

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the impact of this deal on the Commonwealth relationship ?

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

(b) We made our opposition to any arms sale by Britain to South Africa amply clear. In our view any accretion in the armed strength of South Africa would pose a serious threat to the security of the newly independent nations of Africa, retard the freedom movement in the colonial territories of Southern Africa, and strengthen the racist minority regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia and also create new tensions in the Indian Ocean area. Such arms sales would also be contrary to the mandatory resolution of the Security Council.

(c) India and certain other countries have informed the Commonwealth Secretariat of their inability to participate in the Study Group, set up in accordance with the decision of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference to consider the factors affecting the security of the maritime trade routes in the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean.

SYMPOSIUM ON ACTIVITIES OF BIG POWERS

157. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :
SHRI K. C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently there was a symposium in Washington regarding activities of big powers in the Indian Ocean ;

(b) whether it was observed by several speakers that India had extended naval facilities to the Soviet Union at Vishakhapatnam ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that there was a symposium

recently in Washington regarding activities of Big Powers in the Indian Ocean.

(b) Government has no information on this.

(c) It has been stated in the House on various occasions that the same facilities are extended to Soviet ships at Visakhapatnam as are made available to ships of other friendly countries who desire to use these facilities.

NUCLEAR DEFENCE FOR THE COUNTRY

158. SHRI ARJUN ARORA :
SHRI R. P. SINHA :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE/रक्षा मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to prepare the country for nuclear defence ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE/रक्षा मंत्री (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) and (b) Government's policy on nuclear defence has been explained to the House on several occasions in the past. Government have nothing to add to the statement's previously made on the subject.

GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION IN DELHI

159. DR. SALIG RAM : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING/निर्माण और आवास मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers in the following categories and other employees of the equivalent ranks stationed in Delhi (i) who have been allotted Government accommodation, (ii) who are on the waiting list ;

1. Secretaries and Additional Secretaries.
2. Joint Secretaries.
3. Deputy Secretaries.
4. Under Secretaries.
5. Section Officers.
6. Assistants.
7. U. D. Cs & L. D. Cs.
8. Peons and Class IV ; and