

**Concentration of foreign forces in
Indian Ocean**

*232. SHRI T. BASHEER : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the threat to the Indian sub-continent is increasing due to the heavy concentration of foreign forces in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister had discussed this matter with the heads of various Governments during his recent visit to foreign countries;

(d) if so, the outcome of such discussions; and

(e) steps Government have taken to check the militarisation of Indian Ocean ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (e). There has been a steady increase in the strength of foreign naval ships in the Indian Ocean in the recent past. At the same time, attempts are being made to upgrade existing naval facilities and seek fresh military facilities, particularly for the pre-positioning of military material.

The prime Minister had, in his discussions with several Heads of State, expressed our concern at the deteriorating security situation in our environment. The concentration of foreign forces in the Indian Ocean has been and continues to be a matter of great concern to the Government of India. We have been actively engaged in securing the elimination of foreign military presence from the area. To this end, we have consistently supported U. N. General Assembly Resolution No. 2832 (XXVI) which called for the Indian Ocean to be established as a Zone of Peace. Together with other non-aligned countries, India also continues to press for the early convening of the U. N. Conference on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace with the participation of the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean.

**Application of Article 342 to J & K
State**

*234. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir have recommended to the Union Government for the application of Article 342 of the Constitution of India to the State of J & K enabling the people of Ladakh to get the Scheduled Tribe status; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Formal orders in this regard are likely to be issued shortly.

**Approval of irrigation projects of
Orissa**

*235. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of irrigation projects of various States approved by the Planning Commission during 1985-86; and

(b) the number and the names of the irrigation projects of Orissa awaiting the approval of the Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) No major and medium irrigation project has been approved by the Planning Commission so far during 1985-86.

(b) One medium irrigation scheme viz : Sapua-Badjore is awaiting approval of the Planning Commission.

Development of Hill States

*236. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :