

two received minor injuries due to fall of side in South Ballihari Colliery at 1-30 a.m. on the 6th April, 1963. The two seriously injured died about 5 hours later.

(b) Yes.

(c) The mine management has paid interim relief in respect of two of the deceased. Dependants of the third have not come forward for such relief. Action is being taken for payment of compensation as provided under the Workmen's Compensation Act, as also for relief from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund.

(d) The 4 injured workers were brought to the surface as quickly as possible and sent to the colliery hospital. The two workers who received minor injuries were discharged after being given first aid. The other two, who had received serious injuries, were shifted, after being given first aid, to the Central Hospital at Dhanbad where they died an hour later.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Was this also during the Safety Week?

Mr. Speaker: Now, the Question Hour is over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Joint U.S.-Commonwealth Air Mission

+
S.N.Q. 7. { **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**
 Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the details of recommendations of the joint U.S.-Commonwealth Air Mission have already appeared in the press in this country and abroad recently; and

(b) if so, whether Government is now in a position to give a summary of the report and the recommendations contained therein?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan). (a) Government have seen some press reports purporting to be the recommendations of the Mission.

(b) No, Sir, as Government have not yet received the report.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: *The Hindustan Times* of the 13th of April carries the report from the *Washington Post* which says:

"US-built fighters, either supersonic or subsonic are out of the question for the time being."

And it further goes on to say that:

"Even the short-range Indian aid programme is unlikely to receive US approval unless Prime Minister Nehru comes up with some new proposals which offer some hope of settling the Kashmir question when negotiations with Pakistan are renewed on April 22nd."

May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to this statement appearing in the name of the military correspondent of the *Washington Post*, and if so, whether any effort has been made to clarify the misunderstanding caused by it or whether Government are in a position to confirm the truth of that statement?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As far as we are concerned, we have seen these reports including the report that is mentioned by the hon. Member, but it is rather difficult to make any comments, since we have not received any authoritative report from the Mission as such:

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस का क्या कारण है कि प्रैस को और दुनिया को तो पता लग गया, लेकिन इस हाउस को अभी तक इस मामले में बिल्कुल अनजान रखा गया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह गवर्नमेंट के अल्टीमैटम की बात नहीं है। यह इन्फर्मेशन तो दूसरी जगह से यहाँ आई है।

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is not a fact that this report appearing in *The Hindustan Times* only corroborates that we do

not want supersonic and subsonic planes to meet the Chinese air attack, and it only corroborates what Mr. Patnaik said in Washington? He also said the same thing. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member takes every opportunity to bring in a name. . . .

Shri Hem Barua: He made such a statement. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ranga: May I submit that Mr. Patnaik is not anybody and everybody? He was sent specially by the Prime Minister on a roving mission. Do you think that we are not entitled to make any reference to him?

Shri Hem Barua: May I very humbly submit for your consideration that the impression that I am getting is that some people are allergic to Mr. Patnaik? I just wanted to know only this. It was Mr. Patnaik, who was the special envoy of the Prime Minister who made a statement at Washington to the effect that we do not want these aircraft to meet the Chinese air attack, and what has appeared in the newspapers has only corroborated what the special envoy of the Prime Minister has said. That was what I wanted to know I am not allergic to Shri Patnaik as most people are. If you will excuse me, you are also allergic to him.

The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I say that Shri Patnaik did not say any of the things attributed to him by the hon. Member?

Shri Hem Barua: It is in the papers, in the *Washington Post*.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether it has been made amply clear to the U.S. Government that India does not want any help or any arms aid which should be tied up with the Kashmir question?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As far as the question of aid is concerned, it is no way conditioned by any other considerations. It is always considered on merits, and the delegation that is visiting the United States of America is going into all these details.

Shri Tyagi: On a point of order. I suggest that questions which are part of diplomatic negotiations, particularly those which relate to strategy, taking of arms etc., what type of negotiations are going on, what our attitude is and what the attitude of the other Government is—these should not be allowed in the House. They create difficulties in negotiations.

Mr Speaker: But when a question is put, it is for the Minister then to claim protection or privilege on the ground that it is not in the public interest to answer. He knows best what is to be disclosed and what is not. I just look at him, and if he is prepared to answer, how could I disallow it?

Shri Nath Pai: Are Government aware that in spite of the many delegations that are going from here to Washington and coming from Washington to New Delhi, there is gross misunderstanding regarding the basic issue of Chinese aggression? In that connection, has Government's attention been drawn to a statement made by Gen. Maxwell Taylor before the House Appropriations Committee saying (a) that he does not know who shot into whom first, who crossed into whose land first and (b) that the land is not properly marked in NEFA?

Mr. Speaker: That has been clarified.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, it appears from subsequent clarification that the statement that Gen. Taylor made was a fairly long one. But, for some odd reason, only the first sentence or two was published. Subsequently, the U.S. Government have given publicity to the whole statement, which does not bear out the interpretation. Although he said

these words, subsequent things clarify that greatly.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This was disallowed the other day when I wanted to ask a question.

Shri Joachim Alva: There is a report that the UK Government is emphasising the need for subsonic planes for our defence while the U.S. Government is emphasising on supersonic planes for our defence. May I know whether Government is holding the view that supersonic planes are essential for our defence?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is exactly the kind of question to which Shri Tyagi referred. I think he had better consult him.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Prime Minister stated that the testimony of Gen. Maxwell Taylor was contradicted and a clarification was issued by the U.S. Government. I want to know whether the U.S. Government did not clarify the words where he said that 'Indians were edging forward....'. Was this not the Chinese line or Chinese version that we invaded and not they? Has the attention of the U.S. Government been drawn to this, that this should also be contradicted or clarified?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer on behalf of the U.S. Government.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Has this been brought to their notice?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have brought nothing to their notice. They have clarified it of their own accord. We have not talked to them on the subject.

U.S. Task Force in India

+

S.N.Q. 8. { **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**
Shri Yashpal:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether any specific assignments and duties have been agreed to for the U.S. Task Force in India; and

(b) if so, whether a statement will be laid on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). There is no U.S. Task Force in India and, therefore, the question of specific assignment and duties to such a Task Force does not arise. There is a Squadron of C-130 Transport Aircraft of U.S. Air Force which is assisting the I.A.F. in transporting essential defence supplies to certain forward areas.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether the concept of a U.S. task force or the idea of a U.S. task force was mooted and is still under active consideration as reported by the Press? Whether it is here or not is not the question. The question is whether any terms or assignments have been agreed to for a task force which may be in India or which is proposed to be in India?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: No Sir.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I know if from our side any proposal was mooted or any request was made to the U.S. Government to send a task force from U.S. for defence purposes?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: No, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Seminar on Space Physics

*969. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Seminar on Space Physics held recently in Ahmedabad under the auspices of the Indian National Committee for Space Research has suggested any programme for space research to be undertaken by Government; and

(b) if so, the important features of such a programme?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). The purpose of the Seminar on Space Physics held at