

40 projects under marginal farmers scheme, in various parts of the country during the fourth plan period. In each project under SFDA a sum of Rs. 1.5 crores would be spent in the Central Sector whereas in the case of a project for marginal farmers, a sum of Rs. 1 crore would be spent. A major part of this outlay is being utilised for land development schemes such as minor irrigation, land levelling Custom service etc.

**Conference of State Ministers for Cooperation held at New Delhi**

1600. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of State Ministers for Cooperation met at New Delhi on the 24th October, 1970; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the Conference to develop the cooperative movement of the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Yes Sir, The Conference met at New Delhi on the 23rd and 24th October, 1970.

(b) The Conference noted the significant progress recorded by cooperatives and considered various measures to enable cooperatives to provide massive credit support to agricultural development programmes and for expanding infra-structural facilities for supply of inputs, processing, storage and marketing of agricultural products. The need for consolidation and strengthening of the consumer cooperatives in view of their importance in stabilisation of prices was underlined. The Conference laid special stress on effective implementation of various measures already initiated for rationalisation of cooperative structure, streamlining of policies and procedures, improving efficiency of cooperatives, intensifying the programmes for cooperative education and training and development of cooperatives as a well-knit peoples' movement. In particular, the Conference focussed attention on the cooperatives providing ser-

vices and facilities to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the community for income and employment opportunities and on raising the tempo of activities of cooperatives in the eastern region of the country and in Rajasthan where the movement is comparatively weak.

12.02 hrs.

RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up the calling-attention notice.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा पायन्ट आफ आर्डर है।

MR. SPEAKER : Point of order on what ?

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : रूल 25 के मातहत।

MR. SPEAKER : On what subject ?

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : मैं ने आल इन्डिया रेडियो के खिलाफ एक प्रिविलेज का मामला आप के सामने रखा है.....

MR. SPEAKER : I am sending it to the Department, and as soon as I hear from the Department, I shall consider it, and I shall let the hon. Member know about it.

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FOREIGN BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported move by the Government of the USSR, Britain and USA to secure bases in the Indian Ocean."

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH):** Government have noted with concern recent reports about the establishment of military bases by outside powers in the Indian Ocean.

2. The information at present available is that the British Government has had certain communications and staging facilities in the Indian Ocean area. The U. K. and U. S. Governments concluded an agreement in 1966 to create similar facilities on certain islands in the British Indian Ocean Territory. Our views opposing the creation of these facilities have been communicated to the two Governments and have also been stated repeatedly in this House. According to our information the Soviet Government have no military bases in the Indian Ocean area.

3. The recent Summit Conference of Non-aligned nations held in Lusaka in September 1970 considered the situation in the Indian Ocean and adopted the following declaration :—

“Calling on all States to consider and respect the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, from which great power rivalries and competition as well as bases conceived in the context of such rivalries and competition, either army, navy or air forces bases, are excluded.”

4. The Government of India has subscribed to and whole heartedly supports this view.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :** After the British withdrawal from Singapore, the USA in collusion with Great Britain and the Soviet Union are making all-out efforts to establish themselves as strong naval powers, and they are also trying to set up military bases in all this area. When this question was raised on the 29th July, 1968, in the Rajya Sabha, our present Foreign Minister stated that our interests in the Indian Ocean was to see that no areas of tension were built up. He had also stated that we wanted to safeguard our territories including our islands, and also to make safe the navigation of our merchant ships. This was also repeated by him in the course of his recent tour, and also by the Prime Minister at Lusaka when she made it abun-

dantly clear that we did not want bases by any country in the Indian Ocean.

I might also remind your goodself that when you were participating in the recent Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at Canberra, you had also stated that the Indian Ocean should remain peaceful and conditions of tranquillity must prevail.

But recent developments indicate that the two super-powers are trying to become powerful sea powers to the exclusion of others and are setting up naval and military bases. The US in collusion with Great Britain is trying to set up a military base at Diego Garcia. Similarly the Soviet Union is trying with the aid of Pakistan to set up a military base near Karachi at Gwadr.

These military and naval bases will create conditions of tension and the guarantee given by the present External Affairs Minister two years ago is being violated. Considering that we have 3,500 miles of coastline and 90 per cent of our foreign trade is sea-borne and knowing that the problem of our security and defence is intimately connected with the guarding of our coastal belt as an imperative necessity, we cannot afford to be less vigilant to these changing circumstances.

