

- (i) The Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Poona;
- (ii) The Astrophysical Observatory, Kodaikanal;
- (iii) The Colaba & Alibag Observatories, Bombay; and
- (iv) The Seismological Division.

The recommendation in regard to the first three units has been implemented with effect from the 1st April, 1971. The question of constituting the research activities of the Seismology Division into an autonomous institute will be reviewed after the current study undertaken by the Planning Commission to draw up an integrated plan of work in the field of Seismology is completed.

**Improvement of Girna Bridge Near Malegaon District Nasik (Maharashtra)**

4468. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious truck accident on the Girna bridge near Malegaon (District Nasik) on the 22nd May, 1971 in which more than 40 people died;

(b) if so, the steps taken for improvement of the Bridge which is very narrow and without any safety; and

(c) whether Government of India propose to give any aid to the Maharashtra Government for this project and if so, how much ?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a fact that the bridge is very narrow and without any safety. It is an arch bridge having 26 spans of 30 ft. each, with a 22 ft. wide roadway and is safe for taking all heavy commercial vehicular traffic and is in good condition. It is adequate for present day two way traffic. It is also provided with pipe railings on either side of it. In view of this, the question of improvement of the existing bridge does not arise.

(c) In view of (b) above, the question of the Government of India giving any aid for improving the existing bridge does not arise. However, to relieve congestion of Malegaon town a bypass is proposed on which a new bridge will also be provided.

12.02 hrs.

**RE: CALLING ATTENTION**

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :** May I make one submission before you take up the next item? This is in regard to the US arms supply to Pakistan and President Nixon's statement thereon. You have said that we can debate upon this while discussing the Demands for Grants relating to the Defence Ministry. But I would like to submit that we shall not be able to get any reply from the Defence Minister on this, because this concerns the External Affairs Ministry. . .

**SHRI P. K. DEO : (Kalahandi)** It is a matter of serious concern to the entire House. . .

**MR. SPEAKER :** I would like to tell the hon. Member that if Members want a debate, they should not come under rule 377. There are other procedures for it.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Gwalior) :** It can come in the form of a calling attention notice. It can be allowed in that form.

**MR. SPEAKER :** There is no calling-attention—notice before me just now.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** We have given notice of it.

**SHRI P. K. DEO :** We had also given notice of it but it has been disallowed.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Kindly hear me for half a minute. I had sent in a calling-attention-notice, and I had also written to you. This statement had been made yesterday by no less a person than the President of USA, President Nixon. The report is to the effect that President Nixon refuses to stop the arms supply and millions worth of arms are still in the pipeline. That is

what he has said. Naturally, this is a very serious matter. The Defence Minister cannot answer this question, because it concerns the Prime Minister or the External Affairs Minister. So, I was requesting that we should also express ourselves. This country has a vocal Parliament, and we should express ourselves about the unfriendly act of the USA. Either you may kindly allow the calling-attention-notice, or you may ask the hon. Minister to make a statement today, because tomorrow is Saturday and the day after that is Sunday, and therefore, it is necessary that we must make our opinion known to the world today. I am sure all Members of the House will join me in condemning this unfriendly act of the US imperialists.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri S. M. Banerjee sent me something under rule 377. I did not agree to it. So for as the calling-attention is concerned, it is already fixed up and we shall see it next week.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I had also given notice for a two hours' discussion today under rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER : It did not come to me in time.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I had sent it at ten O'clock itself.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बहुत अच्छा है कि काल अटेशन नोटिसन आपने मान लिया है...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मनी नहीं माना है ।

For today it is already fixed....

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मेरा निवेदन है कि आप उसको स्वीकार कर लेंगे तो सदन में मनी का बक्तब्य भी हो जायेगा और सदस्य अपनी बात भी कह सकेंगे ।

MR. SPEAKER : I think the matter is quite important.

When I say that I am going to consider it for next week, that should be all right. The hon. Member should not get me committed,

because there are many other calling-attention-notice by other Members and they will ask me why their calling-attention-notice are not being admitted. The hon. Member should follow the hint given sometimes.

SHRI P. K. DEO : Whenever there is an important dialogue on any matter between Government here and a foreign dignitary, there is always a *suo motu* statement forthcoming from government side in this House. There has been such a dialogue between the Prime Minister and Mr. Kissinger. But Government have not so far come forward with a statement. We understand from newspaper reports that \$35 million worth of arms are going to be supplied to Pakistan by the USA to annihilate the people of Bangla Desh.

MR. SPEAKER : He is speaking without my permission. Sometimes he is very stubborn.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND SHIPPING & TRANSPORT (SRI RAJ BAHADUR) : It was said here that the Education Minister is in town. I have made enquiries. The Education Minister is not yet in town. He will be coming to night at 8 O'clock. This is just to put the record straight.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Let him appear before us at 9 P.M.

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

ANNUAL REPORT ETC. OF NRDCI

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : On behalf of Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Annual report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Research Development Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 1969-70 along