

[Shri R. K. Malviya]

accident at Junawani Manganese Mine, Madhya Pradesh, on the 1st June, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1416/63]

- (d) Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines on the fatal accident at Kargali Quarries, Hazaribagh, Bihar, on the 4th June, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1471/63]

12.24 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 14th August, 1963, agreed without any amendment to the Export, Quality Control and Inspection) Bill, 1963, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 1963”.

STATEMENT RE. AGREEMENT WITH U.S.A. AND U.K. ON SUPPLY OF RADAR EQUIPMENT. FOR I.A.F.

Mr. Speaker: Statement by the Prime Minister.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Mr. Speaker, I would gladly read this statement but if you would invite me to place it on the Table of the House, I will do so.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a long one?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Five pages

Mr. Speaker: He may lay it on the Table of the House; I will have it circulated

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Can you give us a summary or at least the last

paragraph? A brief gist could be given.

Mr. Speaker: That will be circulated. It is laid on the Table.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As a matter of fact, a Press communique was issued about it; more than a summary was given in it and it was issued some days ago. I cannot give another summary of it except to read this out.

Statement

In the statements that I made last week I acquainted the House with certain recent developments along our borders and particularly referred to the concentration of Chinese forces along our northern borders. Since the massive Chinese attack last October, we have been engaged in building up the requisite defence potential to meet any future aggressive threat from China.

Apart from strengthening and equipping the Indian Army to meet the special defence needs of the situation along our borders, we have also been considering various ways of strengthening the Indian Air Force and our air defence arrangements.

Action has been taken to make up the deficiency in Indian Air Force transport capacity by acquisition of additional transport planes—AN-12s from the USSR, Caribous from Canada, High Altitude helicopters from France and the USSR and Fairchild Packets from the USA.

Deficiency of certain types of spares for our Air Force planes is also being made up by getting these from France and the United Kingdom.

The lack of early warning and continuous radar coverage has been another deficiency which seriously limits the capacity and the effectiveness of the Indian Air Force to provide adequate protection against a likely Chinese air threat. This deficiency is being met by an agreement reached

with the USA and UK for the supply of radar and related communications equipment and for training of Indian Air Force technicians to man these installations. A press release on this subject was issued sometime back. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House for ready reference.

The main features of this agreement are:—

- To start with the US Government will send to India some Mobile radar sets with related communications equipment. Indian technicians will be trained and will progressively assume responsibilities for the operation and maintenance of these installations.
- (2) Within a period of 12 to 18 months the United States Government will also send a certain number of permanent radar installations with related communications equipment which will cover almost the entire northern border and which will replace the mobile installations sent earlier. These permanent radar installations will be the property of the Government of India and will be manned by Indian Air Force technicians who would have been trained in the use of these sets.
- (3) A complicated and extensive system of radar coverage like the one proposed to be set up requires to be tested under operational conditions through Air Defence Training Exercises with a variety of planes including high performance aircraft. The United States, the United Kingdom and the Australian Governments have agreed that high performance fighter aircraft from their Air Forces will visit India temporarily and participate in Joint Training Exercises under overall Indian Air Force aegis for this purpose.

Our pilots and air crew will also gain valuable experience regarding the latest techniques of air defence from these Joint Training Exercises. At all times, during the air exercises and otherwise, responsibility for the air defence of India will continue to vest in the Indian Air Force.

The holding of these Exercises does not commit the U.S. or the U.K. Governments to any action in the event of a Chinese attack upon India. In accordance with normal Commonwealth understanding the British Government will in this event immediately consult with the Government of India. Similarly, the United States Government will consult with the Government of India regarding further assistance in India's air defence. We, on our part, have made it quite clear that the defence of India including its air defence is wholly and solely the responsibility of the Government of India.

I find that these arrangements have been misunderstood and various types of criticisms have appeared. Some people have said that these exercises are of no help to India as we do not have high performance supersonic aircraft. The question of acquiring high performance supersonic aircraft is a separate matter. But it is necessary that our technicians who will man the radar and the related communications equipment must get the necessary training to work with all types of aircraft—those that we have as well as other high performance aircraft.

Another criticism is that by allowing foreign aircraft to come here even temporarily and take part in these joint training exercises under the aegis of the Indian Air Force, even if these are exercises for purposes of training, we are in some way departing from our basic policy and allowing basis in India to foreign aircraft. I find it difficult to appreciate this criticism. We want our Air Force tech-

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nicians to be trained fully to man this highly sophisticated equipment including effective handling of the equipment under operational conditions and servicing of all varieties of aircraft including high performance aircraft. We do not at present have high performance fighter aircraft of our own. But that is no reason why we should not go ahead with this training using high performance foreign aircraft who are willing to participate in these training exercises under the aegis of the Indian Air Force. These foreign aircraft will come for a limited period—for a few weeks—participate in the joint training exercises and go away.

If we wait till we acquire high performance aircraft and train our pilots to man them before we undertake training of the Indian Air Force technicians in manning the permanent radar and related communications equipment the whole programme of strengthening our air defences will be delayed for a considerable time. There is no need to delay this. We must go ahead as quickly as we can. We have, as I said earlier, made it quite clear that this participation of foreign aircraft for a few weeks merely for training purposes does not make the slightest difference in our basic position that the responsibility for the air defence of India is solely that of the Indian Air Force.

Before I conclude, I would like to add that a technical team which had gone to U.S.S.R. and Czechoslovakia to explore the possibilities of getting defence supplies returned to Delhi three or four days back. The general report given by the team indicates that there are good prospects of acquiring additional equipment we require for strengthening our air defence arrangements and for our defence production and other defence requirements.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the reported statement by the Defence Minister a couple of days ago that it will not be before March, 1964 that the western air equipment—United States and United Kingdom—will arrive in this country, what are the prospects of an effective air resistance by India in the event of a possible invasion by China—which God forbid—in the near future? Not before March, 1964—that is what the Defence Minister said.

Mr. Speaker: What information can be given on this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are making various arrangements, radar arrangements, which will add to our power of air resistance. That will grow. In the course of the next few weeks some of it will be in position,—the mobile radar stations. They would be replaced next year, or about this time next year, or a little more, by permanent stations. Till then, the mobile stations will remain here and will be functioning. When the permanent stations are placed there, the mobile stations will be taken away.

12.26 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL*

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1963-64.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the