

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 13, 1962|Phalguna 22,
1883 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Setting up of Heavy Structural and Vessel Works in India

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- *1. { Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Commerce and
Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has
been arrived at between the Govern-
ment of India and a British firm—
Davy Ashmore Limited—for colla-
boration in setting up of the heavy
structural and vessel works in India;

(b) if so, details of the agreement;

(c) details as to its financial impli-
cations and production; and

(d) when it is likely to be ready?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri
Manubhai Shah):** (a) and (b). Not
yet. The agreement will be finalised
very soon.

(c) and (d). The Project which is
for the production of 12,500 tons of
heavy pressure and other vessels re-
quired by Steel, Fertiliser, Oil
and similar industries and for 25,000
tons of heavy structural steel work,
is estimated to cost about Rs. 12
crores. This will be exclusive of the
cost of the residential colony and
other ancillary services. It is ex-
pected that the Project will be ready
in about 3½ years after arrangements
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are made for technical collaboration
and work at site.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I
know where this project is to be
located?

Shri Manubhai Shah: Near Wardha.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: The
total cost is estimated to be Rs. 15
crores, I understand. Out of that,
how much will be spent for housing
and township?

Shri Manubhai Shah: About Rs. 5
crores. The project will cost about
Rs. 20 crores in all.

Shri Yajnik: May I know whether
the British firm will be permanently
engaged on this job or they will be
on a contract to fulfil a certain
amount of work?

Shri Manubhai Shah: They will be
our technical collaborators. They will
be primarily contractors for the initial
start.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: What
will be proportion of Indian money
in this collaboration?

Shri Manubhai Shah: One hundred
per cent government money, in the
public sector.

Chinese Incursions

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- *2. { Shri P. G. Deb:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased
to state:

(a) whether there have been any
further Chinese incursions into Indian

territory after the last statement made in Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). No further Chinese incursions into Indian territory after the last statement made in Parliament have come to Governments' notice except one case of a Chinese border patrol 12 miles from the Chinese check-post on the Chip Chap River about which we had protested to the Chinese on 31st October, 1961. We have lodged a protest in this case and asked the Chinese authorities to issue strict instructions directing that no patrols should be sent out into Indian territory.

Shri P. G. Deb: I would just like to know whether the Chinese have recaptured Longju outpost.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. There has been no question of capture or re-capture of Longju.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The point is this. The Prime Minister said in the last session of Parliament that the Government of India have vacated possession of Longju. The point is whether the Chinese have taken possession of it or not, or it is in nobody's possession.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have not vacated possession of it. The hon. Member has taken

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I am sorry, the Government have not taken possession of it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government have not taken possession of it. So far as I know, I am not quite sure, it has not been taken possession of by us. The Chinese retired about three or four miles from it. I presume that that situation still continues.

Shri P. G. Deb: If the Chinese have not recaptured the area, is it then a no-man's land?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Nath Pai:

Shri Nath Pai: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that a Session of the House opens without our being told about fresh Chinese incursions. We welcome it. May I know, is it the result of the fact that the Chinese have occupied all that they claimed in their maps or whether it is perhaps the result of the new policy of the Government of India to stand firm by our rights?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Chinese have not occupied all the lands they claimed in their maps even in Ladakh or the Northern sector. In the east, they have not done anything at all. There were very large areas which they claimed in N.E.F.A. and round about and it has not been occupied by them at all—no part of it at all. There has been no major change. What occasionally happens is, as it has happened, in the western sector, their patrol has come. Patrols pass. Our patrols also pass that way. They have passed under protest. There are protests from both sides about this.

Perhaps, if you, Sir, would permit me to go beyond this question, in a connected matter about which I understand you have received notice of two adjournment motions, I might deal with that. In an alleged interview with the Washington Post, evidently, the writer of that interview did not quite understand me. He asked me something about leasing of land. I said the same thing that has been published in the correspondence that about a year and a half ago I made a temporary proposal so that we may discuss the matter further, that they should retire from a large area which they had covered and we should retire from any area which we may have covered according to them and that further I stated then that so far

