

the Rupsa-Talbandha narrow-gauge rail link to broad gauge and extend the same to connect with Tata-Badam-pahar main line; and

(b) a detailed report thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of Rupsa-Talband narrow gauge line into broad gauge and its extension to a suitable point on Tatanagar-Kharagpur section is being carried out by the South Eastern Railway. The survey is expected to be completed shortly.

#### Printing of Passport Forms in Regional Languages

\*334. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised consideration of the question about printing of passport application forms in all the regional languages;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, reasons for delay thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) to (c). A decision, in principle, has been taken that the passport application forms will in the near future also be available, apart from Hindi and English, in the regional languages of the State in which the Passport Office is situated. The intention is to bring into public use the passport application forms in these additional languages at the same time as a revised passport application form is introduced.

#### भारत-ईरान संबंध

\*335. श्री मोम प्रकाश त्यागी : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ईरान में हुई हाल की क्रान्ति के परिणामस्वरूप भारत और ईरान के बीच विद्यमान द्विपक्षीय आर्थिक, व्यापार आदि समझौतों पर प्रभाव पड़ा है अथवा उन पर किसी प्रकार से प्रभाव पड़ने की सम्भावना है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके तथ्य क्या हैं ; और

(ग) सरकार ईरान की सरकार के साथ सौहार्दपूर्ण संबंध स्थापित करने के लिए क्या प्रयास कर रही है ?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : (क) से (ग). भारत, नई सरकार को मान्यता देने वाले पहले देशों में था। हम नये नेतृत्व के साथ निकट संपर्क बढ़ाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं। तीन सदस्यों का एक सद्भावना प्रतिनिधिमंडल, जिसके नेता श्री अशोक देहता हैं, इस समय ईरान की यात्रा पर गया हुआ है। सरकार को यह आशा है कि भारत और ईरान के बीच इस समय जो द्विपक्षीय सहयोग और जो दोनों देशों के हित में है वह जारी रहेगा।

#### Chakma Tribal People Entry into Mizoram

\*336. PROF. SAMAR GUHA:

SHRI MUKUNDA MONDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of 'Chakma' tribal people have recently been ejected out Bangladesh by resorting to repressive measures;

(b) whether these Chakma tribal people have entered into Mizoram and other areas of India; and

(c) if so, the facts thereabout and the steps taken by Government to deal with the problems regarding Chakma tribal people, with the Government of Bangladesh?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):** (a) and (b). A number of Chakma tribals from Bangladesh entered Mizoram illegally during the last three months alleging that they had been harassed by the Bangladesh authorities.

(c) As soon as these reports reached us, the matter was taken up with the Government of Bangladesh, who have agreed to take them back. The modalities of their repatriation are being worked out in consultation with the Bangladesh authorities and we expect that all those Chakmas who entered India illegally, would return to Bangladesh in due course.

**Admission of Foreign Students in Orissa Medical College**

\*337. SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI SARAT KAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have requested the Orissa Government to allow admission of foreign students into Medical Colleges in the State, particularly from the African, Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the foreign students already admitted in State Medical Colleges?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY):** (a) Yes, Sir. The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs has written to the Orissa Minister of Education and Health in August

1978 requesting him to offer 30 additional seats in 1979-80 in the different medical colleges of Orissa for accommodating foreign students under the self financing scheme.

(b) The required information is being collected.

**Activities of Warships of Big Power in South East Asia**

\*338. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI DHIRENDRANATH BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the warships of big powers have stepped up their activities in South East Asia as a result of fighting between Vietnam and China;

(b) if so, whether Government consider that such activities will threaten the peace of the region in particular and whole of Asia in general; and

(c) if so, his reaction thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):** (a) and (b). Government have seen reports to this effect. The Government of India has all along held that the military presence of foreign powers in the Indian Ocean is detrimental to the peace and security of the region. As such the Government of India cannot but be concerned at any escalation in the naval presence of any major foreign power in this area.

(c) Government of India is keeping a careful watch on the situation and is in touch with concerned governments. Attention is invited to the statement made by me in the House on March 12, 1979.