

Would he like it if anyone from outside intervened in what we did with our citizens here?

**Shri R. Barua:** What is the total number of Indians coming from there, and what is the proportion of businessmen out of them?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Some of these details have already been supplied to the House. I cannot say off-hand the ratio.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** May I know whether the Ministry of External Affairs has information that the whole trouble of bad relations of the Burmese and Indian Governments started by virtue of the fact of the bad behaviour by Indian capitalists in Burma who wanted to exploit that country and take the money back from there, and the External Affairs representatives in Burma did not care to maintain good relations with Burma?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is any interest of our nation served by such a question?

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Does not matter, internationally it will serve.

**Mr. Speaker:** We ought to consider before putting questions whether the questions that we put really advance our national interest.

Next question.

**Supply of Fighter Planes by U.S.A. to Iran**

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\*248. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**

**Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:**

**Shrimati Savitri Nigams:**

**Shri D. C. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the latest U.S. move to sell a large number of supersonic fighter interceptor planes and air-to-air missiles to Iran;

(b) if so, whether Government have sought any assurance from the U.S. Government to the effect that these planes and missiles will not find their way to Pakistan; and

(c) if so, whether that assurance has been given by the U.S. Government?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) Government are aware that U.S. Government are supplying some Supersonic fighter aircraft to Iran. There are unconfirmed reports that Iran has approached the U.S. for supply of air-to-air missiles also.

(b) and (c). We have consistently drawn the U.S. Government's attention to the dangers inherent in Pakistan's determined arms build-up, including the danger that American armaments might find their way to Pakistan through third countries. It has been made clear to us that any arms supplied either on credit or as grant by the United States, cannot be transferred to any third country without their clearance. We understand that the U.S. insists on the fulfilment of this condition and we, therefore, trust that U.S. armaments supplied to third countries will not find their way to Pakistan.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** While we welcome the assurance of the United States Government in this regard that these arms would not find their way to Pakistan. But what guarantee is there to prevent Iran from handing over these fighter planes and missiles to Pakistan through some other country?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** If Iran gets any arms from the USA and hands them over to Pakistan, it would be a clear breach of the terms on which these arms were supplied by the USA. We certainly took up that matter with the U.S. Government and we have a clear and specific assurance that any arms supplied to any country cannot be transferred to any other country without the concurrence of the U.S. Government.

**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Is it not a fact that of late the USA with the co-operation and consent of the UK are making efforts to bring Pakistan and Iran together to boost up their military strength so that the two coun-

tries together can be a bulwark in the gulf area when Britain withdraws from that area in 1968 and that this development tips the scales in favour of Pakistan if any conflict between India and Pakistan arises in future? May we know if this aspect was brought to the notice of the USA and, if so, what has been their reaction?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I sincerely hope and trust that the apprehensions of the hon. Member have no foundation. But we have been constantly impressing upon the USA the dangers of arming up Pakistan and what the result of such an event would be.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** We have had this experience ourselves that in spite of several guarantees and assurances given by the U.S. Government, the American bases in Paistan were used against us and sabre jets found their way to Pakistan through many countries. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister thinks that these guarantees are enough, and if not why this question of not allowing any country to sell these dangerous war weapons to the other countries was not brought up in the Disarmament Commission meetings?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Diplomatically when one gets an assurance from a country, one must take up the position that the assurance will be kept. One must normally proceed on that basis.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** Once bitten, twice shy.

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Otherwise, international relations become impossible. You talk to a country; you get an assurance from that country, and you must accept that assurance. If there is a breach of that assurance, you can certainly take it up with that country and point out that there has been a breach of that assurance contrary to diplomatic and international practice. As soon as we heard about the transfer of aeroplanes from Iran to Pakistan we took up a strong attitude and pointed out to the USA and other countries concerned. We have now a definite assurance from the

United States that no arms supplied to any country will be transferred to any other country without their concurrence; if it is supplied, it would be a breach of the assurance to the USA by that country. What more can India do?

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** He has not answered my question about the disarmament commission.

**Mr. Speaker:** Can we dictate to any country that it should not sell arms to any country?

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धावली : क्या अमेरिका की सरकार के आश्वासनों पर राजनीतिक दृष्टि से भारत सरकार विश्वास करने को तैयार है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्रीर चारा क्या है ?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** From the statement made by the hon. Minister, it appears that if the bombers and other planes are to be given to Pakistan by any other country, it must have the concurrence of the USA. I want to know whether before giving the concurrence, the U.S. Government will also ask India if it will not add to the hostilities?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I am sorry; there is so much noise that I could not follow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether before giving the concurrence, the U.S. will ask India if it is not an act of hostility—

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** My question is this. Kindly hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** He need not repeat it.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** My question is very simple, Sir. Unless concurrence is given by the USA, it will not be delivered to Pakistan. If I remember aright, that is the position. So, I want to know whether, before the concurrence to such a deal is given, that the planes will go over to Iran or to any other country and then to Pakistan, they will ask India.