There is another aspect causing concern to us. It is rather intriguing. Both the super-powers are engaged in an intensive survey of the Ocean and are competing to win over Pakistan by giving her arms aid in the teeth of our opposition. The dream of the Russian rulers since the days of Peter the Great to have a land route to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean is also coming true. You are aware that a road link has already been established upto Quetta through Afghanistan. Though it is not being utilised for the Soviet Union for that purpose, but apprehensions are there that this can be connected with the military base at Gwadr.

Then there is the apprehension concerning the prospect of the Suez Canal reopening under Soviet control in the near future. The Soviet Union is building a deep water naval base in Mersa Matruth in western UAR. There are reports from London that the USA and Britain...

**SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA** : (Gauhati) On a point of order. The matter relates to the Indian Ocean. He is bringing in the UAR and Mediterranean. How is it relevant ?

**MR. SPEAKER** : There are a number of other oceans. I would request him to confine himself to the Indian Ocean. Sometimes long speeches complicate the issue. He should only seek clarification.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL** : I seek clarification. I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the declaration of the External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister are just contrary to their behaviour.

I am quoting the *Economist* of London which says that these facilities by Mauritius to the Soviet Union have been granted under the pressure of the Indian Prime Minister.

**MR. SPEAKER** : I have a number of times recognised your legal acumen, but for God's sake, come direct to the question. No long speeches. Calling Attention does not admit of long speeches.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE** (Balrampur) : But that has been the practice. Who is responsible for that ? After all, you blame Mr. Goyal, but what about others ? Members do make speeches.

**SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA** (Begusarai) : When we speak, we are pressurised to confine ourselves to the issue. Here he is going to the whole world.

**श्री रबीराय (पुरी)** : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस में सब दोषी हैं ।

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU** (Udipi) : This is to give facts before the attention is called.

**MR. SPEAKER** : I call your attention to the fact that it is not a general debate on foreign policy. Kindly put your question.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL** : This is rather important, because facilities have been given by Mauritius to the Soviet Union under Indian pressure. I am quoting the *Econo-*

*mist* because only a month earlier Mauritius had said that their customs service could not be expected to distinguish between genuine trawlers and those with electronic equipment which are in effect intelligence gathering ships. It was then stated that it was only because of pressure from India's Mrs. Gandhi who visited the island in June that the Mauritius conceded it.

**SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA** : How is it relevant ?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE** : It is relevant.

(व्यवधान) अगर रेलीवेंसी का सवाल है तो कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी का कोई मेम्बर बोल नहीं सकता हाउस में । जब भी सोवियट यूनियन का सवाल आता है तो इनको तकलीफ होती है ।

**श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा** : वाजपेयी चेयर नहीं हैं हम को चेयर को ऐड्रेस करने का पूरा हक है ।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी** : हम भी चेयर को ऐड्रेस कर रहे हैं ।

**श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा** : जनसंघ का डिक्टेट यहाँ नहीं चल सकता । हम तो चाहते हैं कि स्पीकर का डिक्टेट यहाँ चले ।

**MR. SPEAKER** : You are yourself a member of the Panel of Chairman.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL** : Am I being irrelevant ?

**MR. SPEAKER** : No question of irrelevancy but speeches are not allowed on Calling Attention.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL** : They are allowed to every other Member.

**MR. SPEAKER** : They snatch it forcibly. I do not like it.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी** : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप गोयल साहब को रोकें, यह मैं समझ

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

सकता हूँ। लेकिन श्री कालिता जो बार बार इन्टरप्ट कर रहे हैं यह क्या ठीक है? ... (व्यवधान) ... नहीं अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप से सहमत हूँ कि लम्बे भाषण नहीं होने चाहिए। लेकिन मुश्किल यह है कि जब श्री गोयल रेली-वेंट हुए और उन्होंने मौरिशस का सवाल उठाया प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर रेज कर दिया। इस में प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर नहीं आ सकता है। मौरिशस में बेस बनवाने में भारत सरकार ने सहायता दी या नहीं, यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है।

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : इन्होंने पहला प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर तब रेज किया जब उन्होंने स्वेज केनाल का नाम लिया। ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South Delhi) : Whenever the name of Russia is used in this House some persons become allergic. I want your ruling whether the name of Russia should not be used at all in this House.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : हम भी यह रूनिंग चाहते हैं कि एकनोमिस्ट इस हाउस में क्या हमारा मार्ग-दर्शक है जो ब्रिटिश मोनोपोली का पेपर है?

श्री हरदयाल देवगुण (पूर्व दिल्ली) : क्या रूस मार्गदर्शक है?

