

The Foreign Secretary Level meetings have provided the opportunity for friendly and frank discussions. Both sides have felt that such meetings have been useful and productive and enabled a valuable exchange of views.

Bhutan

Foreign Secretary Level meetings were held at Thimpu on October 28-29, 1995, May 2-8, 1996 November 24-25, 1996 March 2-3, 1991, April 25-27, 1997 and July 21-24, 1997.

Relations between India and Bhutan have been close and cordial and relatively trouble-free. An important factor in nurturing and sustaining this relationship is the well established tradition of frequent and extensive exchange of views between leaders/officials of the two countries. Foreign Secretary level talks is a part of this regular exercise which enabled a comprehensive review of the entire gamut of Indo-Bhutan relations as well as exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Level talks were held at Dhaka on June 23-25, 1995, on July 5-7, 1996, and at New Delhi on August 6-9, 1996.

During Foreign Secretary's visit to Bangladesh on June 23-25, 1995, bilateral issues of mutual concern were discussed. When Foreign Secretary visited Bangladesh as Special Envoy of the Prime Minister on July 5-7, 1996, besides delivering a letter from our Prime Minister to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, during his meeting with the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh he conveyed the goodwill and desire of the Government of India for cooperative relations in all fields of mutual interest. These sentiments were reciprocated by the Bangladesh side. When the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh visited India as a Special Envoy of Prime Minister of Bangladesh on August 6-9, 1996, during Foreign Secretary level talks matters relating to bilateral trade, water resources, transportation, telecommunication, etc. as well as SAARC related matters were discussed. Both sides also felt the need to encourage direct contacts between the private sectors of the two countries.

Maldives

Foreign Secretary level talks were held at Male on November 26, 1997 during which matters relating to convening of the 4th Session of Indo-Maldives Joint Commission, visit of the President of Maldives to India, bilateral cooperation in a variety of fields, including health and education were discussed. Foreign Secretary had visited Male to attend the meeting of the Standing Committee of SAARC Foreign Secretaries and the 19th Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers.

[Translation]

Monitoring of reservation

1250. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has set up any panel for monitoring implementation of 27% reservation for other backward classes and 22.5 % reservation of Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes in Government Services;

(b) if so, the composition of the panel and the details of its terms of reference and *modus operandi* ; and

(c) the details of the present position regarding filling up of due quota of OBC in Government services and whether any time bound scheme has been chalked out for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) Every endeavour is made by the administrative ministries/departments to fill up the due quota of OBCs subject to observances of 50% ceiling on reservation for SCs/STs & OBCs taken together. Therefore, a time bound scheme to fill up all the posts of OBCs at one go is not feasible.

[English]

Russian Missiles To Pakistan

1251. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Russian Missiles may find their way to Pak from China" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated April 4, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on such deal;

(c) whether the Government propose to raise such issues in the international forum to diffuse tension; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, this news item appeared in the *Hindustan Times* issue of 28th April, 1998.