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Concurrence before transferring? The assurance is that it will not be transferred. So, there is no question of asking India.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Could I know if Government is not relying entirely and solely upon USA guarantees for what they are worth, and if Government are not trying, at the same time, to get into touch with foreign countries like Iran in this regard, because putting all our eggs in the USA basket be very dangerous?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** We have taken up the matter with the Iran Government also. May I say that ultimately what matters is our own strength; that is what we must build up. But we have taken up the matter with all the concerned Governments.

**Shri D. D. Puri:** Has the Minister's attention been drawn to a press report that Iran has made over possession and control of her airport near the Pakistan-Iran border to Pakistan where the bomber aircraft said to have been returned by Pakistan to Iran are kept under Pakistan's control and that they may be available for their use against us now?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** I have read that report in the newspapers: I do not know whether Indian or foreign. But as far as we know, we have had no confirmation of that report.

**Shri Nath Pai:** On the last occasion, the guarantee was given by no less a person than the President of the United States, President Eisenhower, to the then Prime Minister of India, the late Jawaharlal Nehru. We know what has happened to these guarantees. In the meanwhile, has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the fact that according to the latest evaluation of world-arms position made by the Institute of Strategic Studies, Pakistan has more than replenished what she had lost in her encounter with India, and what is the Government of India's reaction to it—that Pakistan has acquired these arms through countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia and others?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Our attention has been drawn to the fact that Pakistan has been going all round the world shopping for arms and is trying to build up. As I said, the only answer that we can give to Pakistan is, our own strength and build up our own army, air force—

**Shri Tyagi:** Are you also building up?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** It is for the Defence Minister to say. But I have no doubt that we are quite aware of the danger and we are prepared to meet the danger if it ever arises.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** There are three factors operating in our favour in Iran. In the first place, the Shah of Iran has broken down the iron curtain between the Soviet Union and Iran and has become more friendly to Soviet Union. Secondly, The Shah is basically opposed to China. Thirdly, we have an able Ambassador who knows all about planes and aviation and who is a former Air Marshal. Therefore, why is it that we are not able to double or treble our diplomatic pressures and other activities in Iran to get results in our favour?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** Our policy is to keep friendly terms with all countries. If a country wants to be friendly to India, we will certainly do what we can to advance the cause of friendship, and if Iran wants to be friendly to India, we will go all out to respond to any friendly gesture from Iran.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the fact that there is the Minister's own admission that Pakistan has gone out on a shopping spree all over the world and that is enough reason why we should be very careful have our Government told the United States Government specifically that if she allows arms and ammunition to pass out into Iran and Iran passes them out to Pakistan, that would be considered by our Government as an unfriendly act?

**Shri M. C. Chagla:** If the United States sends arms to Iran or makes a

grant arms to Iran and Iran passes them out to Pakistan, certainly it would be a breach of assurance. But if, as has been rightly pointed out, Pakistan has a commercial transaction with any country, it is difficult for us to do anything.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I welcome the Minister's statement that it will be considered as a breach of trust. Over and above that, I want the Minister to tell USA that if it happens, this would be considered as a positive act of unfriendliness.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO  
QUESTIONS

**British withdrawal from Aden**

\*243. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether indications are available that some countries including Pakistan are actively trying to strengthen their forces in such a way that they may be in a position to fill the power vacuum which they feel may be created as a result of the British withdrawal from Aden in 1968;

(b) whether the repercussion of this on India's defence and military strategy has been studied; and

(c) if so, with what result?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) There are rumours that some countries, including Pakistan, are endeavouring to secure in one way or another a position of influence in Aden keeping in view the impending British withdrawal from the territory in 1968.

(b) and (c). Government of India is studying the situation closely and will take whatever measures are necessary.

**Rocket and Rocket-Launcher used by Nagas**

\*249. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**  
**Shri Kishen Pattnayak:**  
**Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:**

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 745 on the 29th August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the French Government have made any response to the queries made by Government through diplomatic channel or in any other way about the sale/gift/transfer of rocket and rocket-launcher of French mark which was recovered from the Naga rebels; and

(b) if so, the nature of the response/reply thereto?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) and (b). The French Embassy in India has informed us that they are still making inquiries about it.

**Pak. Infiltrators**

\*250. **Shri Liladhar Kotoki:** Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Government have been approached in connection with the activities of Pakistani infiltrators in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto; and

(c) the measures which Government have adopted to stop infiltrations?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla):** (a) Yes, Sir; they have been requested to take necessary measures urgently for effectively preventing unauthorised entry into India of persons from Pakistan particularly across the Indo-East Pakistan borders.

(b) No reply has so far been received.

(c) Vigilance along the affected borders has been increased to deal with such illegal entrants.