as this route is concerned, it may continue to be used by the Chinese because it is an old route for certain purposes, pending our discussions. That was what I said then. I told what I said a year and a half back which the Chinese had not accepted. This, somehow, was misunderstood by him perhaps.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order, Sir, the Prime Minister is pleased to say that we are prepared to retire from areas which we might have occupied. So long, we have been told in this House that we have not occupied any territory and that it is the Chinese who have occupied our territory in Ladakh. Now, may I know how this particular statement of our Prime Minister as a matter of clarification goes hand in hand with the national policy so far adopted by our Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am merely stating what I said a year and a half ago. We suggested a principle to them that they should retire from any area which we claimed and we should retire from any area which they claimed, they said we had occupied. In actual fact, this applied to a large area which they had occupied as it applied to two or three villages in the Demchok area in northern Ladakh which they claimed as theirs, quite apart from the present incursion: not originally theirs; they said we have occupied. Without going into the question as to who was correct or wrong, we said, you withdraw from that area and we will withdraw from this—ours is a very small area of two villages—and then we sit down to discuss this matter. It was a preliminary step which would open out discussion of these questions.

Shri Nath Pai: As you were pleased to allow him to answer my adjournment motions, may I ask him . . .

Mr. Speaker: Yes. There is no point of order.

Shri Nath Pai: We are glad to have your clarification. May be you are misquoted. The *Washington Post* quoted you as saying that the Government of India would be willing to give a lease which is a very different thing. Mr. Speaker, from allowing somebody to use we would like to know whether the Prime Minister really meant it or he was unfortunately misquoted.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think that the word 'lease' was used at all by me. I think he mentioned it, and he asked, 'Would you be prepared to give it on lease?'. That is why he has got mixed up. In answer to that, I reminded him again of what I said a year and a half ago that I would allow them, pending talks, to use that road because the road was considered to be of importance to them or whatever it was, but that would be subject to what would be decided when we discussed matters.

Shri Nath Pai: During the past eight days, the Chinese have been using their propagandist machinery to tell the world that the firm stand of the Government of India was only an election stunt and that as soon as the elections would be over, the Government of India would give up their present position and come to what they call a reasonable stand, thereby indicating that the Government of India would abdicate their present position. May we know what the position of the Government of India is on this? May we know whether there is no reversal of our policy as indicated; and whether our policy remains what the President indicated in his Address yesterday?

Shri P. G. Deb: I would like to put the question in this form. May we know whether the Prime Minister is thinking of giving away the road constructed by China in the Aksai Chin area on condition that they vacate our territory?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I have pointed out, I repeated what I said or offered to the Chinese a year and a half ago. It is there in the correspondence. The hon. Member can see that. I was not telling him of any fresh offer that we had made or that we were going to make. It was in a historical sense that I mentioned these matters, and that too, for the time being, so that it might make it easier for us to talk; we said that we would be prepared to talk and discuss all these matters, if they vacated that aggression, and they may continue the use of that road till we decided further about it, and use of that road too for civil purposes.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement made by Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan to the effect that the India-China border dispute should be referred for arbitration, and if so, what the Prime Minister's reaction to this suggestion is?

Mr. Speaker: An hon. Member or any politician may make any statement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Last time, we got a reply.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to ask the Prime Minister to go on refuting it or accepting it here.

An Hon. Member: But that is a suggestion from a great man.

Mr. Speaker: Great men may say many things.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the statement made to the representative of the *Washington Post* still stands, and it is the firm opinion of the Government of India that that road is of considerable importance to the Chinese, and, therefore, they can continue to use that?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether that offer is still open.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I was telling him what happened a year and a half ago. It was rejected by the Chinese authorities then. The question of its standing now or not does not arise; nothing stands to be rejected; it is over. But I cannot say in what form the matter may come up, again, possibly; I cannot definitely say that, but there is no proposal from us to that effect now, because when it was made, it was rejected. And if I may mention again, that suggestion was for a temporary period, to open the door to discussions; after that, it would depend upon what, if any, arrangement was arrived at.

U.S. Arms Aid to Pakistan

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*3. { **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reported statement of President Ayub Khan of Pakistan made at Mardan in the former Frontier Province on the 20th January, 1962 that his country would use U.S. supplied military equipment "to safeguard her independence" in an emergency;

(b) if so, whether this statement was considered as directed against India; and

(c) what was Government's reaction thereon?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The possibility that the statement in question was directed against India has been considered by the Government;

(c) The reaction of the Government is one of grave concern. The U.S. authorities have assured us that the arms aid to Pakistan is meant for the particular purpose of resisting aggression from Communist countries.