

offers have been carefully examined and found unacceptable on political as well as economic considerations.

PAK. LETTER TO SECURITY COUNCIL

*625. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA** : Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the representative of the Government of Pakistan in U.N.O. in a letter to the President of the Security Council has listed certain conditions for talks with the Government of India to settle the outstanding issues between the two countries;

(b) if so, the conditions listed by the Pak. representative; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. In his letter dated February 7, 1968 to the President of the Security Council, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan has repeated Pakistan's familiar theme that India should abandon its jurisdiction in Jammu and Kashmir as a pre-condition to Indo-Pakistan talks.

(c) A copy of the reply to this letter is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-444/68.]

PROCEDURE FOR TRANSACTING BUSINESS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES

*626. **SHRI MADHU LIMAYE** : Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is the settled procedure in all the Ministries/Departments that Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries should not approach a Minister or place any matter before him direct and that they should proceed through the Joint Secretary or the Additional Secretary or Secretary;

(b) whether it is the normal practice for a Minister to ask for papers and

files direct from the Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries;

(c) if not, the proper procedure in this regard; and

(d) whether a Minister can ask for certain papers direct from Under Secretaries or Deputy Secretaries and whether these officers are supposed to inform their superior and/or obtain their consent before sending these papers to the Minister ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (d). The normal procedure prescribed is for files and papers, coming up for decision, to travel from the lower to the higher level and reach the Minister through a Joint Secretary/Secretary. In specified cases, a Deputy Secretary may also deal direct with the Minister.

However, instructions provide for "level jumping" in the interest of expeditious transaction of business. Ministries in the Government of India are empowered to issue instructions to this effect.

Notwithstanding these procedures, a Minister responsible for a Ministry can always, at his discretion, ask for papers relating to any matter direct from any officer of the Ministry.

NUCLEAR THREAT FROM PAKISTAN

*627. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA** : Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent discovery of large deposits of uranium ore in Pakistan is likely to cause any nuclear threat to India from Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have any information of the Chinese assistance to Pakistan to develop nuclear energy for the purposes of war; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?