

[*English*]

12.00 hrs.

Offer of base facilities by Singapore to U.S.[*English*]

8216. SHRISANATKUMAR MANDAL:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore's offer of base facilities to the United States, is likely to bring the international strategic rivalries closer to Indian shores, affecting the region's security environments;

(d) if so, the whether India's concern over this matter has been conveyed to the countries concerned and the matter has also been raised in any international fora;

(c) if so, its outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (d). According to a Singapore official statement in October 1989, Singapore had offered "increased use" of her facilities for repair of US naval vessels and short term visits by US Air Force aircraft on a rotational basis. Our views on the military presence of external forces in the Indian Ocean region are well known and our concerns have been expressed in bilateral and international meetings. India is strongly opposed to the military build-up of external forces in the Indian Ocean region. India's position is that the further escalation and expansion of the military presence of external powers should be halted and any manifestation of this in the context of Great Power rivalry such as foreign naval bases should be eliminated.

MOTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi has given a notice of question of privilege against the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur for allegedly obstructing him from coming to Delhi for taking part in the proceedings of the House and putting him under house arrest on 7th May, 1990 at Hamirpur, seeking my consent under rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha to raise the matter in the House.

In view of the gravity of the allegations, I give my consent to the raising of the question of privilege under Rule 222 of the Rules of Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi may now ask for leave of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI (Hamirpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be granted leave to raise the question of privilege in the House.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think there is no objection in granting leave to Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi to raise the question of Privilege in the House. The leave is granted. Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi may now move his motion.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN LODHI (Hamirpur): I beg to move:

"That the question of privilege raised by Shri Ganga Charan Lodhi against the District Magistrate and Superintendent of Police, Hamirpur for ob-