

[English]

Talks with President of Sri Lanka

***39. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE**

PATIL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of Sri Lanka visited India recently along with a high level delegation;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held between the visiting President and his delegation and the Indian dignitaries; and

(c) whether the talks also pertained to the implementation of Indo-Sri Lanka Accord and the Friendship Treaty proposed by Sri Lanka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes Sir. President Jayewardene visited India from January 25-30, 1988 as the Chief Guest for our Republic Day celebrations. During his stay in India President Jayewardene had two rounds of talks with the Prime Minister. There was also one round of talks between the delegations of the two countries led by President Jayewardene and the Prime Minister.

(b) The outcome of the talks was a firm reiteration by both Governments of their determination to implement the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of July 1987 on which rests the just and lasting resolution of the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka.

(c) The talks focussed on the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of July 1987. The Government of Sri Lanka had handed over on January 19, 1988 the draft of a proposed treaty of friendship. During President Jayewardene's visit to India the Sri Lankan side referred to this draft and proposed that it could be discussed later after the Indian side had time to examine it.

Timings of General and bye-elections

***40. DR. A.K. PATEL :** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Election Commission to lay down comprehensive guidelines in the election law itself for the timings of General Elections and bye-elections indicating the time span within which such election should be held and the extent of weightage to be given to State Governments while finalising a poll programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI BINDESHWARY DUBEY) : (a) and (b). Yes Sir. As part of the proposals for the electoral reforms, the Election Commission had suggested, some time ago, that suitable guidelines may be laid down in the statute itself to regulate the manner in which the Commission may decide such matters. On this and other proposals on electoral reforms, a final decision to be taken only after consultation with political parties.

Manufacture of Advance Light Helicopters

231. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the manufacture of Advanced Light Helicopters;

(b) when is the production of this helicopter likely to commence; and

(c) whether Westland is associated in any way with the production of the Advanced Light Helicopters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) After the completion of milestones of Preliminary Design, Configuration Freeze, Critical Components Design