

(c) what steps Government are taking to meet the new situation arising out of China's testing of I.C.B.M.

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Government have seen a recent news report about this;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government are fully alive to the implications of this development.

West Asian Crisis

*442. Shri Atam Das: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the U.S.S.R. warships have already entered the sea of U.A.R. and some more are expected to follow them;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that such a move of Navy by one of the biggest powers of the world, is pushing the world towards the outbreak of a world war; and

(c) if so, whether Government have offered their good offices as a mediator to solve the problem and to bring about peace in West Asia?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) We have not offered mediation. The Government of India's Representative in the Security Council has been engaged in discussions and consultations with the Security Council members and others with a view to the establishment of peace in West Asia. These efforts have resulted in a suitable resolution being adopted by the Council and a cease-fire has now been brought about in West Asia.

Indonesia-Pak Naval Exercises

*443. Shri A. B. Vajpayee;
Shri Bal Raj Mehta;
Shri N. S. Sharma:

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta;
Shri Virendrakumar Shah:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that Indonesian fleet is to hold shortly joint naval exercises with Pakistan in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, whether it will not pose a threat to the security of the country;

(c) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of our country; and

(d) whether any protest has been lodged with the countries concerned?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir. We have seen reports to this effect.

(b) and (c). We are studying this matter carefully to see if the nature of these reported exercises is such that they will increase the threat posed by the Pakistan Navy to the security of India. If the exercises are of such a nature, necessary measures will be taken to protect our interests.

(d) No, Sir.

U.S. Equipment for Defence Factories

*444. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government's latest policy decision regarding the supply of lethal and non-lethal equipment also covers equipment for the Indian Defence Factories; and

(b) if so, whether the Ambajhari explosives plant will not be supplied by the Americans as per their earlier commitments?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Indications are that the U.S. Government's latest policy decision applies also to equipment for Defence Factories.