

Wednesday, February 14, 1968/Magha
25, 1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Talks on Vietnam Situation

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*31. SHRIMATI SUSHILA
ROHATGI:
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR:
DR. RANEN SEN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of
India have been in touch with Wash-
ington regarding the announcement
from Hanoi to carry on talks with
U.S. on "relevant questions" after
unconditional cessation of bombing;
and

(b) if so, the reaction of the U.S.
Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b).
The Government of India is in touch
with various parties concerned includ-
ing the United States of America and
the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
Since the situation is a very delicate
one, and the reactions of the various
Governments are of a confidential na-
ture, it would not be proper to disclose
them, particularly in view of the posi-
tion of India as Chairman of the Inter-
national Control Commission.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI:
Does the Government realise the
futility of any announcement from

Hanoi about terms of peace when it
is accompanied by a violation of the
Tet truce on the one side and at the
same time any pronouncement from
Washington offering terms of peace
when it is accompanied by further
reimbursement and reinforcement of
American troops in Vietnam?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We deplore
any escalation of conflict from ~~any~~
side, and we have made our position
very clear that first there should be
unconditional stoppage of bombing,
and it is our assessment that if this
comes about, it will be followed by
peaceful negotiations.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: In
view of India's historical role in the
international sphere as a strong prota-
gonist of world peace and also as the
champion against aggression of any
sort in the present crucial stage
where a civilisation a thousand years
old is affected, may I know what
steps the Government of India is
taking to have mediation, and how far
it has exercised its influence for
bringing the warring groups to the
negotiating table?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The amount
of suffering involved is enormous, and
we are anxious that this suffering
that this vast human tragedy that is
taking place, should end. Although
we do not like to act as mediator, as
the Chairman of the International
Control Commission we are in const-
ant touch with all the parties con-
cerned, and we are doing whatever
we can to bring about a peaceful si-
tuation in this complicated and diffi-
cult issue that is agitating the world.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR: The
U.N. Secretary-General was in Delhi a
few days back. In view of the
smashing blows that the American

imperialists are receiving, they are on the run in Vietnam, I should like to know whether the Government of India has made it very clear to the Secretary-General to convey to the United States that they should get out of Vietnam and this problem should be solved? Did we make our position clear?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Our position has been made clear from before, and it is still clear, but I do not think it is part of the duty of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convey messages from us to the Government of the United States.

DR. RANEN SEN: A long time ago the Government of India took the position that the bombing should be stopped and then Hanoi could come to the conference table, but even after declarations by many Governments to this effect that U.S.A. should sit round the table after stopping bombing, even after all these reactions from many important Governments like France and even the U.K., the U.S. Government refused to stop bombing and other acts of aggression. May I know what prevents the Government of India from raising this issue in a broader context and force the U.S. Government to accede to the request of the world people to stop bombing of North Vietnam?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We have expressed our views and we still adhere to them. We have expressed them in very clear terms. I do not think that we are in a position to force the United States to do anything in this matter.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: After the discussions with President Tito, Chairman Kosygin and Secretary-General U Thant, may I know whether there has been any response from any quarter to India's call for having unconditional stoppage of

bombing of North Vietnam, whether we can say that we have achieved something to that effect?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This is not only India's call, the call is shared by Chairman Kosygin, President Tito and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: After all these talks, what is the result?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There is no result as such on this issue, except that we understand each other's point of view.

SHRI HEM BARUA: There are two reasons for the escalation of the war in Vietnam. One is the heinous crime committed by the Americans by bombing, another is the supply of arms and ammunitions by Soviet Russia to the Vietcong forces. Whereas the Government have taken note of the heinous crime committed by the Americans, may I know whether Government have taken note of the other fact, that the Soviet Russia is supplying arms and ammunitions to the Vietcong forces which has contributed to further escalation of the war in Vietnam?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: As far as we know, the Soviet Union is supplying arms to North Vietnam.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: May I know whether our Government was able to proceed in an effective manner to bring these Powers which are involved in this Vietnam trouble to the conference table so as to avoid conflict and devastation of human beings in that troubled part of the world?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This has been our desire, but I am sorry to say we have not really succeeded.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: The Minister was talking about the role of the Government of India as the Chairman