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : On a point of order. Since you have not called any of these speakers, all that they said should be expunged; they should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Goyal could have easily asked whether any powers either the United Kingdom or the United States or some other powers have any plans to set up bases rather than give the history of every thing, every time I tried to stop him, he said : one minute; and then went on. I did not expect it from him; he is quite a senior Member. He should conclude in one minute now.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I am asking a few pertinent questions. In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister and in view of our defence problem connected with safeguarding of our coastline, I want to know what the Government is doing to increase our naval strength? In view of the circumstances which I have narrated above I should like to know whether the Government is considering any proposal to make our defence system sea-oriented. Thirdly, have those facilities which Mauritius had given to the Soviet Union been given under the influence of our Prime Minister? Fourthly, has Pakistan entered into any secret agreement with the Soviet Union to let them develop a naval base at Gwadr, west of Karachi? Is our Government going to do something to check domination of super-powers in the Indian Ocean which is likely to bring cold war into the warm waters of the Indian Ocean? Next, would the Government once again consider the proposal of Indonesia and Malaysia to have a central vigilance system?

MR. SPEAKER : Will these additions ever stop?

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I do not know what is happening to day. Everybody has been asked half a dozen questions previously. This is my last question.

Would the Government extend our territorial waters and our sea boundary, Arabian sea and the Bay of Bengal in order to keep them safe from the vigilance of foreign ships?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : First of all I should like very emphatically to deny the suggestion that the agreement between Mauritius and the USSR about certain fishing rights.....

AN HON. MEMBER : Fishing in troubled waters.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Jan Sangh is fishing in troubled waters but in very leaky boats.

I am saying that I would like very emphatically to deny that we have anything to do

with the fishing agreement that has been arrived at between....

AN HON. MEMBER : Fishy.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I said fishing. You see everything fishy. We have nothing to do with the fishing agreement arrived at between Mauritius and USSR. It is wrong to make any such suggestion. It is unfair to a friendly country, Mauritius.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Bri-tish papers.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : If he quotes from a British paper, I will leave it to the leader of the Jan Sangh to decide as to whether they have gone down to that extent, that is, to bolster up their own argument, they should quote a British newspaper. If that is the stage to which they have come, I cannot help them.

But I would like to say very categorically that this is a matter in which the Indian Government was never consulted formally or informally at any stage. This is an independent agreement that has been arrived at between the USSR authorities and the Government of Mauritius, in the best interests of Mauritius and the USSR. We were never called upon to comment upon this agreement. Nobody ever consulted us. If I may take the House into confidence, Mauritius authorities have mentioned to us that very unfair comments have appeared in the British newspapers dragging unnecessarily India's name into an agreement which they have arrived at with the Government of the USSR. So, this is something about which I want categorically to disabuse the mind of the hon. Member opposite.

SHRI K. K. NAYAR (Bahraich) : Why should Mauritius address us on this question about misrepresentation, instead of addressing the British Government? Why don't they address the British Government?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The British Government does not control the newspapers, and if any newspaperman writes anything, I cannot ask the British Government. That is

besides the point. The hard reality is that we have not at all given any advice, any comment; we have nothing to do with the agreement that has been arrived at between two independent countries. It will be unfair to suggest even that Mauritius acted under any persuasion; the expressed used was "threat". It was very unfortunate, and we should be very careful when we use such expressions particularly in relation to our smaller neighbours with whom we may have friendly relations. It is an unfortunate way of expressing things.

Having cleared the matter, the rest of the question now falls in its proper perspective. The first two questions of Shri Shri Chand Goyal relate to our naval strength and he has used the expression that our defence should be sea-oriented. My colleague, the Defence Minister, can reply to this more appropriately, but I can tell him that whereas the naval arm of our defence services is important, equally important are the air wing and the army, and to say that our defence should be sea-oriented militarily is something which I think is an exaggerated expression which he has picked up from somewhere and he is trying to palm it off. It will be a wrong appreciation of our defence requirements.

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : The point is that our seas should be taken care of.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Seas should also be taken care of; but that is entirely different from saying that our defence strategy should be sea-oriented. These two expressions are different.

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK : A foreign language.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : A foreign language in the hands of a dexterous speaker like Shri Shri Chand Goyal does not remain a foreign language. I would say that it will be a lopsided approach if we were to say that our strategy should be sea-oriented. It is true that there are certain naval requirements to ensure the safety of our coasts, to ensure the safety of our islands and to ensure the safety of our merchant shipping and our sea lands and I am sure that the arrangements

[Shri Swaran Singh]

that we may make in respect of naval defence and patrolling should guarantee this type of safety which is our duty to ensure.

**SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam)** : It needs to be strengthened .

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH** : That process has been explained on the floor of the house; that our next important step to be taken is the strengthening of the navy. Steps are being taken both by increasing our production of naval equipment and by acquisition from abroad. Then he asked whether Government have information if USSR are establishing a base in Gwadr in Pakistan. We have made very intensive and thorough enquiries about it and there is no confirmation of this suggestion. The information is, some help on the technical side is being received by Pakistan to create certain port facilities. We have no information that any base is being established.

Then he asked about our attitude with regard to the general question of establishment of bases in this region. We have very clearly stated that we are opposed to the establishment of any military bases in the Indian Ocean because we believe that this will introduce big power and super power rivalry into this region, and this will make the Indian Ocean an area of tension and conflict. It should be our endeavour to continue to maintain it as an area of peace and not of tension or confrontation.

His next question was whether there is any central vigilance system about which Indonesia and Malaysia have made any proposal. No such proposal has been made by Indonesia and Malaysia. I am not aware of any such proposal having been made jointly or singly by any of these two countries. I cannot comment on something which does not exist.

Lastly he said that India should declare the extent of its territorial waters. This, I believe, has already been done. I am speaking from memory; it extends to 12 miles from our coastline. Originally it used to be 3 miles.

There was a proposal that it should be extended to 12. I cannot say whether a formal notification to this effect has been issued. My information is that it has been issued. But that can be checked up. I have answered all the seven questions he has put.

**SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM (Visakhapatnam)** : If this question has been raised through a calling attention motion, it is only because we are anxious to see that the Indian Ocean remains as an area of peace and not of tension. The minister has also said that is the intention of the Government. All of us agree on that. He has also said that he agree with the Lusaka Resolution. Simply saying that he agrees with the Lusaka Resolution is not going far enough. Has the Government got any further proposals to see that the resolution has got a real impact and effect upon these powers who are now thinking of extending their base in the Indian Ocean ?

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH** : The important and real impact that the Lusaka declaration will have in achieving the objective with which the hon. member agrees is that among the signatories to the declaration are a large majority of the littoral powers and those Governments are in power in the countries that are situated on the Indian Ocean. If all these countries have unanimously decided that they are opposed to the establishments of bases, one great achievement is that these countries will cooperate in this and they will not give facilities to any outside powers for the establishment of bases.

It is true that still some powers will be left who have not signed the Lusaka Declaration and constant effort will have to be directed by the international community to mount the requisite pressure against those countries to make them refuse the grant of any facilities which might create a base of that type.

Thirdly, we will continue our efforts with the powers who want to establish such bases to dissuade them from establishing any bases. In the international life these types of pressures, persuasion and declarations do have a powerful impact.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त (दिल्ली सदर): अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि वे चाहते हैं कि इस क्षेत्र में शान्ति रहे। यह तो बड़ी अच्छी बात है लेकिन इसके बाद भी मन्त्री महोदय इस बात को मानेंगे कि इस क्षेत्र में तनाव ज्यादा बढ़ता जा रहा है, बड़ी बड़ी पावर्स में एक रेस लग रही है कि किस तरह से इस क्षेत्र को कन्ट्रोल किया जाये और इससे कभी भी एक्सप्लोजिव सिचुएशन हो सकती है। तो मैं जानता हूँ कि मेरी सूचना के अनुसार, पहले तो ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट भी यहाँ से निकल गयी थी लेकिन जब अमरीका और ब्रिटिश दोनों मिल करके दोबारा यहाँ पर कन्ट्रोल करने लग गए हैं और ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट ने एक स्पेशल टेरिटरी बनाई है जिसमें कुछ ग्रुप आफ आइजलैंड्स हैं, एक आइजलैंड मौरिशस के पास है और तीन उसमें सिकलिस आइजलैंड्स हैं और इसी तरह से हमने भी कई जगह पर पोर्ट फैंसिलिटीज की है और कुछ रिफिलिंग फैंसिलिटीज ली है तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने अमरीका और इंग्लैंड की बात तो कही लेकिन रूस के पास कौन कौन फैंसिलिटीज है उसके बारे में कोई चर्चा नहीं की। ऐसा लगता है कि उनके बारे में आप कुछ साफ्ट है। तो मेरा पहला सवाल यह है कि मन्त्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि जितनी बिग पावर्स हैं उनको कहाँ कहाँ इस क्षेत्र में क्या क्या फैंसिलिटीज रिफिलिंग की, पोर्ट की और नैवल बेस की किस किस देश को कहाँ कहाँ है ?

