade with India ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Government will continue to impress upon the Pakistan Government the desirability of the resumption of trade between India and Pakistan for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

**Increasing Soviet Presence in the Indian Ocean**

447. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :  
SHRI J. K. CHOUDHURY :  
SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE :  
SHRI NIHAL SINGH :  
SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :  
SHRI BANSI NARAIN SINGH :  
SHRI HUKAM CHAND KACHWAI :  
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :

SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA :  
SHRI R. BARUA :  
SHRI MAYAVAN :  
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :  
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the increasing Soviet presence in the Indian Ocean ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir Government has seen reports to this effect.

(b) and (c). The Government of India's view is that the Indian Ocean should remain an area of peace and cooperation. However, beyond its territorial waters, the Government of India has no jurisdiction over foreign activities on the high seas. The Government is, however, keeping a watch on the situation.

**Ban on Imports of synthetic fabrics from Nepal**

448. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :  
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India is facing stiff competition from the cloth imported from Nepal ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some entrepreneurs have set up garment manufacturing industries in Nepal because the Japanese and Chinese fabrics are very cheap and the garments manufactured from these fabrics are superior to the garments made from the indigenous cloth ;

(c) whether it is further a fact that there are no textile mills in Nepal manufacturing these garments and the cloth is either Japanese or Chinese or of some other foreign country ; and

(d) if so, whether the desirability of putting a ban on importing garments from

Nepal has been considered, and if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Import of synthetic fabrics from Nepal has caused some problems but it has been agreed to regulate imports to conform to the levels reached in 1967-68.

(b) to (d). According to available information, some entrepreneurs have set up units in Nepal for manufacture of ready-made garments. There are textile mills in Nepal manufacturing fabrics from synthetic yarn.

It is likely that garment manufacturing units in Nepal use also imported fabric.

The Government of India are watching the imports of garments from Nepal and appropriate measures will be taken if the situation warrants it.

#### Price of Raw Rubber

449. SHRI DHIRESHWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint meeting of the Indian Rubber Growers' Association and President of Rubber Marketing Cooperative Societies held recently at Kottayam had urged Government to fix the minimum price of natural rubber at not less than Rs. 550 per quintal ;

(b) whether it was also urged in the meeting to with-hold permits for further imports of rubber ; and

(c) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association have recommended stoppage of imports of rubber until the internal prices improve.

(c) The indigenous production of rubber is not sufficient to meet the requirements. The gap has to be met with by imports. The imports are being regulated through State Trading Corporation in order to ensure that these do not dampen the internal prices of raw rubber. The recommendations of the Tariff Commission on revision of minimum prices of raw rubber are under examination.

#### Raising of Tibet Issue in U.N.O.

450. SHRI N. K. SOMANI :  
SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO :  
SHRI NIHAL SINGH :  
SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :  
SHRI RAM SWARUP  
VIDYARTHI :  
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH  
SHASTRI :  
SHRI YASHWANT SINGH  
KUSHWAH :  
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :  
SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :  
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :  
SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE :  
SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :  
SHRI JAI SINGH :  
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD  
MANDAL :  
SHRI YAJNA DATTA  
SHARMA :  
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :  
DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some 200 Members of Parliament have written to Government to re-think about Government Policy on Tibet issue ;

(b) whether Government are considering to raise the question in U.N.O. Human Rights Commission ;

(c) whether Dalai Lama has also associated himself with this demand ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The matter is still under consideration.

#### Israeli Resentment over Indian Stand on Al Aqsa Mosque

451. SHRI N. K. SOMANI :  
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :  
SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Israeli Foreign Minister has deplored the official