

Indo-Pak Talks on Bilateral Issue

2288. **SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:**

SHRI K. PRADHANI:

SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan visited India recently and had talks with his Indian counterpart on various bilateral issues between the two countries;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the issue of border disputes also figured in the talks;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the outcome of talks held at other levels on various issues between the two countries;

(f) whether the Government have initiated any talks with Pakistan for a peaceful settlement of Siachen Glaciers issue; and

(g) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) to (d) The Fourth Round of Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan took place in New Delhi from 4 to 6 April, 1991. The talks covered the entire range of bilateral issues and included an exchange of views on international issues of mutual interest. In these discussions it was pointed out to Pakistan that the crux of the present problem in bilateral relations was its support to terrorism and subversion directed against India in Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.

The Foreign Secretaries signed two agreements on 6 April, 1991, relating to:—

(i) **Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troop Movements.**

(ii) **Prevention of Air Space Violations and for Permitting Overflights and Landings by Military Aircraft.**

It was also decided to commence discussions on several pending bilateral issues and, in principle, to convene the Sub-Commissions of the India-Pakistan Joint Commission on mutually convenient dates. Agreement was also reached to hold the fifth round of Foreign Secretary level talks. These are now scheduled to be held in September, 1991.

(e) The Surveyors General of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi from 23 to 26 March, 1991 to discuss the demarcation of the international boundary between the two countries in the Sir Creek area. These talks helped in a better appreciation of each other's point of view. Further discussions on the issue are scheduled to take place at the Secretaries level scheduled later this month.

The India-Pakistan Committee to Combat Drug Trafficking and Smuggling met in Islamabad from 30 to 31 July, 1991 and agreed, inter-alia, to expedite exchange of information to control drug trafficking and smuggling across the Indo-Pakistan border.

(f) and (g) In the Fourth round of Foreign Secretary level talks, it was agreed in principle to resume the dialogue on Siachen at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

New Electronic Telephone Exchanges

2289. **SHRI RAJINDERA KUMAR SHARMA:** Will the Minister of **COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for opening of electronic telephone exchanges during 1990-91; and

(b) the number of electronic exchanges opened during 1990-91 and proposed to be opened during 1991-92?