दूसरा सवाल यह कि क्या आपने इस प्रकार का कोई असेसमेंट किया है कि कभी यह सिचुएशन एक्सप्लोजिव हो सकती है और क्या इस सम्बन्ध में आपने ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट से या रूस की सरकार से या यू० ए० ए० की सरकार से कोई बातचीत की है ? अगर की है तो क्या आपने रूस को, ब्रिटेन को या अमरीका को कोई प्रोटेस्ट नोट भी भेजा है तो उसका क्या जवाब आया है ?

तीसरी बात यह कि क्या चीन के बार-

शिप्स भी इस एरिया में आए हैं ऐसा मालूम हुआ है ? अगर मालूम हुआ है तो उनका इन्टेशन क्या था और उस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है।

आखिरी बात यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस सम्बन्ध में केवल कन्सर्न करने से या लुसाका कान्फ्रेंस में बातचीत करने या प्रस्ताव पास करने से समस्या हल हो जाएगी ? मैं मानता हूँ कि यह बहुत टेढ़ी समस्या है लेकिन क्या जो हमारे आसपास के मुल्क की जैसे लंका, इंडोनेशिया या दूसरे जो देश हैं उनसे मिल करके कोई ज्वाइंट आपरेशन की बात या मिल करके इफेक्टिव स्टेप्स उठाने की बात या इन्टरनेशनल पब्लिक ओपीनियन पैदा करने की बात या सिक्योरिटी काँसिल और यू० एन० ओ० में जो इस प्रकार की बड़ी पावर्स हैं वे एक्सप्लायट न करें, इस एरिया में कन्ट्रोल न करें, इस प्रकार के कोई एफेक्टिव स्टेप्स भी उठाये हैं ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: My reply to the first question in which he asks as to what is our information with regard to the naval facilities that the USSR has in any particular region, as also what the UK and the USA have got, is that according to our information the UK has always enjoyed facilities for their naval craft at two important places. One is Masirah in the Arabian Sea and the other is Gan in the Maldivian group of islands. We have also some information that these facilities are at times extended to the US naval ships. Certain other countries also have been using these naval facilities.

We should make a distinction in our mind with regard to the military aspect and the civilian aspect. Whereas it is possible to pinpoint if there are any naval facilities or bases of the type that I have mentioned, if the super-powers including the Soviet Union have got any facilities from the super-powers or others with regard to port facilities for civilian and innocent shipping, that is a normal international arrangement. No useful purpose is served by spelling out that this country has got the port facilities...

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Why are you soft with Russia ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am not soft with Russia.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : How innocent are the fishing trawlers ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : As innocent as the word 'innocent' and as innocent as Mr. Sondhi is, both in putting insinuating questions as well as in eliciting information.

In this respect, I have already made the statement that according to our information, the Soviet Union has not got any military or naval base in any of the Indian Ocean area. This is our present information. The only thing that is mentioned even in the Western press is that they have got fishing arrangement with Mauritius. About that I have already clarified the position as best as I knew in reply to a question put by Shri Goyal.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Are there any facilities in Vizag port also ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Do you want to put a question ? You can go and see. There is absolutely no facility of a naval character which is given to the Soviet Union in Vizag or in any other part of the country. After this categorical statement, there should be no talk of this because it is a little irritating if something does not exist and still every time I am asked to contradict it.

The second question asked is whether we have conveyed our views to U. K., U. S. S. R. and U. S. A. about our opposition to the establishment of military bases in the Indian Ocean area. We have done so and we have conveyed to all these powers and others our total opposition to the establishment of military bases in the Indian Ocean area for the reasons which I have already enunciated.

Thirdly, he asked as to whether Chinese warships have also visited the Indian Ocean. Let us be quite clear in our mind. There is the doctrine of "freedom of high seas". In

the high seas, any warship belonging to any country can come and no other country has got the right to object. If a situation develops which creates any defence problem for any country, it is for them to take matching action. It is for us to protect our interests, our coasts and our sea lanes and, for that, I have already made a statement as to what we are doing. If the Chinese warships have visited the high seas in the Indian Ocean area, I will not be surprised. I cannot say, they have not come. They might have or may not have come. But the warships of all the countries come to the high seas. That is not something about which I can take any special notice even if I should feel great concern about it.

