

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The exploration work is ours. The places are suggested by the Rajasthan Chief Engineer and a Committee on experts on which the Exploratory Tubewell Organisation is represented.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Situation in Laos

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S.N.Q. No. 4. { **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**
Shri Hem Barua:

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

(a) whether the North Viet Nam Government have urged the Government of India to take urgent action to stop foreign intervention in Laos; and

(b) the action, if any, taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) and (b). Yes, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has drawn the attention of the Government of India to the dangerous situation in Laos. The Government of India have drawn the attention of the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference, namely, the Foreign Ministers of the U.K. and the U.S.S.R., to this message and to this dangerous situation in Laos. The Government have suggested that the International Commission for Laos, which had been adjourned *sine die*, should meet, as this might help somewhat in normalising the situation.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: There are three Governments claiming to be the legal Governments in Laos. May I know which of these Governments we recognise?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Souvanna Phouma Government which was a sort of a middle of the way Government.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it necessary to have the consent of the Laotian Government before the Inter-

national Commission for Supervision and Control can be activated in Laos?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Will the hon. Member kindly repeat the question? (*Interruptions*).

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it necessary to have the permission of the Laotian Government before the Commission is reactivated?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is not easy for any Commission to function without the co-operation of the functioning Government there. It is not a question of theoretical permission or not; it is a practical question. It will be correct to say that the Commission does not function under the authority of the Laotian Government; it functions on the authority of the Geneva Conference held five years ago. It will not be correct to say that the Laotian Government can order it about but practically speaking, if it puts obstruction in the way, it is difficult for it to function. For sometime past, the Commission has not functioned because the then Laotian Government wanted it to be wound up and at least one of the members of the Commission withdrew from it on the ground that the Laotian Government did not want it. Ultimately, there was a sort of a suspension but it still exists and it can be called back. But at the same time it exists rather in the air. One member—our member is there; he is appointed, although he is not there. The Polish member is also available. The Canadian Government would have to appoint a member to it now.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know if any reply has been received from the British Prime Minister to whom this matter has been referred?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; not yet.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if the Government is in agreement with the Laotian Government that there is foreign intervention in Laos and if so

which are the countries that are intervening in Laos against the International Agreement?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Which Laotian Government is the hon. Member referring to?

Shri Vajpayee: The Laotian Government which has written to the Government of India.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There can be no doubt at all that there has been foreign intervention for sometime past.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Having regard to the fact that the big powers of the world are taking active interest in determining the fate of Laos, may I know whether it will be possible for the International Supervisory Commission to change the course of events there, even if it so desires?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Changing the course of things is rather a big thing. But they are not there even to observe the course of events at the present moment.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have we again pointedly drawn the attention of the signatories to the Geneva Agreement that the main spirit has been violated in the sense that free elections have not taken place there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member has brought in the question of election; that is another issue; it does not arise now though it might have arisen sometime ago.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know whether Poland one of the other two members has been consulted in this matter and whether Poland has also written to the Co-Chairmen to reactivate the work of this Commission?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not that I am aware of. But I do not think that Poland is opposed to this. I do not know if they have addressed the Co-Chairmen.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: May I know whether any intimation has been received from the Government of the USSR and if so whether there is any

possibility of the International Commission meeting soon?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say if there is a possibility or not. The first thing is for the two Co-Chairmen to express their opinions on that subject and secondly, they may well say that the Laotian Government should agree. In fact the Canadian Government has more or less indicated that they would be prepared to participate again in this Commission provided the Government there in Laos agrees. At the present there is the difficulty. I do not know what Government is there and what will continue.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Do the Government propose to raise this question in the current session of the UN General Assembly if the present efforts of settlement do not succeed?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This matter has not been dealt with by the UN General Assembly at any stage. This flows from the Geneva Conference. It has never come up before the UN General Assembly; although the UN General Assembly is apprised of it, it has never interfered in it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

भूतपूर्व रियासतों के शासक जिन के पास जहाज और हवाई जहाज हैं

*६७३. श्री डामर : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या किसी भूतपूर्व रियासत के शासक के पास अपना जहाजी बेड़ा या हवाई जहाज है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका और क्या है ?

प्रसंगिक उद्भयन उपमंत्री (श्री मोहजहीन) (क) और (ख). किसी