

State Governments. We will impress upon the State Governments that while dealing with this as law and order problem, they must also accelerate developmental work and programmes in the affected areas.

[Translation]

Construction of Trench in Sialkot Area by Pakistan

*579. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has constructed a long trench in Sialkot area in Pakistan along the Indian border;

(b) if so, whether this sort of construction on the border is a violation of international laws; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard so far ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : I think, the House has not been properly informed by the Minister. According to my information, to enhance the field surveillance capability of Pakistani troops, Pakistan is going on at quick pace to construct about 50 kms. long trench along our Khem Karan, Wagah, Suchetgarh areas and also Karagadi tower near Kashmir border.

I will ask the hon. Minister, through you, to again check up the validity of his answer. It is there that Pakistan is going to construct a watch tower. You have all flatly told the House that nothing is going on. It is going on and I stick to my Question.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Sir, I did not say that nothing is going on. I merely confined myself to the Question and

the answer is what I have to the questions. The question is :—

(a) whether Pakistan has constructed a long trench in Sialkot area in Pakistan along the Indian border

— Answer :—Yes, Sir.

(b) if so, whether this sort of construction on the border is a violation of international law;

— Answer :—No, Sir.

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard so far ?

— Answer :—Does not arise.

I have not, for a moment, said that nothing is happening. We monitor activities very carefully on our borders. I would like to assure the Member of this. He has gone by newspaper reports. But we have our own sources of having hard information and not a day passed when we are not aware of what is going on the other side.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, it is the right of a Member to confirm newspaper report through a Government confirmation. I have not done anything wrong. It is because, I have read the newspaper. Regarding my second part, namely, if so, whether this sort of construction on the border is a violation of international laws, again on the information of the newspaper, I ask the Minister that according to the information with me from the newspaper, any construction within 500 metres of the borders of the two countries is unlawful. This was the information with me.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I am giving you a specific answer. If the Government of Pakistan wants to dig trenches in their own territories, hardly we can hardly object to it. It is not a violation of international laws. But we keep a very close eye on anything, any activity going on in the military field near our borders.

You have asked the same question in three different ways and I have given to

you the same answer in three different ways, because what you have asked, I have understood, and so have you.

Vacant Post of Director in Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd.

*580. SHRI H.A. DORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd., a major public undertaking responsible for development of electronics, has been operating without a functional Director for the last two years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Two posts of functional Directors in ET & T fell vacant on retirement of incumbents on superannuation. Action was initiated in time to find replacements. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) had reported panels of names for the two posts. However, the Government did not find any one suitable for appointment. Further action is now in progress and the posts will be filled shortly.

SHRI H.A. DORA : The answer is very evasive and it is the creation of the Ministers to evade all the answers. My question is very specific "whether the Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd., a major public undertaking responsible for development of electronics, has been operating without a functional Director for the last two years."

I emphasise on this particular aspect "for the last two years." The answer does not say anything about it. It simply says that they are going to fill up these vacancies very shortly. This word 'shortly' is a confusing term. According to the dictionary of the Minister, shortly means

30 to 25 years. It has been reported in the press that not only this public undertaking but many other public undertakings are functioning without any Head resulting in indiscipline and also indifference.

Just now the hon. Prime Minister claims that this Government is working faster than any other Government in the past, also in the present and in the future also.

If, so may I know what are the steps that will be taken by the Government to prevent such lapses forthwith ?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : Shortly means shortly, not 30 or 25 years. I agree with the hon. Member that there has been delay.

SHRI H.A. DORA : It is not normal delay. It is in ordinate delay.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : I am going to explain how it occurred. Even before the retirement took place, the Department initiated action for replacement. There are two posts, one is, Director (Technical) and the other Director (Finance). Interviews were held and in the first interview, nobody was found suitable for the post of Director (Technical). These are very high posts which require very high qualifications, Degree in Electronics and Ennineering and nearby 15 years of experience is required. They called for candidates of various public sector undertakings and as far as the Director (Technical) was concerned, nobody was found suitable in the first instance and, therefore, the Public Enterprises Selection Board advertised the post and after advertising it, they have made a panel recently after interviews and this has gone up to the Government for final decision with regard to appointment.

With regard to Director (Finance) also, there have been many problems because one of the candidates selected was not available because he took another job and with regard to other person, we sent it for appointment but the Government did not find him really suitable and, therefore, we are again going for the selection process.