The last question that he put was that, apart from subscribing to a declaration, anything more precise can be done in conjunction with countries like Ceylon and Indonesia. My reply is yes. It can be done. That is the reason why Indonesia and Ceylon are also signatories to the Lusaka declaration. They also subscribed to that. So, all of us think alike. The non-aligned countries—most littoral countries of the Indian Ocean are non-aligned—have subscribed to the Lusaka Declaration. I have no doubt that the signatories to the Lusaka Declaration will discharge their responsibility under this Agreement in denying any such facility to any outside country. We can also take joint action in the U. N. and elsewhere to ensure that requisite pressure is built against countries who might be wanting to establish military bases. I may also tell the House that these documents, including the Lusaka Declaration, have been formally presented to the United Nations by President Kaunda himself. They have been circularised as U. N. documents to all the member nations.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI (Nagaur) : While lengthening of shadow in the Indian Ocean by international maritime powers would certainly exercise the minds of the people and the Parliament and, while we should equally condemn whichever power it is, whether it is U. K. or U. S. A. or France or U. S. S. R., who has any ulterior designs on the hitherto placed waters of the Indian Ocean, one thing strikes out in the presentation of the hon.



Minister. And that is that he has clearly not only defined the scope and role of the presence of other Naval powers in the Indian Ocean but has gone out of the way to withhold information or to give sketchy or inadequate information about the exercises and about the presence of the Soviet naval power in Indian Ocean. (*Interruptions*) I have definite information and, therefore, I am putting this question to the hon. Minister. I do not know what is his definition of a military character of Soviet naval fleet, but, as far as I know—and this has been widely reported in dependable international press as well as intelligent sources in our own country—that to-day there is a total presence of about 20 warships flying the flag of the Soviet Union in the region of Indian Ocean. These ships, according to our information, include 4-8 cruisers and destroyers, both missile-equipped, and 1-5 regular destroyers. They have some 6-10 support ships and 4-10 of what they call scientific research ships—but the whole country know for what purposes they are used. They are called fishing vessels but they do espionage work. Apart from these there is an unknown number of submarines that have been travelling throughout the length and breadth of the Indian Ocean.

I would like to draw his particular attention to the installation of a definite base in the island of Socotra. I would also like to remind him that Socotra is hardly about 1400 nautical miles from Bombay as the crow flies. To that island there has been a continuous traffic of Soviet marines to the extent of 1200-1500 people who have taken charge of not only the communication centres there but also the defence installations that have been put up. This also, I think, has been published in the international military publications of the kind known to him.

In spite of all this, I would like to know whether any protest has been lodged or attention has been drawn of the Soviet Union and all other countries bringing to their attention the desirability that this cold war should not be brought into the Indian Ocean and what particular steps have been taken by the Government in view of this information? I have got the names of the warships. I have got the time table that they use. I know the

dates when these marines have been off-loaded at Socotra for these purposes. In view of this, would you consult your hon. colleague, the Defence Minister, our Embassy in South Yemen and our intelligence sources in the various embassies that are involved in this and take definite steps to tell once for all the country as to what the correct situation in this matter is?

The second question I would like to ask is: in view of our friendly relations with the USSR, would the Government of India specially plead with them that this is not desirable in the interests of peace, tranquility and stability of this region and in view of not only the declaration of the Lusaka Conference but also the well-defined policy of the Government of India? What steps would you take to liquidate this growing presence of the naval ships of foreign powers in the Indian Ocean?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The hon. Member prefaced his question by saying that it has been reported in the Western Press and is also known... (*Interruptions*) Reliable Press...

AN HON. MEMBER : Reliable Western Press.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The Western Press, according to you, is always reliable. He was saying that it has been reported in reliable Press and has also come to him from intelligence sources. Now, I hope he has not in his mind the Indian intelligence sources unless the intelligence reports that come to me and those that go to him are different. If he has some other intelligence source, I would be grateful if he could, in confidence, share it with me, this intelligence source upon which he has drawn to frame his questions. I shall be grateful to him. I do not like to embarrass him. I shall be grateful if he could pass on that source of intelligence also to me so that I can have a second check on my intelligence source. (*Interruptions*) This is only a friendly suggestion.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : What would you do with that information?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : You do not know what to do with this information. I

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know how to use that information. The only use that you can make of that is to throw mud on us, but our task is something more important—to defend the country... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGA : This should not go on record. This is very unfair on his part.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : He told me that I have not given the information about the Soviet Union. If he carefully goes through it he will find this. The question asked was as to whether the Soviets have got any military base in the Indian ocean area to which my reply is No. If they have not got one I cannot say they have got naval base here. Then he asked a specific question about the newspaper reports that have appeared in the Western Press about Socotora island. Our ambassador in South Yeman, as soon as this information appeared in the newspapers, got into touch with the Government of South Yeman and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Yeman has made a categorical statement to our ambassador that there is no truth in the statement that Socotora island was being leased to the USSR. He ascribed the story to Jewish propaganda.