of the International Control Commission. May I know whether it is not a fact that one of the functions of the Commission was to supervise the elections that were to be held in 1956 in both South and North Vietnam, and it was the violation of the Geneva Agreement by the United States and the puppet Government of South Vietnam that is responsible for the present state of affairs in Vietnam? As the Chairman of the International Control Commission, does not the Government of India think it necessary, and does it not think it its duty, to tell the world that the United States is guilty of breaking this solemn agreement, and therefore it better get out of Vietnam so that the problem can be settled?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I said that we have expressed our views on all these issues. At this moment the most important thing is to transfer the problem from the battle field to the conference table. Therefore, all attempts must be made to make this possible.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I would like to know what that view is, whether America has not broken that agreement.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: America was not a signatory to the Geneva Agreement.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI: Will the Prime Minister inform the House what special efforts have been made by her after her talks with Chairman Kosygin to convince Washington of the possibilities of escalation of war in Vietnam if things are not done quickly? In view of the fact that the Prime Minister has assured us that all attempts have been made to see that there is no escalation of war and no intensive bombing of North Vietnam, may we expect that India as Chairman of the International Control Commission will exercise all its efforts to see that Washington does not carry on with such kind of extensive warfare in North Vietnam?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: To the extent we are able to be effective, we are trying.

SHRI GIRRAJ SARAN SINGH: May I ask the Prime Minister whether the recent escalation of the war by the Vietcong has changed the policy of the Government with regard to the bombing of North Vietnam?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: No, Sir.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : अमरीकन वियतनाम में जो बॉम्बिंग कर रहे हैं, कोई भी उस का समर्थन नहीं कर सकता है, उस को तो कनडॉम करना ही चाहिए। लेकिन उस के साथ साथ वियतकांग को चीन और दूसरे देशों से जो हथियार मिल रहे हैं, सरकार का उस के बारे में क्या रवैया है? क्या वह उस को पसन्द करती है या नहीं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या प्रधान मंत्री ने ऊ थाट या श्री कोसीगिन के साथ इस बार को बन्द कराने के लिए कोई स्पेशल प्रोपोजल डिस्कस की है, यदि हाँ, तो वह क्या है?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : वियतनाम के लोग अपनी सुरक्षा के लिए लड़ रहे हैं और इस लिए जब तक उन पर हमला है, तब तक हम नहीं कह सकते कि वे किस से हथियार लें। (ब्युत्पाव) जहाँ तक चेयरमैन कोसीगिन के साथ बात करने का ताल्लुक है, उस में हम ने तो कोई नया सुझाव दिया और न कोई नई बात इन चर्चाओं में हुई।

श्री अन्नजीत यादव : वियतनाम में पागलपन का जो युद्ध हो रहा है, उस से सारी दुनिया चिंतित है। उस युद्ध का विस्तार कम्बोडिया और दूसरे पड़ोसी देशों में भी होने का खतरा है। यह सही है कि भारत सरकार ने इस बारे में शुरू से ही एक सही नीति अपनाई है और शुरू से ही वहाँ पर बमबारी को बन्द करने के लिए कहा है। हमारे राष्ट्रपति के भाषण में भी यह बात

कही गई है। दुनिया के अधिक से अधिक राष्ट्र भी इस बात का समर्थन कर रहे हैं कि जब तक वहाँ पर बमबारी बन्द नहीं हो जाती है, तब तक उस क्षेत्र में कोई शान्ति-वार्ता नहीं हो सकती है। जब इस संबंध में देश का जनमत सरकार के साथ है, विश्व जनमत उस के साथ है और दुनिया के अधिक से अधिक राष्ट्र, जिन में पश्चिमी खीमे के देश भी हैं, इस बात को महसूस कर रहे हैं, तो क्या भारत सरकार अपनी प्राचीन परम्पराओं के अनुसार इस समस्या को हल करने के लिए कोई पहल लेने जा रही है, दुनिया के और देशों के साथ मिल कर कोई ऐसा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन बुलाने पर विचार कर रही है, जिस से यह पागलपन का युद्ध बन्द हो और विश्व के उस हिस्से में शांति की स्थापना हो।

