

the island Kachcha Tivu, halfway between Dhanuskodi and Talaimanar in the Palk Strait was a Ceylon territory and the same has been used as naval bombardment range by the Royal Ceylon Navy and now the Royal Ceylon Air Force propose to use the same as practice bombing and gunnery range from the 1st April, 1956;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian High Commission in Ceylon has made a request to the Ceylon Government to postpone the decision to use the island as such, for the time being, until the question of ownership of the island is decided;

(c) whether the Government of India have received any communication from the Government of Ceylon in this respect; and

(d) if so, the nature of such communication?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) to (d) The Director of Civil Aviation, Government of Ceylon, informed the Director General, Civil Aviation of the Government of India that the Kachcha Tivu Island was intended to be used as a practice aerial bombing and gunnery range. As the position with regard to the ownership of the island was not clear, the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon, who had also seen press reports in Colombo that the Ceylon Government intended to start practice bombing from 1st April, 1956, requested the Ceylon Government to postpone any decision to use the Island for that purpose until the question of ownership was clarified. The Ceylon Government has replied affirming Ceylonese sovereignty over the island but stating that no decision has yet been taken regarding the proposed aerial exercises.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether it is a fact that some time ago, the Government of Ceylon made some reference with regard to this island to the Indian Government and as Government of India did

not respond, the Government of Ceylon was encouraged to lay claims over this island?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Is the hon. Member referring to some months ago or some years ago or some decades ago?

Shri Shree Narayan Das: Some months ago.

Shri Vallatharas: October last.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of the Government of India or the Government of Ceylon coming into conflict over a tiny little island. There is no national prestige involved in this matter, especially with our neighbour Ceylon.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know the basis on which the Government of Ceylon has made this claim?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can hardly go into the facts about this.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether this island was ever occupied or owned by the Raja of Ramnad in the recent past?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is difficult for me to go into all these facts, when we are dealing with this matter elsewhere. The Raja of Ramnad has a zamindari there. The zamindari need not be affected at all by the other question. It may continue wherever the island may be.

Shri Nambiar: If the ownership goes to the Ceylon Government, how can the zamindari of the Raja of Ramnad continue?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are doubtful questions; I cannot give a positive answer on these legal issues.

NUCLEAR TESTS

***1433. Pandit C. N. Malviya:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the auspices of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission some nuclear

tests are scheduled to begin sometime after April 20, 1956 ;

(b) whether the Marshall Islanders have requested the U. N. O. to ban the Hydrogen Bomb tests ;

(c) if so, whether the matter is under the active consideration of the Trusteeship Council ; and

(d) whether the Government of India are using their influence to get the decision in favour of the petitioners?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) In their petition to the U. N. the Marshall Islanders requested (i) the immediate cessation of all experiments with lethal weapons, and (ii) if the experiments should be judged absolutely necessary for the eventual well-being of all the people of this world and cannot be stopped or changed to other areas, all possible precautionary measures should be taken before such weapons are exploded.

(c) This question was considered in the last week of March, first by the Standing Committee on Petitions and later by the Trusteeship Council. The Council adopted a resolution, recommended by the Committee on Petitions which states *inter alia* that "if the Administering Authority considered is necessary in the interests of world peace and security to conduct nuclear experiments in the Trust Territory, it should take all necessary precautions."

(d) In accordance with our general policy, the Indian Representative opposed the holding of experimental explosions of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world. He voted against the resolution adopted by the Trusteeship Council.

Pandit C. N. Malviya : May I know whether Mr. Benjamin Gerig, U. S. Representative in the Trusteeship Council, placed before the Council the reactions of the proposed test and the precautions taken thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): He said that every precaution should be taken. That, of course, has always been said. But, the point is, the attitude of India in this matter was that in no event should this experiment be conducted in that area. Once previously, on behalf of India, it was suggested that this matter be deferred to the international court of justice for their opinion about the legality of this. These are trust territories, that is, territories placed in trust for the benefit of the inhabitants. Now, if, for the benefit of even, let us presume, a large part of the world, something is done which is obviously greatly to the detriment of these poor people in the trust territories, it does raise, apart from political issues, high moral issues too. But, when this matter was raised in the Trusteeship Council by India some time ago, it was lost there.

Shri Kamath : As the Parliamentary Secretary made some reference in the last part of his answer to our Government's policy in this regard, may I know to what extent the U. S. S. R. and the U. K. have responded to the Prime Minister's appeal for the suspension, if not the total abandonment, of nuclear tests?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : In actual practice, both are carrying on these tests from time to time. But, I believe it has been said by U. S. S. R. that if the other party agreed, they are prepared to give them up that is, by agreement, they can be stopped.

Shri Kamath : Has not the U.S.A. also said that if the U. S. S. R. gives it up, they will give it up? Is it said like that both ways?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : I do not remember the U. S. A. saying that.

Shri Punnoose : May I know whether the Government have taken the stand that pending agreement banning these experiments totally, any power which wants to experiment in atomic

bomb and hydrogen bomb may do so in its own territory and not outside?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : I cannot say what might have been said in the course of the speech by our representative. Having put forward our views about the necessity of totally banning these experiments, if that is not accepted, one goes step by step lessening it to see what can be accepted. The suggestion that the hon. Member has made, though it has some validity, has all manner of difficulties too. Because, it might result really in just one or two countries who have broad enough territories only being able to do this. Nobody else can. That is, there will be a permanent superiority of certain countries over the other countries of the world.

Shri Kamath : What about U. K.'s response to your appeal? They were experimenting in Australia.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : We have received no direct replies from the countries. The hon. Member will remember that the Prime Minister of the U. K. said some time ago that they will continue their experiments.

Pandit C. N. Malviya : In view of the fact that some radio-active dust was found on Indian aeroplanes at the time of the hydrogen bomb test at Bikini, may I know whether our Government is taking some precaution now?

Mr. Speaker : The question assumes some things.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : No, Sir. I am not aware what precaution we can take in the matter.

NAGARJUNA SAGAR PROJECT

*1434. **Dr. Rama Rao :** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted for Nagarjuna Sagar Project for 1956-57 ;

(b) what is the programme of work for 1956-57 and 1957-58 ;

(c) whether the Andhra Government have requested for permission and assistance to start a cement factory for this Project ; and

(d) what is the estimated cost and capacity of the proposed cement factory?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) A provision of Rs. 3 crores has been made in the Central Budget for financing the Nagarjuna Sagar Project for the year 1956-57.

(b) A statement indicating the tentative programme of work for 1956-57 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No 28.] The programme of work for the year 1957-58 has not yet been drawn up by the Nagarjuna Sagar Control Board.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Dr. Rama Rao : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the request by the Nagarjuna Sagar Project Administration Board which met on the 9th of this month that the sum of Rs. 3 crores is quite inadequate and at least Rs. 5 crores should be sanctioned for this work?

Shri Hathi : Yes. The Board has requested the Government of India for the grant of Rs. 5 crores. But, looking to the experience we have of other projects, in the first year, it is not likely that they will be able to spend all the amount. Further, this allocation is not final. We shall revise it in August and looking to the tempo of expenditure in the work if more money is required, it will be considered.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi : Is it not a fact that when the Andhra Government applied for a licence to start a cement factory in the dam site, it was given to a private firm over the head of the Andhra Government?

Shri Hathi : Perhaps this question of giving licence pertains to the Commerce Ministry.