

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Pakistan have rejected our protest and disowned responsibility for the hijacking and destruction of our plane.

*Russian Warships in Indian Ocean*

1. DR. KARNI SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has more war-ships than any other country in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the number thereof vis-a-vis those of other countries;

(c) whether any protests have been lodged with that country to leave it as an area of peace; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Russian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): (a) and (b). The precise strength of the warships of different nations present in the Indian Ocean is not known.

(c) and (d). Government are of the view that the presence in the Indian Ocean of the naval fleet of countries not bordering the Indian Ocean is unnecessary and is likely to create tension. These views have been made known to the Powers concerned. Under international law, ships (including war-ships) of all countries have freedom of movement in the High Seas outside the territorial waters of littoral States. The question of making a formal protest to countries whose warships remain in the Indian Ocean does not, therefore, arise.

*Representation of Workers and Officers of Indian Oil Corporation on Management Board*

2. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMI-

CALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 9 on the 9th November, 1970 regarding representation of Workers and Officers of Indian Oil Corporation on the Management Board and state:

(a) whether the matter has since been considered and a final decision taken;

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken and the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) if not, the further time likely to be taken in taking a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration of the Government and a decision will be taken shortly.

*Allotment of Accommodation to Government Employees*

3. SHRI A. N. CHAWLA: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government employees waiting for Government accommodation for the last more than 15, 16, 17 and 18 years;

(b) the specific measures adopted by Government to provide Government accommodation to those who have completed more than 15 years of service;

(c) the number of Government employees who have been residing in much lower type of accommodation allotted to them much earlier when they were holding junior posts and do not want to change to their entitled types; and

(d) the action Government propose to take against them so that these accommodations could be allotted to the persons who