

are 4 morning and 4 afternoon depots in the neighbourhood areas at a distance between 2 furlongs to 1 mile.

(b) The exact number of persons living in the area is not known. However, in a survey conducted by Delhi Milk Scheme, it was found that there are very few token holders in the area. These token holders are collecting their milk from the neighbouring depots as mentioned above.

(c) One or two milk booths may be set up in the area in the next phase of expansion programme of Delhi Milk Scheme, depending upon the requirements of the token holders of the area.

गोरखपुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) में टिटेनस रोग का प्रकोप

2422. श्री मोहन स्वरूप : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह पता है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर जिले में टिटेनस की बीमारी महामारी के रूप में फैली हुई है और इसके परिणामस्वरूप बहुत से व्यक्ति मर चुके हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी रोकथाम के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (प्रो० डी० पी० चट्टोपाध्याय) :

(क) गोरखपुर जिले में धनुस्मभ (टिटेनस) के महामारी के रूप में फैलने की सूचना नहीं है। तथापि, फरवरी-मार्च 1972 के दौरान जिला अस्पताल, गोरखपुर में धनुस्मभ ने 11 मौतें हुई बताई गई हैं।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Request from Tamilnadu Minister for Improvement of Bus Service in Metropolitan Cities

2423. SHRI S. D. SOMASUDARAM : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND

TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tamil Nadu Minister for Transport has urged the Centre to come forward with aid to improve bus services in metropolitan cities like Bombay, Delhi Calcutta and Madras ;

(b) if so, the gist of the request made ; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Central Government to augment the bus service with amenities in these cities.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND
'TRANSPORT' (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :

(a) No such request has been received by Government from the Tamil Nadu for Transport.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

12.17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY USA AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matters of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

The reported launching of massive air and naval operations and threat of use of nuclear weapons by USA against North Vietnam.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Sir, The Government of India feel gravely concerned over the recent turn of events in Vietnam. Till the end of last year, the two sides were engaged in conducting negotiations at Paris and there was hope that a peaceful settlement would be arrived at.

President Nixon's 8-point proposal put forward in 1971 was an advance over the

earlier U. S. position. However, at the end of December, 1971, the American side resumed bombing raids over Vietnam. On 1st February, 1972, in reply to President Nixon's 8-point proposal, PRG gave two elaborations which, we thought, were constructive in nature and could have helped in seeking further avenues of a peaceful settlement. However, there was no positive response from the American side. On 23rd March, 1972, the American side decided not to participate in the Paris peace talks, and the U.S.A. intensified the bombing raids on the ground that they apprehended an attack. This was followed by a large scale offensive by the Vietcong forces South of DMZ. Since the first week of April, intensity of U.S. bombings from land bases and aircraft carries has again been increased.

Government of India have always opposed these bombing raids and they hope that these bombings will stop immediately, all foreign forces withdrawn from the Vietnamese soil and the people of Vietnam left free to decide their own future.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am really sorry that even after what has happened in Vietnam after this naked aggression by the US imperialists, the hon. Minister has only said :—

“Government of India have always opposed these bombing raids and they hope that these bombings will stop immediately”.

It is wishful thinking. We expect that the biggest imperialists of the world and President Nixon who today, if I may be excused, is the biggest criminal of the world, would stop the bombings !

In his statement the hon. Minister has said :—

“President Nixon's 8-point proposal put forward in 1971 was an advance over the earlier U.S. position.”

The Government of Vietnam, for whom this 8-point proposal was made, said that it was a trap to evade the main issue and to divert world opinion or attention from the summit. The US Government backed out of it and started bombing.

I am sure, the hon. Minister has read the report given out in newspapers, specially the revelations made by Mr. Jack Anderson, that the USA may use nuclear weapons in Vietnam and President Nixon is prepared to use nuclear weapons against them. The Seventh Fleet is already there and today the Seventh Fleet has been doubled. Two squadrons and and marine phantom jets have been flown in from Japan. It has been acknowledged even by the US agency that there are now at least four aircraft carriers with about 311 planes and nine cruisers and destroyers are participating in the bombardment on both sides of the demilitarized zone. But the people of Vietcong are not going to be removed because, though these US imperialists with all their ability could land on the moon but not in Vietnam, I am sure, they will not be able to do it.

