

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.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The customs authorities have alerted their staff to intensify their vigilance and take requisite preventive measures.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of a Naval Base by U.S.S.R. in Andamans and Nicobar Islands

*744. SHRI C. CHITTYBABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that U.S.S.R. is going to set up a Naval Base in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, whether Government have given permission for it; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Purchase of cold storage Units by Afghanistan

*745. SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghanistan has expressed a desire to purchase cold storage units from India;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) to (c). The Government of India have not received any enquiry from the Royal Afghan Government for purchase of cold storage plants from India. According to available information an Afghan party made enquiries some time back about the possible import of two cold storages units from India. During his recent visit to Bombay, the Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries is reported to have evinced interest in receiving offers for cold storages far meat. As far as Government are aware, no deal has materialised so far.

Shift in Russian Stand on Kashmir

*746. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government saw any change in the Russian stand on the question of Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether Russia assured Government that they would use their Veto in case the Kashmir question was raised by Pakistan in the Security Council; and

(c) if answers to above, be in the negative, reaction of Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c). Soviet Government has assured the Government of India on several occasions that there is no change in their stand on the question of Kashmir. Attention in this context is drawn to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1681 on 14-5-1969.

उत्तर प्रदेश में रायबरेली में पन-बिजली घर की स्थापना

* 747. श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: क्या सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सूखे की स्थिति का मुकाबला करने की दृष्टि से सरकार ने इलाहाबाद में अंगबेरपुर में एक पन बिजली घर स्थापित करने की योजना पर विचार किया था।

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने उपरोक्त बिजली घर योजना रद्द कर दी है और उसके बदले रायबरेली (दालमौन) में बिजली घर स्थापित किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

सिंचाई तथा विद्युत मंत्री डा० क० ल० राव: (क) और (ख). अंगबेरपुर पर