

(d) whether Government propose to give any relief to the families of the missing officers of Army and Air Force?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered and its report is awaited.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Naval Exercises

*699. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indonesian and Pakistani newspapers and other publicity media have characterized India's participation in the current Commonwealth naval exercises near Singapore as a move directed against Indonesia; and

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

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Government's attention has been drawn to the recent Press reports in Pakistan newspapers regarding Indonesia's reaction to the Joint Commonwealth Exercises in the Indian Ocean area. The suggestion made in Pakistani newspapers is without any foundation.

Supersonic Fighters

*705. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 21 on the 18th November, 1963 and state:

(a) whether a decision has since been taken regarding the joint production of supersonic fighter aircraft in collaboration with U.A.R.; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Tarapur Atomic Plant

{ **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri D. D. Puri:

*706. **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chairman of the U.S. Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee to the effect that the cost of constructing the Tarapur Atomic Power Plant by the General Electric Co. is unaccountably far higher than that of constructing a similar plant in the U.S.A. by the same company; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to look into the matter carefully.

The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports regarding a statement attributed to Senator Chet Holifield, Vice-Chairman of the U.S. Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy regarding the cost of construction of atomic power stations at Tarapur and at Oyster Creek, New Jersey. While there are significant differences between the cost of construction of the two stations, they are not as large as reported in the press, nor are they unaccountably higher. Some of the factors contributing to the difference in cost are explained in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. 1706/63]