The UN Secretary-General has also said in a press conference that he was ready to exercise his good offices if all the parties concerned agreed to it. In this connection I would express my dissatisfaction over the lukewarm and pro-American attitude of the UN Secretary-General. We know, the UN never came to the rescue of the people of Vietnam.

It has been acknowledged by our Government that on February 1, 1972, in reply to President Nixon's 8-point proposal, the Provisional Revolutionary Government gave two elaborations which, according to Government, were constructive in nature. We have given full recognition to Vietnam. I was expecting that the Government of India, which is also the Chairman of the International Control Commission, would at least condemn this naked aggression by the US imperialists on the people of Vietnam. But the statement only says :—

“Government of India have always opposed these bombing raids and they hope that these bombings will stop immediately, all foreign forces withdrawn from the Vietnamese soil and the people of Vietnam left free to decide their own future.”

We say that these people should be left free to decide their own future. But what positive help would we like to give them ? What positive steps have been taken to mobilise world opinion against the American

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

imperialists and the biggest criminal of the world today, President Nixon ?

I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has conveniently forgotten the US attitude against us during the 14-day war, and against the people of Bangla Desh. I still remember that they brought the Seventh Fleet in the Bay of Bengal. But they had to go back. When the people of Vietnam, every boy and girl whether seven-year old or eight-year old, who are fighting them day in and day out and are dying in thousands—they are prepared to fight it out—what concrete steps would Government like to take to help them in this matter ?

Then, there is the reported threat by the US Administration to use nuclear weapons to protect US troops. May I know the reaction of the Government to that ?

It is reported that US marines have landed and B-52 bombers are, for the first time, bombing North Vietnamese territory. Is this not a blatant reversal of U. S.'s hypocritical declaration that U. S. is gradually pulling out from Vietnam ?

We should never believe the words of President Nixon or his allies. We know thousands of students, thousands of citizens, in U. S. A. are against this war. The day is fast approaching when they will pull him out from the chair he occupies. I congratulate those young boys and girls of America who are showing their resentment against it.

My first question is : What is the reaction of the Government of India to this nuclear threat ? My second question is : Why does not the Government of India withdraw recognition from puppet Saigon Government ? What is this Saigon Government ? It is a puppet Government of America. It is a Government of boot-lickers of American imperialists. It is a puppet Government pathetically dependent on U. S. arms for its survival. What they did to our Embassy there is known to us. They burnt our National Flag. They have recognised a puppet Government whose wire-strings are pulled by President Nixon and the Agency of killers who want to eliminate progressive human race from the world. So, its recognition should be withdrawn.

Why is the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam not being recognised ? It should be recognised. Madame Binh came here and she explained, and we know, that this is the Government which commands the confidence of the people. Our Prime Minister stood by the liberation struggle in Bangladesh which we all hail and for which her image has gone up not only in the country but in the world. She claimed in this House that whenever the people are in trouble, when all those dictators want to oppress a particular race, she stands by the people. Will the Prime Minister who holds a banner of democracy flying do something in this case also ? What is her reaction to this I want to know.

President Nixon has been emboldened after his visit to China and the secret talks between Mao-Chou and Mr. Nixon have strengthened their hands. But today Mr. Nixon should not forget that half the world led by socialist forces and the Soviet Union are with the bleeding humanity in Vietnam.

I would like to know what the Government of India is going to do positively about it. If you are doing nothing, this may happen to you. These Americans will not leave you. I can say this much that they want to ruin the entire world. Vietnam is not going to lose. We are going to lose something if we do not help and save humanity from the sufferings and if we do not condemn the biggest criminal of the century, President Nixon.

I want to have clear answers to my questions from the Government. I may inform the House that if you are not going to take action, the people of India who supported the liberation movement in Bangladesh, who gave unconditional support to the Prime Minister, and who supported the liberation movement in Laos, Cambodia and other places, will give support to the people of Vietnam. There are people in this country, not in thousands but in lakhs, who will support and give their moral, financial and other support to the people of Vietnam to prove the sinister plan of President Nixon.

Tomorrow, there is going to be a demonstration against the misbehaviour and the sinister plan of President Nixon, against all

this bombardment, by the Communist party and other friends. I am sure Government will take a note of this not only here but everywhere. If Government does not react, the people are bound to react in this country.

I would like to have replies to all these questions.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I will try to reported the speech part of the hon. Member from the questions and I will confine myself to answering questions that he has put to me.