श्री ब० रा० भगत : हम यह बात बिल्कुल निश्चित रूप से कह चुके हैं, यह घोषणा कर चुके हैं कि इस समस्या का हल शांतिपूर्ण तरीकों से, कांफरेंस में ही होगा, लड़ाई से नहीं। जहाँ तक इस बात का ताल्लुक है कि हम इस बारे में अगुआ बनें और सब देशों से बातचीत करके कुछ करें, मैं ने पहले ही जवाब में कहा है कि हम सभी देशों के लोगों से बात कर रहे हैं और इस बारे में अपनी राय दे रहे हैं। लेकिन जब तक सम्बद्ध पक्ष कांफरेंस में आने के लिए तैयार न हो जायें, तब तक वह कांफरेंस नहीं हो सकती है।

श्री चन्द्रजीत यादव : मैं ने पूछा है कि क्या भारत सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई निश्चित प्रस्ताव रखा है, क्या वह पहल ले रही है और जनमत तैयार करने के लिए कोई विश्व सम्मेलन बुलाने पर विचार कर रही है।

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी : यदि उस से कोई लाभ हो, तो हम कर सकते हैं, लेकिन इस समय उस से कोई लाभ नहीं दिखाई देता है।

श्री ज्वाराज सिंह भारती : वियतनाम में नैतिकता के आधार पर लड़ाई बन्द हो और वहाँ के लोग इस मारकाट से मुक्त हों, ऐसी अभीलें मुद्दत से होती रही हैं, लेकिन फिर भी वह लड़ाई अभी तक बन्द नहीं हुई है। हमारे सम्बन्ध अमरीका से बहुत अच्छे हैं। अमरीकी सरकार से हमारी सरकार की बहुत अच्छी दोस्ती है। इस समय अमरीकी सरकार उस युद्ध में मुकम्मल तौर पर फंस गई है। उधर सोवियत संघ के हथियार हो सकते हैं लेकिन आदमी सब वियतनाम के ही हैं, चाहे वे उत्तर के हों और चाहे दक्षिण के। लेकिन इधर स्वयं अमरीका, को लड़ना पड़ रहा है। अमरीका इसलड़ाई में हर एक आने वाले दिन में और अधिक फंसता जा रहा है। उस युद्ध में जितना नुकसान वियतनाम का हो रहा है, उस से ज्यादा नुकसान अमरीका का हो रहा है। अगर अमरीका यह महसूस करता है कि वियतनाम से हटने से उस की आबरू घट जाएगी तो क्या हमारी सरकार ने दोस्त के नाते उस को सलाह दी है कि जितनी थोड़ी बहुत नाक बची है, उस को ले कर वह वापिस चला जाए, वना वह भी साफ हो जायेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री आर वरूआ :

SHRI R. BARUA : May I know whether during his recent visit U Thant gave the impression that there was an assurance of simultaneous cease-fire which was also agreed to by Hanoi but subsequently it had been withdrawn and therefore there has been this deadlock?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : I think the Foreign Minister of North Vietnam has stated that if the bombing raids were stopped, the question of having a conference would be considered.

SHRI NATH PAI : In spite of the platitudinous and pious hopes expressed by this Government and its few remaining allies about the desirability

of bringing about a cessation of bombing of the North Vietnam a desire which this House, particularly this side asked the Government to convey when the first bombing raid took place in May 1965; we were the first to say that this should be taken up at the highest level, not at the ministerial level but at the Prime Ministers' level—one of the reasons why peace cannot come and no initiative is bearing any fruit is the diminution in the influence and the prestige of India. Time was when this country could play a useful role in stopping such kind of outbursts.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the question?

