

affected during the recent fighting. What steps have Government taken to evacuate all those Indian nationals? Moreover, you have mentioned in the statement also that 800 Indian nationals are still awaiting evacuation, but the local authorities are reluctant to allow them because their services are considered essential. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps Government is going to take to ensure safety of the Indians there?

MR. SPEAKER : There is a whispering campaign going on in the House. Please stop it.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : So far as evacuation of the Indian personnel or workers there is concerned, at the time of the crisis, when the conflict was going on, as soon as we got contact, we were able to evacuate more than 400 by ship and by plane. When we sent our Joint Secretary, he met representatives of all of them. At one time about 500 Indians had desired to be evacuated. He contacted them and he offered to them that assistance would be given to any one who wished to be evacuated to India or other places of safety. But because the situation had normalised, they were not willing to come away, and the Government of PDRY also wanted particularly the doctors, nurses, and other technical persons who were engaged in the construction activities to continue we asked that security must be assured to them. Now these people were not willing to be evacuated; but the offer was there that anyone willing to be evacuated will be evacuated.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : There are complaints from the families of those who are dead that the External Affairs Ministry did not show even the primary courtesy to inform them properly even after these information were printed in the Press. I would like to know from the Minister on which date the details about those who were dead in Yemen reached the External Affairs Ministry and whether their families were informed about it and if so on which date and whether there was a delay, if so, why that delay occurred.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The international flights to and fro Aden were restored in the first week of February 1986. Our

Ambassador who was stationed in Djibouti was asked to go immediately to Aden which he did on the 7th February itself. Our Joint Secretary, whom we sent from here, reached there on 11th February. So we were able to establish contacts as soon and immediately as we were in a position to do so. We contacted the families of those who were killed and all those who were injured and rendering of all possible assistance had been done.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : My question was not replied to properly. You should protect me Sir. All the information were printed in the Press on the 4th and on the 3rd I telephoned from my constituency to the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs to know whether such and such persons were killed. He said that there was no information. But all these information were printed in the Press on the next day.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : My colleague informs me that the same day, he sent telegrams to every family himself.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : On which date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : I don't recollect the exact date; but the day I got a telex from Yemen, the same day, the same evening I sent telegrams to all the eleven families whose addresses I had been informed and the Press was also informed.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This is a sorry state of affairs Sir. All those people who were killed were very poor people.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question by Smt. Kishori Sinha.

Science Advisory Council

*43. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Science Advisory Council for the Prime Minister has been set up;

(b) whether there is also a Science Advisor to the Prime Minister; and

(c) if so, what different functions the Council and the Advisor will perform without any duplication ?

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

(b) Yes Sir, the designation is Scientific Advisor.

(c) The functions of Science Advisory Council are :

To advise the P.M. on

1. Major issues facing Science and Technology.
2. The health of Science and Technology in the country and the direction in which it should move.
3. A perspective plan for 2001 A.D.

The Council will also look at specific problems with different, scientific departments, policies, priorities for research and technology missions etc. The Council has been empowered to appoint sub-groups to study specific subjects.

The Scientific Adviser will advise the Prime Minister on a continuing basis on matters concerning science and technology policy, in addition to the specific problems referred to him. He will also have the responsibility for monitoring the overall implementation of the Science and Technology plan in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : The answer given is exhaustive. But at the same time I would like to know the reasons for designating the Science Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and not to the Cabinet as was the position before the reconstitution in February 1986 particularly when there is a Scientific Advisor to advise the Hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : This is

a difference of nomenclature. The advice given to the Hon. Prime Minister will be available to the Cabinet and the advice given to the Cabinet will also be available to the Prime Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is because the Prime Minister is a part of the Cabinet.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Yes.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : But accountability to whom ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The previous Council was advising the Cabinet Committee on Science and Technology and through Cabinet Committee on Science and Technology to Council of Ministers. Here the advice is given to the hon. Prime Minister and it will be available to the entire Government. (*Interruptions*).

AN HON. MEMBER : Why did you change it ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Because it does not make any difference.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I wanted to know whether these changes and the shifting of some important scientists like Dr. Varadarajan and Prof. Yash Pal from their posts in February 1986, were all related to the Prime Minister's publicly expressed dissatisfaction with the Science and Technology establishment over its inability to provide Science and Technology missions for development that he wanted ? If so, whether these changes presage induction of fresh blood in the Science and Technology establishment.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I think that was not the idea at all. The idea was that certain scientific inputs are added in the specific areas where Prof. Yash Pal and Shri Varadarajan have been put. It was not because they were not working. It was because they were working well. We wanted a positive input in more areas. That is why we have put them there.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the famous astro-physicist Dr. Narendikar had publicly made some suggestions regarding

structure of Scientific Advisory Council and its powers and functions. Is he aware of them? What is the response of the Government to those suggestions?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : At present, he is the member of the Scientific Advisory Council and he has the facility to express his views sitting as a member in the Council and his advice would certainly be available to the Government and after examining the advice given by him and the Council in the appropriate manner, action can be taken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : My question was whether he is aware of the fact and whether he has publicly made some suggestions? He can say 'I am not aware of that'.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I believe after his statement, I have had a long session with the Science Advisory Council and we have agreed on certain mode of operation for the Council and they are going ahead with that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Prime Minister is more informed.

Proposal for Peace Treaty with Pakistan

*44. **SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :**
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-
GRAHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan during recent bilateral talks has accepted a proposal of India regarding a peace, friendship and cooperation treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the views of Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). Discussions on a draft Comprehensive Treaty of Peace and Friendship are continuing. Differences persist on some important aspects of the proposed treaty.

[Translation]

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of External

Affairs has stated in his reply that differences persist on some important aspects of the proposed treaty. I want to know from the hon. Minister what are those important aspects? Simla Agreement was signed in 1972 but it has not so far been ratified. Similar is the problem of Kashmir. On the other hand, training is being given to the extremists in Pakistan so that they could spread terror in Punjab. It is within the knowledge of the Government of India that they are receiving training in Pakistan. I want to know whether the Government of Pakistan will hand over these extremists to the Government of India?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The most important question on which differences persist is that we are in favour of solving all issues mutually through peaceful means on the basis of the principle of bilateralism under the Simla Agreement. Not only that, we want to go even beyond that. We want that the foreign powers which create tension between our two nations should not be allowed to do so. India and Pakistan hold divergent views as to what should be the draft of the proposed treaty. There is need to narrow down the differences.

The second thing, and an important one on which differences persist is that none of the two countries should allow a third country to build bases in their respective countries. On this, Pakistan has said that it is an assault on their sovereignty. Although they maintain that they have not allowed any country to establish their bases in Pakistan nor do they intend to do so, but we do not agree with them. We hold different positions on both these vital points, but a number of rounds of talks have been held in this regard and this process will continue in future as well.

SHRI CHITTA MAHATA : My second supplementary is that it is true that there should be a treaty of peace and friendship between India and Pakistan so that both the countries could progress, but I want to know whether the Reagan Government of U.S.A. is creating hindrances in the path of this treaty? Has the External Affairs Minister held talks in this regard with U.S.A.?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : During the course of discussions I held with U.S.A.,