The first question that he put was the reported possible use of nuclear weapons by the United States in Vietnam. I had expressed my grave concern about such a possibility and I had said that we were totally opposed to any such action as this would introduce a dangerous element in the situation. I am very glad to notice an official statement made by the official spokesman in Washington to the effect that there is no proposal....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : They speak lies.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH :....to use nuclear weapons in Vietnam.

The second question that he asked was whether we are prepared to withdraw recognition of the South Vietnamese Government which is functioning from Saigon....

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Jainagar) : Functioning ! (Interruption)

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : If they were not to function, they would not be there. You may not like them, but they are there.

I would say that we have given them *de facto* recognition, and we have got a Consul-General in Saigon. And we have, as you know, already upgraded our level of representation in Hanoi to the status of an Embassy. At the present moment we have no intention to change the level of representation in Saigon. We are not, at the moment, raising its level, nor are we withdrawing our Consul-General from Saigon....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : You wait till they run away from Saigon.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : When they are no longer in Saigon, You cannot recognise them. (Interruption)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA ; You can follow them. (Interruption)

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : They will be followed by others, not by me.

About recognition of PRG, I have already said that we have a Consul-General in Saigon and we cannot at the same time recognise PRG. At the present moment, according to our assessment, PRG does not qualify, according to international standards, for recognition. (Interruption) We are not, therefore, taking that step. We are in touch with the Government of PRG and the leaders and sometime back we had the honour of welcoming here Madam Binh....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Whose representative was she when you invited her ? She came as your guest. Whom was she representing ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : She was representing PRG. In that capacity we welcomed her here. There is no contradiction. I do not know why should there be such a rather heated question..(Interruption) We can welcome members of Government whom we do not formally recognise. There is no difficulty at all.

Then the hon. Member says that the people of India also want to demonstrate that....

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : No. My question was this. What concrete steps are being taken by Government, apart from the statement, to help them and to stop bombings ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : This statement itself is mobilising world opinion. The intervention of the hon. Member and my clear statement that a big country like India is opposed to this bombing and that we are firmly of the opinion that the bombing should stop is, in itself, a very powerful factor in mobilising the world opinion.

MR. SPEAKER : What he means is that

[Mr. Speaker]

he will join the demonstration with them tomorrow.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : The hon Minister said that the foreign army should go out of Vietnam. Which foreign army? It should be named.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I hope he knows there are foreign armies there, besides the Americans, —American allies like South Korea and several others and, we are strongly in favour of the movement out of Vietnam of all these foreign forces. This is quite clear.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : All non-Vietnamese foreign forces.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I thought the Vietnamese forces are not foreign forces there.... (Interruptions).

So, if the hon. Members belonging to the Communist Party want to stage a demonstration, I would appeal to them.... (Interruptions) and to others that they should do it peacefully.

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON (Trivandrum) : The hon. Minister has said that the spokesman of the White House, whatever it was....

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Krishna Menon, please don't violate the House procedure.

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON : This is a very important matter. The Government should make a statement regarding nuclear bombs. Some spokesman said that no options are closed and, of course, all options are open. That means all options are open for a country which has got such a vast and numerous kinds of weapons. What I want to say is that this Parliament....

MR. SPEAKER : You are a very senior Member. There is a set procedure for this.

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON : Mr. Indrajit Gupta asked a question. I can also ask a question.... (Interruptions) I am not a Party man.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to be a little more strict to him also in future.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : This is not a question, it is an interruption.

AN HON. MEMBER : The hon. Member is just helping the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : You think the interruptions are quite justified?

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON : That is how the Parliament functions.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Venkatasubbaiah.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH (Nandyal) : The External Affairs Minister just now said that the Washington Administration has categorically stated that they are not going to use nuclear bombs. But, they have got the dubious distinction of saying 'Yes' for 'No' and 'No' for 'Yes'. We have had that sad experience when the Bangla Desh Liberation Movement was going on.