SHRI NATH PAI: Today the world is hovering on the brink of a holocaust and as the discomfiture of the United States increases in South Vietnam, there is the danger that they might be tempted to take measures which will lead to—we do not know—where. Apart from saying that our position is very clear and that we have issued the usual communique with our allies, what has the Government of India done? Have they seen why they cannot play a useful role?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am surprised that a student of world affairs should make the kind of statement that the hon. member has made. If he studies the situation in the United States and in other parts of the world, he will know... (Interruptions.) Obviously he has not studied the situation here either. People are concerned about the matter and what we have said earlier has been justified by what is now happening.

SHRI NATH PAI: With my best efforts, I have not been able to see what is the reply to my question?

MR. SPEAKER: That the question itself should have been clearer?

SHRI NATH PAI: It is not a reply to my question to say so. I do not know whether we had drawn any lessons.

श्री मनुभाई पटेल : भारत एक शांति-प्रिय देश होने की वजह से इस प्रकार के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय झगड़ों को शांति से सुलझाने में सहायता कर सकता है, इस लिए उस को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय नियंत्रण आयोग के चेयरमैन के पद पर नियुक्त किया गया था। हम इतने सालों से देख रहे हैं कि उस क्षेत्र में हमारी गलती से नहीं, दूसरों की गलती से, कोई प्रभावकारी काम नहीं हो सका है। क्या भारत सरकार ने इस बात पर विचार किया है कि यदि अगले कुछ समय में कोई फल नहीं निकलता है, तो इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए कोई ठोस कदम उठाया जाये ?

श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी: इंटरनेशनल कंट्रोल कमीशन के कुछ खास रूल्स वगैरह हैं जिन के नीचे काम हो सकता है। हम उन से आगे नहीं बढ़ सकते हैं।

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM: In today's papers there is a report that President Johnson has said "If Hanoi wants it, we can go to Geneva today". Does this represent any change of view on the part of America? Do our Government know about it officially?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We have just seen it in the newspapers and I do not think it makes for much of a change.

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस तरफ गया है कि कुछ अमरीकी पंडितों ने कहा है कि दो साल पहले एक वियतकांगी को मारने के लिए अमरीका को पंद्रह लाख रुपया खर्च करना पड़ता था, जब कि आज यह खर्चा पच्चीस लाख तक बढ़ गया है? तो क्या सरकार का इस बात की ओर ध्यान गया है और अमेरिका के साथ इन की जो बातें होती हैं अभी जैसे अतिक्रमण देशों के विकास के बारे में बात हुई है तो क्या कभी सरकार ने इस बात की ओर अमेरिका का

ध्यान खींचा है कि 25 लाख की पूंजी अगर कारखाने के निर्माण में लगायी जाय तो कम से कम 250 बेकारों को उस से आधुनिक मजदूरी खिलाने वाला काम मिलेगा जबकि यह पैसा केवल एक विष्ट-कांगी को मारने पर खर्च हो रहा है ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : यह बात तो उन को स्वयं मालम है। 100 मिलियन उन का रोज इस लड़ाई पर खर्च होता है। तो वह तो इस बात को खुद जानते हैं। उन को यह बताने की जरूरत नहीं है।

SHRI SONAVANE: May I know whether the Government of India is confidently convinced of the fact that if the bombing by America was stopped, North Vietnam and Vietcong would come forth to the Conference Table?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Yes, Sir. That is our assessment.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: In view of the fact that India has special links with Southeast Asia based upon Buddhism, may I know whether the Prime Minister has tried to establish any contact with the Buddhist leaders in South Vietnam so that in the present situation, which has almost given rise to the remark that there are two super-powers left in the world today—the United States and the Vietcong—there is need to bring in a third force? Has she considered the crystallisation of the Buddhist forces in South Vietnam for the purposes of forming a civil authority in Vietnam since a military solution is ruled out?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: This is quite an interesting suggestion. We will certainly bear that in mind.

