

taken up this issue with the Soviet leader Mr. Gorbachev during his visit to Moscow and with Mr. Reagan during his visit to US and whether it is a fact that both the leaders had responded positively and expressed their willingness to solve this problem and find a political solution to this problem. If that is so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps, the Government have taken or proposed to take to evolve a *modus operandi* on the basis of the response from the leaders of Soviet Union and the USA.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : India's stand on Afghanistan is a principled and consistent one. We are against both intervention and interference and we stand for negotiated political settlement of the issue which takes into account the legitimate interest of the parties concerned. And Sir, in this context, we have supported U.N. initiative. We have noted that the progress made in these talks is slow. However, at the present moment, there is no other international initiative besides the proximity talks being conducted by the U.N. Secretary General's personal representative and we have lent support to this because we are for a peaceful negotiated settlement of this issue.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Loss suffered in Explosion in Indian Embassy at Lima

*353. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss of life and property suffered in the explosion in Indian Embassy at Lima (Peru) on 22 February, 1986 ;

(b) the number of employees belonging to Indian Foreign Service in this Embassy ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to compensate the loss suffered by Indians ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a)

Fortunately, no loss of life or injury was involved. The Chancery Building of the Embassy and the Embassy car were damaged, Estimated expenditure on the repairs of building is Rs. 40,000/- and the car has been repaired at a cost of Rs. 28,000/-

(b) Five, including three diplomatic officers and two others.

(c) Does not arise as no loss was suffered by any Indian.

Juvenile Delinquency

*354. **SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of juvenile delinquents is increasing continuously in the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what concerted efforts are contemplated by Government to curb this trend in the society ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) From the published figures available till 1982 it is found that there was an increase in the number of juveniles arrested between 1977 and 1981, and this was followed by a decline in 1982.

(b) Apart from the efficacy of the enforcement of the law, a variety of environmental factors such as industrialisation, urbanisation, economic deprivation destitution, neglect etc ; are found responsible for the problem.

(c) The implementation of various Children Acts applicable in different States and Union Territories falls within the responsibility of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Government of India has been pursuing with them the development of the necessary services required thereunder. Besides a financial provision has also been made under the 7th Five Year Plan for assisting the States to strengthen infrastructure and services under the Children Act.