So, this is the information that South Yeman Government has officially conveyed to us. If the Intelligence source of Mr. Somani gives a different version, I will be glad to make a second check up if I am satisfied about the authenticity of his source of intelligence.

About the other questions that have been asked, about the presence of the USSR ships in the Indian ocean, about their numbers and all that, I cannot really either contradict or confirm the actual number of ships that might be there. But, I have already made a statement that USSR ships, both naval as well as fishing trawlers, and also for collection of scientific data etc. are present in the Indian ocean in the high seas. I do not see how—subscribing as we all do to the freedom of high seas—can we take objection to the presence of naval ships on the high seas, whether they are the Soviet ships or the Pakistani ships or the Chinese ships or the

American or the British ships. There is a certain limit beyond which we cannot go.

But, we have clearly told the USSR, the British, the French and the Americans and the others that they should desist from establishing any military base in this region because, by doing that, they will be increasing tension in this region. We will continue to pursue that policy whichever may be the parties concerned.

SHRI RANGA : They are unusually in large numbers.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It has not come to our notice that they are in any unusually large numbers.

SHRI RANGA : There are so many submarines.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Well, Sir, I think, I have answered all the questions.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : I did not rule out the presence of Soviet ships in the high seas. All I wanted to know was this : How many are there in the high seas ? I am not requesting the External Affairs Minister to direct the ships to go away.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right. Mr. Lobo Prabhu.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is no answer.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Sir, a country's defence and foreign policy does not work in a vacuum. We have to identify our possible enemies. I would like to know specifically from the External Affairs Minister and the Defence Minister whether we are identifying UK or USA as potential enemies of this country. We are a democracy. Do we expect an attack from other democracies ? The British have withdrawn for once from India and the British and the Americans are not believed by any one to have intentions to come to India. They have gone away. This is the position and you have to identify your enemy and therefore, I am asking this specific question. Are you identifying UK and USA and the other democracies as your enemies ? My next question is this.

Our possible enemies are very well known. We have Pakistan on the one side and China on the other. And both together are now united with the USSR, they are a communist band.

In reply to a question by Shri Shri Chand Goyal, the hon. Minister denied that the Gwadar was being developed by the USSR but he said that they might give some help.

May I ask him a specific question whether the same was not the position in Alexandria where collaboration for the development of a submarine base or a naval base ultimately led to collaboration and use of the same base? The development of Gwadar as also Visakhapatnam is a possible inlet for the USSR into the Indian Ocean. About Visakhapatnam, we had been asked to desist from putting questions. But I would like the hon. Minister to answer a simple question. May I know whether any ships other than Russian are allowed in that base, because it has become an exclusive *mare nostrum* of the Russians? The hon. Minister can deny it if there is any foreign ship allowed in Visakhapatnam where the Russians are in position.

May I also know whether Government have identified, in addition to these three countries, any other potential enemies of this country? Has the hon. Minister particularly realised that communism is an aggressive force, and is a new imperialism and all the coastline right from Suez to Aden to Hanoi is now dominated or influenced by communism? Is the hon. Minister prepared to recognise that this country faces communism as its main enemy.....

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur):** The main enemy is the Swatantra Party.

**SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:** The main enemies are the Swatantra Party and the Jan Sangh.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU:** My hon. friends are disturbing me, because they are themselves disturbed by facts. But these enemies must be recognised. If the Government of India does not recognise that communism is the

enemy of democracy, it is living in a blind world. Therefore, I demand, that the hon. Minister should explain to us how he is going to protect himself from this banding together of communists in different countries through Soviet Russia which is also having a naval base which he has forgotten to explain to us; it has got its mooring buoys in the Indian Ocean sea-shelf which can become the nucleus of a naval base. Therefore, let him not give us answers which are elliptical and which avoid the real question. The real danger to democracy in this country is from communism.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH:** I would not like to enter into an academic discussion about communism being a real danger. I have no doubt that to the Swatantra Party, communism is the real danger; but not all progressive forces in the country are a danger if Shri Lobo Prabhu sheds some of his conservatism, I think he will also see the danger in the proper perspective. He has worked himself up to such an extent and has been so much indoctrinated by a certain type of literature that he uses almost the same phrases which are used by others.

