

which they have been sentenced. According to the latest figures made available by the Burmese authorities on the 6th July, 1982, there are at present 58 Indian detenus in Burmese jails.

Our Mission in Rangoon is in regular touch with the Burmese authorities regarding the welfare, release and, where necessary, return home of such Indian nationals who have to be distinguished from people of Indian origin.

#### U.S. Bases in Gwadar, Trincomali and St. Martin

\*291. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) are Government aware that the US foreign bases in Gwadar (Pakistan) Trincomali (Sri Lanka), and in the St. Martin Island (Bangladesh) are in progress;

(b) whether Government have raised the issue with concerned neighbouring countries;

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) has any note been exchanged with the US Government in this context?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) to (d) Government have seen reports in the press that the U.S. is establishing bases at Gwadar in Pakistan, Trincomalee in Sri Lanka and St. Martin's Island in Bangladesh. Government have also noted the denials by the Governments of Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in this regard.

Government of India are opposed to the establishment of any foreign base in the Indian Ocean region as it would be a threat to our security and to the peace and tranquility of the region as a whole.

#### Admission of SC/ST Students in M.A. Classes of Delhi University

\*295. SHRI BHEEKHABHAI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1980-81 in the Delhi University admissions to the M.A. Classes in Arts and Science Students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been refused due to low percentage of marks;

(b) whether it is Government policy not to give relaxation for admission of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the M.A. Classes in the Delhi University, if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) what is the present policy in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL):

(a) In Delhi University during 1980-81, for admission to M.A. Courses, 5 per cent relaxation in the minimum qualifying marks was given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates. For admission to M.Sc. Courses, students belonging to these categories were given weightage of 5 per cent in the aggregate marks or in the subject offered or in the marks obtained at the screening test. Such students of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as did not fulfill these eligibility conditions were not admitted.

(b) and (c). According to the Government/UGC guidelines, 20 per cent of the seats are reserved for SC/ST candidates and they are also given a concession of 5 per cent in the percentage of marks required for admission to any course. In case of 20 per cent seats earmarked for SC/ST candidates remain unfilled, Government have suggested that the proposal for giving further relaxation in the marks so that all the reserved seats are filled by candidates belong-