

**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 :

(a) whether the Special Committee set up to advise Planning Commission on rapid development of Hill State/regions has made any recommendations/suggestions for the development of these regions during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the brief outline of the recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the nature and content of the contribution made by this Committee for this specific purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) The Planning Commission had not set up any Special Committee. However, an Advisory Committee of Experts was set up in December, 1982 for 2 years to advise on matters relating to planning for socio-economic development of the Himalayan region.

(b) This Committee held two meetings, one on 24th February, 1983 and the other on 2nd June, 1984. The committee concluded that in regard to the development of hill areas, the main focus should be on the people and their basic needs, i.e., food, fodder, fuel, education, health, etc., and micro-watershed should be the unit of development. The Committee further observed that a coordinated effort was the prime requisite, and voluntary agencies should be encouraged to participate in eco-development programmes of the hill areas.

(c) The Committee was an Advisory body and was not expected to submit any formal report. The conclusions and observations of the committee were kept in view in formulating the approach and strategy for the development of hill areas in the Seventh Plan.

Sending of Indian into space

*237. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is preparing to send men into space for the second time; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Indian Payload Specialist is scheduled to fly on board the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (US-NASA) Space transportation System (STS) flight carrying the INSAT-IC satellite. This flight is presently scheduled for late September 1986. The primary function of the Indian Payload Specialist astronaut will be to act as an 'adviser-cum-observer' for the inflight checkout and deployment functions related to the INSAT-IC satellite. In addition, the Indian Payload Specialist will conduct certain experiments in the areas of (i) Earth Observation, (ii) Life Sciences, and (iii) Food Sciences.

[Translation]

Scheme to prevent water pollution

*238. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a new scheme to prevent water pollution;

(b) if so, the outline of this scheme; and

(c) whether Government have received complaints regarding water pollution from the State Government of Bihar?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir. However, there are on-going activities for water pollution control being implemented by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.