

(b) if so, the reaction of the Laos Government and the Pathet Lao movement to the offer ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH). (a) The International Control Commission in Laos has unanimously agreed to offer its good offices to ensure that negotiations take place in an atmosphere of conciliation.

(b) The resolution has been formally transmitted to the parties in Laos, and is believed to have been appreciated.

**Discussion Regarding Boundary Pillars
On Mymensingh-Garo Hills**

*488. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the discussions regarding the boundary pillars on Mymensingh-Garo Hills were held and completed during this month between the Directors of Records and Surveys of Assam and East Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decisions arrived at ; and

(c) when the job of fixing pillars would be completed and at what cost ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) The two-day conference between the Directors of Land Records and Surveys of Assam and East Pakistan began at Dacca on the 18th of August, 1970.

(b) and (c). Detailed information will be available only after the Conference ends.

**Recruitment of Gurkhas in India
for U. S. Armed Forces**

*489. SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN ;
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU ;
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE ;
SHRI NAMBIAR :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to newspaper report stating that American authorities in India are recruiting Gurkhas for the U. S. Armed Forces and their allies engaged in war in Indo-China countries ;

(b) whether the Government have verified this news ;

(c) if so, whether the Government of India has protested against this recruitment of Gurkhas, as was done in the case of British Government after 1947 ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) to (e). The Government of Nepal have denied the report which appeared in an Indian newspaper.

**Creation of a New Department for
Scientific Research in Defence
Ministry**

*490. SHRI NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have created a new department of Scientific Research in his Ministry ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the function of this department ; and

(d) how far it will be helpful to the Nation and Defence Department in particular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY