

major repairs is being repaired in Base Workshops according to Repair Programmes formulated for the purpose. Such equipment as is considered beyond economic repairs would be condemned and cannibalised for providing spares.

(b) Modernisation of equipment of the Services is proceeding according to the Plan drawn for the purpose. It would not be in the public interest to give the details.

(c) Three new factories were formally opened during the current year. It will not be in the public interest to give the rate of production or capacity of these factories.

(d) With due regard to the need for conserving foreign exchange, the urgent requirements of equipment and other material of the Services have been/are being procured from foreign countries to the extent these cannot be obtained from indigenous sources. It will not be in the public interest to give the details.

India-Burma Boundary Agreement

*69. Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri S. Supakar:
Shri Nath Pai:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Burma signed an agreement in Rangoon recently to delimit the Boundary between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minister of External Affairs will be making a statement on the subject in Parliament as soon as the Agreement has been ratified by both parties.

Deadlock on U.S. Military Aid to India

*70. Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a deadlock on the U.S. military aid to India;

(b) whether India's nuclear potential has been viewed with alarm by the U.S. Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of India to such U.S. anxiety?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) It is misleading to speak of any deadlock. The position is that U.S. military aid to India remains suspended since September 1965 though since February 1966, it has been open to us to purchase some non-lethal military equipment, for cash or on credit.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Small Newspapers Enquiry Committee

*71. Shri Anantrao V. Patil: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Small Newspapers Enquiry Committee;

(b) whether after devaluation, the conditions of small newspapers, especially language newspapers, have deteriorated, and

(c) if so, the steps taken to give relief to these small newspapers?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) The Enquiry Committee on Small Newspapers have made 145 recommendations in their Report. Decisions have been taken in respect of 30 and they are laid on the Table of the House. A statement giving the conclusions reached in respect of 81 recommendations is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-101/67 dated 27-3-1967].

The remaining 34 recommendations are being processed in consultation with the concerned Union Ministries, State Governments, Press Organisations and other interests;

(b) efforts are made to see that their condition does not deteriorate;

(c) In order to afford relief to newspapers, consequent upon the increase in the cost of imported newsprint owing to devaluation, the following steps have already been taken:

- (1) The Import Duty and the Regulatory Duty have been abolished.
- (2) From August 1, 1966, a surcharge of 10 per cent on advertisements, released by Government, has been accepted.
- (3) As a measure of liberalisation of import of newsprint and additional quantity of 15,257 metric tonnes from Canada has been arranged.

Nuclear Scientists' Meet

*72. Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri G. C. Nalk:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri A. Dipa:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether India was represented in the recent Nuclear Scientists' meet at Geneva;

(b) if so, India's opinion on the question of proliferation of nuclear weapons and their potential hazard; and

(c) whether the aspect of the security of such countries with neighbours having nuclear weapons has been considered?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): (a) At the invitation of the U.N. Secretary General Dr. Sarabhai (in his individual capacity) participated in a meeting of a Panel of Consultant Experts at Geneva to

prepare a report on the impact and implications of all aspects of nuclear weapons. All the 12 experts were invited in their individual capacity.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Concentration of Chinese Troops on Bhutan-Tibet Border

*74. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese troops are heavily concentrated on the Bhutan-Tibet border.

(b) whether it is also a fact that they have built a road from Tibet to Bhutan border;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to fear of the Chinese, the Tibetans have been entering India; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Chinese troops are entrenched in strength along the Bhutan-Tibet border as in other sectors. However, no new concentrations have been noticed.

(b) Over the last three years, the Chinese authorities are known to have built and improved some roads leading to the Bhutan border.

(c) Yes, Sir. Since the 1st of January 1967, 144 Tibetan refugees escaping from Chinese persecution in Tibet, have entered India.

(d) The Government are taking all necessary steps.

Space Research

*75. Shri C. C. Desai:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme for space research in the country has been chalked out;