As regards his theory about potential enemy, in international life, there is no such thing as either a permanent enemy or a potential enemy or a potential friend or a potential enemy. The national interests are the predominate interests, and if anything comes in conflict with it, whether it be capitalist or communist or neutral or dictatorship, our national interests prevail. There is no question of communism or any other thing being the real danger to the country. So far as we are concerned, so far as our country is concerned, whatever may be our internal troubles or differences, we can sort them out at the election-time in the election campaigns. The hon. Member can go to the constituency of one of the communist members and he can convince the voter there that there is a great danger there. But so far as the defence of the country and the interests of the nation are concerned, we should not try to confuse it in these ideological and political connotations. There is no point in saying which country is our potential enemy or which country is our potential friend. We have to be vigilant all the time, and take corrective

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action whenever we face any danger from any country.

Then he made a sweeping assertion about Vizag notwithstanding a very categorical statement I have made. I say that Vizag is our port. Today it is principally used for civil purposes. When he said that no ship can enter Vizag except Russian ones, I think he does not know what he is talking. I do not know what he means. There are Japanese ships, other commercial ships, coming all the time to Vizag.

**SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK :** He meant naval ships.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** We are developing certain facilities there at the present moment. They are not even complete and are not yet ready. When they are in the process of construction, we do not encourage any foreign ship, particularly naval ships, to do there. No ships are at the present moment allowed in the area where we are developing these facilities. There is no question about it. I do not know why he is unnecessarily importing something which is not based on information, not based on knowledge. It is entirely incorrect.

About Gwadr, our present information is that there is no such arrangement. If the Swatantra Party, which has some good links with Pakistan, has some further information in confirmation of that, that they have those facilities, we will be the wiser. We would like to know if Pakistan has really given any facilities.

**SHRI RANGA :** I would like to correct him. He is making irrelevant remarks. We have no connection with Pakistan any more than my hon. friend, opposite might be having; we do not have any connection.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** I have connection because I am dealing with their Government. Also I have been a student of a University which is now in Pakistan. So I cannot deny connection.

**SHRI RANGA :** But we do not have even that.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** I thought that perhaps he had more information that what is available with us.

**SHRI PILOO MODY :** That is always true.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** Yes—information of a very spurious and fatty character rather than of substance.

Our information, both from Pakistan sources as well as from the USSR, is that there is no such arrangement about a USSR naval base at Gwadr. But it is still a matter on which I would like the co-operation of the hon. members. Even if they do not want to make a public statement, I will be glad to shift any further information they may have from any source.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** Does he not read newspapers ?

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** I do not depend on newspapers.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I am very happy that this debate has gone on at a very high level. A number of misunderstandings have been cleared. Wrong information has been corrected. I am sure this will clear everything.

**SHRI RANGA :** Some of his angry remarks were out of place.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Now, if I do not go out of the way, I congratulate the Prime Minister on her birthday.

**THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) :** Thank you very much.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** कुछ मिठाई का इन्तजाम भी तो कीजिये ।

**MR. SPEAKER :** I do it on the behalf of all of us. Sweets and other items are due to us.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The birthday cake should be laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : Very good idea.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I will bring one.

12.57 hrs.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

PAPERS RE : SESSIONS OF INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON PLANTATIONS AND STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BISHWANATH ROY) : On behalf of Shri B. J. Azad, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Main Conclusions (Hindi and English versions) of the Thirteenth Session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations held at New Delhi on the 10th July, 1970. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4309/70*]
- (2) A copy of the Main Conclusions (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-ninth Session of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on 23rd-24th July, 1970. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4310/70*]

PAPERS RE : MP STATE AGRO-INDUSTRIES CORPN. AND RICE MILLING INDUSTRY (REGULATION) ACT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) : On behalf of Shri Shinde, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh State Agro-Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal for the year ended the 31st March, 1970 along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the

Comptroller and Auditor General thereon under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4311/70*]

- (2) A copy of Notification No. G. S. R. 852 (Hindi version) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1970 containing corrigendum to Notification No. G. S. R. 553 dated the 20th June, 1970, under sub-section (4) of section 22 of the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act, 1958. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4312/70*]

PAPERS RE : AUDIT REPORTS (COMMERCIAL) POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) :

I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Audit Report (Commercial) 1970-Part VI, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4313/70*]
- (2) A copy of the Audit Report, Posts and Telegraphs, 1970 (Hindi version) under article 151 (1) of the Constitution, read with sub-section 3 (ii) section 3 of the Official Languages Act, 1963. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4314/70*]
- (3) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Posts and Telegraphs for 1968-69 (Hindi version). [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—4315/70*]

12.58 hrs.

#### MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha :—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held