

(d) The matter has been reported to the local authorities by our High Commission, and efforts are being made by them to recover the missing six films.

**Exchange of Fire between Israeli and Egyptian Forces**

6299. SHRI J. MOHAMMED IMAM:  
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:  
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:  
SHRI GADILINGANA  
GOWD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israeli and Egyptian forces indulged in a serious artillery exchange across the Suez Canal on the 21st March, 1968;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken a serious view of these happenings in West Asia; and

(c) whether these developments were discussed with the heads of diplomatic missions of the West Asian countries in New Delhi?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Heads of Arab Missions in New Delhi are in contact with the Ministry of External Affairs regarding developments in West Asia.

**Soviet Warships visit to Indian Ports**

6301. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:  
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:  
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:  
SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN:  
SHRI GADILINGANA  
GOWD:  
SHRI M. L. SONDHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.S.R. warships fitted with nuclear devices are likely to visit Indian ports;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a press report published in the "Hindustan Times" on the 22nd March, 1968 in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Three ships of the USSR Navy are on a goodwill visit to India. So far as is known none of the ships is fitted with any nuclear device.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. It is customary for Naval ships of friendly countries to pay goodwill visits and there is, therefore, nothing unusual about this visit.

12.12 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

ESCAPE OF MR. SHAH SYED HUSSAIN  
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER OF  
JORHAT TO EAST PAKISTAN

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported escaping of Mr. Shah Syed Hussain, Municipal Commissioner of Jorhat (Assam) who was involved in the 'Joint Conspiracy case' to East Pakistan."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On 19th March, 1968 I had made a statement in this House about the recovery of a plastic bomb, etc., at village Paninora, P. O. Titabar, in District Sibsagar of Assam and the arrest of several persons in that connection. In the course of my replies to questions I had indicated that some persons wanted by the police were absconding. One such