

### Charges against the Former Finance Minister

88. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:  
Shri Nath Pai:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made regarding the allegations against the former Finance Minister, for ordering an enquiry by a Commission after the judgment of the Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 1102 of 1966;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has not held that even after resignation from office, such allegation must be enquired into as the people are "entitled to know whether they had not entrusted their affairs to an unworthy man";

(c) whether the Prime Minister on personal enquiry found the allegations to be without foundation; and

(d) if not, why no enquiry is being ordered in the matter?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court has observed that resignation of a Minister cannot change the character of his acts if they constitute matters of public importance, and an enquiry may well be made even after resignation of the Minister.

(c) and (d). Late Prime Minister Shastri had proposed that with a view to obtaining an independent objective opinion as to whether any enquiry was called for at all, he would request the Chief Justice of India to study the papers and give him an opinion confidentially. However, Shri Krishnamachari took objection to this procedure and tendered his resignation from Government. In view of his resignation, no further enquiry was considered necessary.

### Visit of Lord Walston

89. Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Ram Harakh Yadav:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a British envoy, Lord Walston, had recently visited India and other South-East Asian countries to discuss peace in Vietnam in particular and South-East Asian region in general; and

(b) if so, the result of discussions with him?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). Lord Walston, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the Government of Britain, on his way home from a visit to some countries in South-East Asia, passed through Delhi. During his stay in Delhi he called on the Foreign Minister and Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry. They exchanged views on problems of mutual interest, with particular reference to the present situation in Vietnam and neighbouring countries.

### Building of Frigates at Mazagaon Docks

90. Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the keel of the first frigate to be built at Mazagaon Docks has been laid;

(b) if so, when this frigate is likely to be ready; and

(c) what will be its approximate cost?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) The keel of the first Frigate to be built at Mazagaon Dock Ltd., Bombay will be laid in mid-October, 1966. However, production of the first few units of the first Frigate has already commenced.