

Soviet Ambassador's visit to Bhubaneswar

*740. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to reports that recently Ambassador of Soviet Union in India visited Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that he had fixed up an appointment with the Chief Minister of Orissa and could not turn up to meet the Chief Minister in time; and

(c) whether Government have ascertained the reasons for which the said ambassador could not keep up his appointment with the Chief Minister of Orissa and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Ambassador has informed the Government of India that he regrets that it was not possible for him to call on the Chief Minister of Orissa at the original time suggested from the side of the Chief Minister because the Ambassador had to leave for Cuttack to attend a meeting of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society which was the object of his visit to the State. After the meeting, the Ambassador sought another appointment to call on the Chief Minister but the Chief Minister could not find time to receive him. The Ambassador has further indicated that no discourtesy was intended on his part and he is sorry he could not get an opportunity to call on the Chief Minister.

Shah of Iran to Mediate in Indo-Pak Dispute

*741. SHRI DEVEN SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited the Shah of Iran to mediate in the Indo-Pakistan dispute; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to that effect from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of such a proposal. It is governments view that Indo-Pakistan differences can best be resolved peacefully through bilateral discussions without interference from outside.

100 Day Exports Crash Programme launched on 1-1-70

*742. SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he assured engineering undertakings in the public sector of financial assistance and institutional support for exports during a 100-day crash programme launched on the 1st January, 1970;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) the estimates of additional foreign exchange earnings because of this assistance?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Each Undertaking has been requested to set up an export division and to formulate a long term strategy for exports.

(c) The Public Sector Undertakings have been requested to maximise their exports. No firm estimate can be made at present.

Chinese goods smuggled into India through Dacca

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news Reports appearing in the local dailies (*Patriot* dated 9-3-1970) that Dacca has become a corridor for smuggling of goods mostly of Chinese-make into North India;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan;

(c) if so, steps proposed to impose stricter check at the Indo-Pak check Post; and

(d) the reactions of Pakistan in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.