Sir, the long and sordid tragedy and the struggle of the people of Vietnam in their struggle to liberate themselves from the foreign oppression evokes the sympathy and admiration of the entire humanity. Such an unscrupulous power as the USA, using all its war potential and striking forces in Vietnam, was not able to suppress the liberation struggle and the patriotism and the struggle of the people.... (Interruptions). It clearly shows that the Saigon Government has no backing of the people. It is only propped up by the United States.... (Interruptions) The same unscrupulous gun-boat diplomacy was used by Nixon when he threatened to send the Seventh Fleet into the Bay of Bengal and it only evoked the ridicule of the entire country when our Prime Minister poo-hooped that idea and he has become a sort of a world buffoon. The same tactics he is going to adopt in Vietnam.

I would like to know from the Foreign Minister one thing. We have certain obligations and responsibilities to perform. Our country is the Chairman of the International Control Commission. That is No. 1.

No. 2. Under the able leadership of our Prime Minister we have every time championed the cause and gone to the rescue of the oppressed and suppressed people in whichever part of the world the liberation movement is going on. We have that distinction of coming to the aid of the people of Bangla Deah and were responsible in helping them to liberating themselves. The same situation is prevailing in Vietnam to day and I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether, as Chairman of the Control Commission, as an important member of the Security Council, he can raise this issue in the Security Council and see that world opinion is mobilised, not only unofficially, but officially, in favour of the heroic struggle by the people of Vietnam, to see that these modern tyrants are driven out from that country, and to allow those people to have their own Government in whatever manner they would like to choose.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Very good question.

SHRI G. VISHWANATHAN (Wandiwash) : Better than Banerjee's !

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : That is from your party, not from communist party !

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Not only my party, but a very important leader of our party and so you should not arrogate to yourself all the credit.

The hon. Member has made some important observations but he has not formulated any questions precisely. But still I tried to follow very carefully what he said and I would try to make comments on some points which I think require some explanation. He has expressed his concern about the likelihood or likely use of nuclear weapons by the Americans in Vietnam. I have already declared in Parliament, in the other House, and I would like to repeat it here, that we regard such a possibility as a very dangerous element in a situation like this, and we are totally opposed to it, and if such a situation develops, we will mobilise the entire world opinion against it. There should, however, be some relief from the fact that an official spokesman has already made a statement that the USA Government have no intention to use nuclear weapons. To that extent we should create an atmosphere where the world opinion, includ-

ing the opinion, unanimous, I presume, of this Parliament, should be taken into consideration by the USA Government if in any corner of their mind they are still harbouring such an idea, they should abandon it permanently in accordance with what their own spokesmen have stated. That should be our objective.

The hon. Member has referred to the movement of the Seventh Fleet in the Bay of Bengal. We have already expressed our relations. In fact, our non-expression of reactions is itself a powerful factor in creating a situation where the Seventh Fleet quickly withdrew. The hon. Member said the Americans might repeat the same thing in Vietnam. I would be very happy if they withdraw, I would like this development if that is the intention of the hon. Member's question.

As Chairman of the International Control Commission, we have no doubt our responsibility, but I have no hesitation in saying that the subsequent events of open war-fare and an open military situation, has created a situation where the International Control Commission at the moment is not discharging any function whatsoever.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Is it dormant ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is dormant —it is a good expression, but not of our own choice, but the situation is such in which it is not able to discharge its functions.

Then, a suggestion was made saying, we might raise it in the Security Council. I hope the hon. Member knows that historically this matter has never been before the Security Council, and, in fact, this has never been before the U. N. No doubt, in the General Assembly, the representatives of various countries do make their contribution and do give their evaluation of the Viet Nam situation, and to that extent, the United Nations has been a forum where representatives of countries have expressed their viewpoint and that itself has an effect upon the US thinking...

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : This is a very blatant invasion of Viet Nam by the United States Government.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : ...or the thinking of the policy makers of the United States. We ourselves have stated our position on Viet Nam very clearly in the United Nations, but the UN Security Council has not been seized of the Viet Nam question for various reasons including historical. The International Control Commission was created by the Geneva Conference and not by the United Nations...

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON :
But they are not exclusive of each other.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not think that even my colleague ever raised it formally before the United Nations.

