

Kashmir Issue

2264. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States again rejected on Tuesday February 2, 1999, Pakistan's call for mediation in Kashmir, but promised all help to resolve the problem; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto, indicating whether any move has since been made by the US or Pakistan Government's in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) In a speech at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad on February 2, 1999, after the 8th round of Pak-US dialogue, the US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott, referring to India's consistent opposition to any third party mediation in the bilateral issue, reportedly stated that the US was not in a position to act as a "mediator or broker". A joint statement was issued at the end of 8th round of Pak-US dialogue on 2nd February, 1999, wherein "the US expressed its strong support for the current talks between Pakistan and India.....".

(b) Government position on the issue of Kashmir is clear and consistent. We have always maintained that there is no scope for outside intervention in bilateral matters.

Recently, on February 20-21, 1999, PM visited Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service. During the visit, Prime Ministers of the two countries signed the Lahore Declaration wherein they "agreed that the two countries will intensify efforts to resolve all issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through the composite dialogue process; refrain from intervention and interference in each other's internal affairs, combat the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.....".

Prawn Culture

2265. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from NGO's functioning in the coastal areas regarding non-implementation of directions of the Supreme Court concerning prawn culture in the coastal areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to promote environment friendly schemes of prawn cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from a few quarters alleging unauthorised shrimp farming activities by some firms in violation of Supreme Court's directions. The allegations include violation of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991, fresh stocking of shrimp seed in ponds meant for demolition, use of chemicals and fertilizers, drawal of ground water for shrimp culture purposes etc. Writ Petitions have also been filed against setting up of shrimp culture farmers in some States. The matter is subjudice.

(c) In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court, an Aquaculture Authority has been set up to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas. The Authority has evolved rules of procedures and State Level and District Level Committees have been set up to screen applications for setting up of shrimp culture pond in coastal areas for approval of the Aquaculture Authority. The Authority has also evolved guidelines for adopting improved technology for increasing production and productivity in traditional and improved traditional systems of shrimp farming in an eco-friendly manner. Shrimp farming activities which have the effect of causing environmental degradation are not allowed by the Authority

[Translation]

Bhander Irrigation Project

2266. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between the Government of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in regard to sharing of water of Bhander Inter-State canal projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh is violating the norms of the agreement and releasing lesser quantity of water in the canal as compared to that mentioned in the agreement; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government for strict compliance of the agreement?