श्री शिवनारायण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सवाल नहीं पूछना चाहता। मैं आप का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि 25 मिनट इस सवाल पर हो गए अब दूसरा लीजिए।

MR. SPEAKER: Vietnam is very important.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्योंकि हमारे मित्र नाथ पाई के सवाल का ठीक तरह से जवाब नहीं आया, क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताएंगी कि जो परिस्थिति वहां दिन बदिन गंभीर होती जा रही है और अमेरिका की हार होती जा रही है और नाथ पाई जी ने ठीक बताया कि इस के बारे में कोई डेस्परेट ऐक्शन होगा तो उस के नतीजे अमेरिका को तो भुगतने ही पड़ेंगे लेकिन हम यहां पर बहुत नजदीक हैं हमारे देश की सुरक्षा और हमारे देश की बहुवृद्धि के लिए भी यह समस्या बहुत गंभीर होती जा रही है तो क्या उन्होंने अमेरिका को यह बताया है कि इस तरह का अगर काम चलेगा तो हिन्दुस्तान को भी कोई खास पोजीशन लेनी पड़ेगी।

श्री ब० रा० भगत : इस खतरे से हम अच्छी तरह परिचित हैं और हमारी जो कोशिश होती है, बातचीत होती है उस में इन बातों को जरूर हम कहते हैं और सारी दुनिया इस बात को कहती है। लेकिन अभी तक जो अन्दाज मिला है और अमेरिकी नेताओं ने भी जो बातें कही हैं उस में अगर यह माननीय सदस्य का संकेत हो कि वहां अणु बम का प्रयोग करेंगे तो ऐसी कोई सूचना हम को नहीं मिली है।

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : एस्केलेशन का डर तो है ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : वह खतरा तो है ही।

श्री ज्योती लक्ष्मीकांतम्हा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जो अमेरिकी जनता के रीएक्शन अमेरिका सरकार की वियटनम पालिसी के ऊपर हो रहे हैं उस का प्रभाव वहां की सरकार पर पड़ा है क्या ?

श्री ब० रा० भगत : उन के अपने जनमत का प्रभाव उन की सरकार पर जरूर पड़ेगा।

SHRI PILOO MODY: I would like to know whether the Government of India have realised or are aware or have made any assessment of what effect the American presence has on the communist menace in this country? Listening to the questions that have just been asked in this House, I am beginning to wonder whether the Government of India has realised the effect that the American presence in Vietnam is having in checking the communist menace in this country. (Interruption). So, I would like to know whether there has been, on this particular line of thinking, any assessment at all of the Government of India?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We do not believe in taking outside help in checking any menace. We can deal with any menace ourselves.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri D. N. Patodia.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question No. 39 may be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; Question No. 39 could also be answered along with this.

SHRI NATH PAI: Sir, I think Mr. Bhagat is the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

MR. SPEAKER: Also planning.

SHRI NATH PAI: How do the two combine?

Annual Plan for 1968-69

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*32. SHRI D. N. PATODIA:
SHRI HIMATSINGKA:
SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA:
SHRI K. RAMANI:
SHRI UMANATH:
SHRI P. RAMAMURTI:

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:
SHRI DEORAO PATIL:
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
SHASTRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Plan for 1968-69 has been finalised;

(b) if so, what are the resources and development estimates for the year; and

(c) how much of the total outlay has been allocated for Private and Public Sectors separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

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

Plan Outlay for 1968-69

*39. SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:
SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI ANBUCHAZHIAN:
SHRI K. RAMANI:
SHRI UMANATH:
SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has decided to increase the outlay of the 1968-69 plan from Rs. 2,246 crores;

(b) if so, the total increase in the Plan;

(c) whether the Planning Commission are also considering the raising of the provisions for the Central Plan Schemes from Rs. 1,172 crores to Rs. 1,300 crores;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the States' next year plan which was to the tune of Rs. 1,600 crores has been reduced to Rs. 1,350 crores; and

(e) if so, whether the State Governments have resented this reduction?