SHRI V. K. KRISHNA MENON :
There was no threat of an atom bomb at that time. He has raised it as much as I did.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : In these circumstances, our support formally to the position that bombing should stop and the foreign forces should withdraw and the people of Viet Nam should decide their own future has been expressed in unmistakable and clear terms in all forums, and we should continue to do that. This will certainly mobilise the freedom loving people of the world, and this will put the necessary pressure upon the Americans to abandon their present policy.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Telli-cherry) : In the statement made by the hon. Minister and the explanation given by him, there are certain points which we can appreciate. But I do not understand the point raised by the hon. Minister when he said that the United States Government had denied their intentions to use nuclear weapons on Viet Nam. Has it not been our experience in the past while giving arms aid to Pakistan, the United States had denied that they were giving arms aid, and yet later on it was found that they were giving arms aid? When the Seventh Fleet was sent, as we said, with the express intention of interfering in the affairs of this sub-continent, to the Bay of Bengal, again, the United States denied their intention by saying that it was sent to rescue 15 Americans stranded in Dacca. The other day the hon. Minister was also saying that he was going by certain denials by the United States with regard to the inhuman treatment to India students in

USA. This is rather unfortunate. Government should take an objective view of the denials, from their own experiences in the past. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether we have looked at this escalation of war in the context of the new situation which has been created after the Peking-Washington talks and the secret understanding or dealings which took place at the cost of countries and at the cost of people. I think there is a relevance because after those talks, the United States Government had adopted a policy of escalation not only there but all over the world and all round the globe. You can see what is happening in the Arab world where they tried to purchase the King of Jordan, and they have set their military bases in the Mediterranean and in the Indian Ocean. They have made it very clear that the presence of the Seventh Fleet in the Indian Ocean will be a reality. There was a talk between the Ceylon Prime Minister and the captain of the Seventh Fleet on the question of the presence of the Seventh Fleet in the Indian Ocean.

Again, it was after the talks in Peking that the Vietnam talks in Paris were unilaterally suspended by the US. This was followed by the resumption of bombing in Vietnam. Do Government understand the implications of this? Do Government look at it with that seriousness? I do not see anything in the statement indicating this. Tomorrow in the war in Vietnam the Americans might use nuclear weapons. If they succeed with their electronic and automated warfare, tomorrow it will not end in Vietnam. We will all be Victims of that sort of US imperialist aggression. I do not know whether Government realise that.

On the question of recognition of the PRG, the Government position was made clear that they are ready to make certain contacts with the PRG. When Madame Binh, Foreign Minister of the PRG, came to India, she did not come as a tourist. She was the guest of the Government of India and the Minister of External Affairs. The Minister mentioned just now that they are developing contacts. What are the further contacts they are developing, particularly with the PRG in this crucial situation, and what are the forms of those contacts? I do not understand when the Minister reiterates that the PRG does not satisfy international law on the question of recognition. The same question was posed by the imperialists and their friends when we

recognised Bangla Desh. When we recognised Bangla Desh, it was argued on behalf of the imperialist circles in the western world that that Government could not be recognised and the reality of Pakistan as it then was should be accepted. Today the reality in South Vietnam is something like that. There is a puppet Government. I do not know why our Foreign Minister should defend that puppet Government and its existence in Saigon. It is merely existing: it does not have any control of territory, it does not have any control over the people. The existence of that Government is merely because of the fact that there are lakhs of US soldiers with their Terrible weapons and nuclear bombs. Should we accept that shameful existence of the South Vietnamese Government? Keeping high the traditions of the Indian National movement and the policy lately pursued by the Government of India, I believe this is the opportune time to recognise the PRG and give a slap in the face of US imperialism. What is Government's thinking on all these problems?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The Government's thinking on all these points has already been stated.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Not very clearly.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: It is quite clear: he may not fully agree with it.

The first question he asked was more or less like this that we should not take at its face value the US spokesman's statement that there is no intention on the side of the US to use nuclear weapons. I am not asking any one to take seriously or non-seriously; I have stated a fact and added that we should continue to voice our opposition to the use of nuclear weapons so that this statement made by the US spokesman becomes their policy and a situation is created where they do not use nuclear weapons. I have nothing more to add to it.

The second group of questions in which the hon. Member asked whether we have taken note of the fact of several actions initiated by the US Government or their friends in different parts of the world after President Nixon's visit to Peking, my reply is simple. We are carefully noting all these events and will certainly take appropriate action to safeguard our own interest in this respect.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: The implications of the Nixon-Chou Enlai discussions.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Meetings were held between President Nixon and Prime Minister Chou En-lai and several other Chinese leaders.

