

(a) whether Government are aware that Nepal has recently purchased in a big way arms and ammunitions from China as reported in the national dailies of 29 March, 1990; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government of India thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government has seen reports to this effect.

(b) The Government of India took up this matter with the previous Government of Nepal. It is the endeavour of the Government of India to seek a comprehensive understanding on all the outstanding issues with Nepal including our security concerns in spirit of friendship and co-operation.

[*Translation*]

Persons Arrested While Crossing Indian Borders From Pakistan

7224. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested during the last six months while crossing the Indian borders from Pakistan;

(b) the number of extremists and ordinary citizens out of them, separately; and

(c) the details of the weapons recovered from the arrested extremists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). 728 persons were intercepted by BSF during the period from October, 1989 to March 1990, while crossing the Indian borders from Pakistan. Of these, 7 persons were suspected to be extremists and 721 persons were other

miscreants.

(c) The following arms/ammunitions have been recovered from the persons suspected to be extremists:

AK-47 Rifle	:	2 Nos.
AK-74 Rifle	:	8 Nos.
Thomson Sub Machine Gun	:	2 Nos.
Pistol	:	7 Nos.
Revolver	:	2 Nos.
Hand-Grenade	:	32 Nos.
Magazine assorted	:	100 Nos.
Amn. assorted	:	4748 Rds.

[*English*]

Abolition of Visa System Between India and Maldives

7225. SHRI H.C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by India and Maldives for abolishing of visa system between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Under an agreement signed on March 11, 1979, India and Maldives had agreed that citizens of either country may enter the territory of the other without obtaining a visa for a stay of up to 90 days. India had suspended the operation of this arrangement for some time due to various reasons. After the visit of EAM to Maldives in January, 1990, Govern-