

**DR. A. KALANIDHI :** The hon. Minister has just now said that the patients who are serious are given admission to T.B. hospitals. But I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that in Tamil Nadu, the T.B. patients who are very serious are not given admission in the TB Sanatorium, Tambaram. The Medical Superintendent of that hospital tore off the recommendation letters given to the TB patients by the MLAs and MPs. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would kindly look into this matter.

**SHRI B. SHANKARANAND :** The hon. Member is asking something which is beyond the purview of this question. If he is asking a question about anything particular, I won't be able to answer that.

#### **U.S. Arms and Economic Aid to Pakistan**

+

\*539. **SHRI R.L. BHATIA :**  
**SHRI S.M. KRISHNA :**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item under the heading "PINDI SEEKS Two billion U.S. military, economic aid," appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated the 3rd March, 1981; and

(b) if so, his reaction, thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTENAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have repeatedly conveyed to the Government of United States in the strongest terms that further massive supply of arms to Pakistan, which has considerably strengthened its defence forces in the last few years, would have a destabilising effect on our region.

**MR. SPEAKER :** We had a full discussion yesterday on this question. I think there is no need for asking any further question on this subject.

**SHRI R.L. BHATIA :** Sir, Pakistan which wants to modernise its forces is likely to get F-16-79 war planes, tanks, guns and air to air missiles. Now, the pea-nut aid has become a banana size aid. The argument which Pakistan gives for acquisition of these arms is first to meet the threat from the Afghanistan frontier, second, neutralise the acquisition of arms by India and third, to defend Saudi Arabia in times of emergency. May I know from the hon. Minister whether this large size acquisition of arms by Pakistan does or does not upset the process of normalisation between India and Pakistan ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:** I have already said that this results in a serious setback to the process of normalisation. That is a comprehensive statement which includes all the aspects referred to by the hon. Member.

**SHRI R.L. BHATIA :** Before admission to the Non-Aligned Conference Pakistan gave some assurance with regard to military pacts and military build up by the global powers and the role of Pakistan as an independent nation towards global strategies of big powers. If so, may I know whether Pakistan is going to fulfil the role as described by Mr. Haig that they are going to build up the countries with arms right from Pakistan to Egypt ? May I know whether Pakistan which has given assurances to the non-aligned movement is not going back on those assurances ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO:** It is true that in General Haig's statement, Pakistan has been clubbed with other countries, but from Pakistan, we have, if anything, had a denial of the report that Pakistan

would be made a conduct for supply of arms to the rebels. Yesterday I had occasion to express my hope that Pakistan would stick to this commitment.

**SHRI S.M. KRISHNA :** After the new regime came to power in the United States of America, there has not been any meeting at the Minister's level in order to understand the anxiety of United States of America to arm Pakistan. If that is the case, is the hon. Minister taking any initiative so that a meeting at the level of the Ministers could take place in the near future ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHARAO :** It is a process which will have to be left to a particular pace. We should not force the pace, but I would like to assure the House that all that is possible in order to express our concern, to convey our concern, to the Government of United States of America is being done. So far as meetings are concerned, they will take place at the appropriate time.

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH :** There are reports that there are unofficial briefings that the arms purchased by Pakistan should be highlighted where as acquisition of arms by India should be soft-pedalled. It is not the acquisition of arms by India or by Pakistan, but by both the countries which would lead to destabilization. Should not both the countries try for reduction of arms so that there is no destabilization in this South-east Asian sub-continent ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHARAO :** I gave a comprehensive reply yesterday. I do not think that the arms which we are having will have any destabilizing effect. They are actually short of our requirements.

## Indo-Italian Talks

+

\*540. **SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI :**  
**SHRI B.V. DESAI :**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indo-Italian talks were held in Delhi in the last week of February, 1981; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHARAO) :** (a) and (b). The Italian Foreign Minister Mr. Emilio Colombo visited India from 25 February, 1981 to 1st March, 1981. During his visit we exchanged views on various current international issues and bilateral matters. The visit has given impetus to our bilateral co-operation in various fields. The Indo-Italian Joint Committee for Economic Co-operation will be meeting in Delhi in early April to identify fresh fields for Indo-Italian co-operation. The visiting Minister signed a General Technical Cooperation Agreement with our Finance Minister.

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI :** according to the answer given by the hon. Minister, the Indo-Italian Joint Committee for Economic cooperation would be meeting in Delhi in early April. In view of this, may I know what are the main items the Government proposes to take up in this meeting ?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHARAO :** As I said, this meeting is for identifying new avenues of cooperation. We do have cooperation already and we have been steadily increasing