As for recognition of the PRG, I have already made my statement. After Madame Binh's visit here, there was a further exchange of views in Lusaka where we helped the PRG to be admitted as Observers to the Conference of non-aligned countries. The PRG have a contingent in Paris which is participating in the peace talks and we have been in touch with that contingent also. In addition, there are several other capitals in which our ambassadors and representatives keep in touch with representatives of the PRG.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Pupri): The External Affairs Minister has ably stated the Government's stand. I would like to know what is the assessment of Government regarding escalation of the war in Vietnam. Because it is not only a question of the US going to use nuclear weapons; large-scale damages have already been done, as has been revealed by a study of Cornell University which reveals that 6.3 million tonnes of bombs were dropped between 1965 and 1971 in Indo-China, which is more than double the bombs dropped during the second world war and the Korean war put together by the Allied Powers.

Secondly, there is a report that the strength of the Seventh Fleet has been doubled and the Air Commander, General John D. Lavelle has been replaced by General John W. Vogt—I hope he is not a new Tikka Khan—probably because it was considered that the former commander would not be able to bombard Vietnam more ruthlessly.

Then again, various types of experiments have been done by the American administration not only in terms of warfare but also regarding destruction of land, vegetation, agriculture and so on and so forth as also jungle defoliation tactics. There is a danger of the US increasing its "Automated Warfare" where machine is going to replace manpower in order to reduce the effect on American public opinion and also to reduce the cost of war. What is Government's reaction to this?

[Shri Hari Kishore Singh]

Then there is a handbook brought out by the Project Air War and Indo China Resources Centre (March 1972) which says :

"The Nixon administration has turned to a new form of war in which machines do most of the killings unknown to the American people".

This is kept so secret that even the American public is not aware of it.

Does the Government think that this large-scale escalation in the American war effort in Vietnam is the result of a tacit understanding between the US and China arrived at during the sojourn of the American President to Peking recently ?

Then, does the Government see any possibility of having a solution to the Vietnam problem through the existing international forums and, if not, will the Government consider convening of an Asian Relations Conference such as was convened on Indonesia by the Interim Government of the country. And as a first step towards it, will the Government consider reviving the Colombo-Power type diplomacy to arouse world public opinion on the question of Vietnam ?

13 hrs.

Finally, will the Government consider assisting non-official agencies for convening a world conference on the question of Vietnam to arouse world conscience ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Our reaction to the war situation escalating in Vietnam has stated in clear terms. We regard this as a very disconcerting development, and it is for this reason that we have expressed our strong opposition to continued bombing. Our assessment of the destruction resulting from the large-scale bombing is more or less the same as what the hon. Member said, and our concern has increased when we hear reports about the use of various types or armaments and bombs with great destructive capacity and weapons which result in defoliation and several other deadly weapons that are used which have inflicted untold misery upon the people of Vietnam who are struggling for their freedom. Any use of more sophisticated weaponry, more destructive weaponry has an element of automation, will increase the suffering of the

people of Vietnam further, and we have every sympathy for these unfortunate people who have been for decades fighting heroically for their freedom and liberation.

Whether this escalation has got any connection with the talks in Peking between President Nixon and the Chinese leaders, I cannot say ; it is a sort of assessment that is going on in all the capitals, and I cannot contribute anything concrete on this aspect.

I have already indicated the paralysis from which the international community is suffering so far as Vietnam is concerned. When I say paralysis, there is no forum which can effectively deal with the Vietnam, deal with in the sense of finding a solution to the Vietnam problem. In various international forums including the United Nations General Assembly and in the non-aligned conference in Lusaka and several other organisations, statements have been made bringing out the essentials of the situation and the general approach that should be adopted in relation to Vietnam. But these are expressions of opinion, expressions of attitude, projecting their assessment. But beyond that, either in the UNO or in any organ of the United Nations, no concrete step has been taken. There has been a general attitude to regard this as a matter which was tackled by the Geneva Conference and the instruments devised by the Geneva Conference are supposed to look after it, although I have no hesitation in saying that not much is being done even by those organs which were created by the Geneva Conference. We have at the moment no proposal to convene an Asian conference at governmental or non-governmental level.

13.05 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MISREPORTING OF LOA SABHA PROCEEDINGS
in the Times of India

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :
अध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपका अमारी हूँ कि आपने मुझे विशेषाधिकार के उल्लंघन का एक मामला उठाने की एजाजत दी है। इस मामले से सम्बन्धित तथ्य इस प्रकार हैं :