

फिर बाद में जब उनका चुनाव हो जाय तो उनको भी उसमें डाल दिया जाय, इसमें क्या कठिनाई है ?

श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह : माननीय सदस्य के सुझाव पर मैं विचार करूंगा ।

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 169...Q. No. 170...The members are absent. I have been having this phenomenon for the last three days.

AN HON. MEMBER: They are from the ruling party.

MR. SPEAKER: From each section of the House.

Super Power confrontation in Indian Ocean

*171. **SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in local daily of 30th May, 1980 'Indian Ocean is increasingly becoming an arena of super power confrontation'; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have been newspapers reports to this effect.

(b) India is committed to the UN Resolution of 1971, regarding the establishment of a Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, we are concerned by the fact that there has been a heavy increase in the military presence of the outside powers in the Indian Ocean. We believe that great power military presence and competition in the Indian Ocean is inimical to the peace and stability of this area.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: contrary to the assurance given to the

littoral countries, Diego Garcia is now built up as a formidable naval and air base in that sensitive area by USA. Not only that, according to an expert's report, about 21 warships including Aircraft Two Task Force are facing now 12 fighting ships as also 15 support ships of the Soviet Union in that region. The Indian Ocean has become a region of confrontation and rivalry. Not only that; it has become a cock-pit of tension and pressure. Under these circumstances, will the Minister state whether the Government of India is going to initiate steps to advance the Colombo summit meeting of 1981 on Indian Ocean, with the support of the littoral countries?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: It may not be possible to advance it at this stage; but we are making all preparations to see that the conference is effective. We are in touch with the littoral countries, each of which is equally worried and equally concerned. There have been some consultations in New York; and now I think the stage is set for the conference in Colombo. Our thrust has been, and will be to make the great Powers themselves responsible for the implementation of the declaration, as opposed to the littoral and hinterland States getting bogged down in consideration of inter-se interests. So, this is our approach; and this is our thrust. And I don't think that there is any other alternative, except to mobilize world opinion, and particularly the opinion of all countries in this area on this matter.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: What is the reaction of the Government of India to a proposal for the setting up of a small task force of littoral countries to sensitize world opinion, and also to coordinate the response of the littoral countries to the external interference in this region?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The conference is being prepared for. There is no need for any task force, as I see it. But if there is any need to take other countries into confidence and impress upon them the need for this conference and the need for a favourable result from it, that could be done. I don't think we need to call it a task force, because it gives a different meaning altogether.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Under the provisions of International Law as they exist at present, there is not much that can be done about the mere passage of ships, even of they are war ships, through the Indian Ocean waters, i.e. ships which are in passage or motion. But a distinction should be made between this and the question of setting up fixed bases in that area. That is the position. I would like to know why the Government of India does not seem, recently, to be very much concerned—they may be concerned, but they are not giving public expression to it—about the fact that the USA openly declared this: there is a statement by Mr. Warren Christopher, Assistant Secretary of State during a National Television interview in the United States, where he has said—and I quote:

“Since Diego Garcia harbours have been deepened to accommodate aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines and the runways have been lengthened to permit the big nuclear weapons-carrying bombers to take off and land, the USA will, from now on, have a permanent military presence in the area, the Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Warren Christopher said....”

So, I would like to know whether the Government is drawing any distinction between the movement and passage of ships, to whichever Power they may belong, through these waters—because I don't think anything can be done under the international law about it—as opposed to deliberate setting up of a permanent

military presence, as in Diego Garcia.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are very much conscious of this distinction. We have made a full note of what is happening there; and it is not correct to say that there has been any diminution in our concern lately. It is not correct.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Taking Mr. Indrajit Gupta's question forward, I grant that Diego Garcia has created tension in the Indian Ocean area. But the number of war ships of the Soviet Union, in terms of ship-days, has also vastly increased. In fact, the Soviet warships' presence in the Indian Ocean has gone up 5 or 6 times, whether they make a distinction in this regard; whether they consider the presence of both the bases and the warships as.....

MR. SPEAKER: I think this question has already been answered.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: No, it has not been answered. Whether they consider them on par; whether he considers one more acceptable than the other.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is a conference going on in regard to furtherance of this cause. Now when the conference goes on, it will take up all these matters in all these aspects. I need not sit in judgment over anything right now. (*Interruptions*) It is not proper.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Whether the government considers confrontation in the Indian Ocean as a danger to peace and contrary to the idea of this Ocean being declared a zone of peace; if so, whether the Government of India consider the movement of ships and installations in Diego Garcia as a hostile act; whether the Government consider in conjunction with the littoral countries to get it declared in the Non-aligned Conference that this is an hostile act.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: It was as far back as in 1971 that the Indian Ocean was designated for all time as a zone of peace.

So far as the declaration part is concerned, it has been done by the United Nations, and when it has been done by the United Nations; it is an attempt deemed to have been made by every nation which is represented in the United Nations. It is not merely a question of declaration; it is a question of how we enforce the declaration and that is what it is all about. (*Interruptions*) It is not possible to permit....

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is this not a hostile act by these Super Powers?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The United Nations is going to convene a conference on whatever further declarations are to be made. It is better that we leave it to that conference.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: What is happening in Diego Garcia is the strengthening the fleet of U.S. warships which are 37 in number by now. Have you raised any protest against it to them, the US Government, in this respect? He has mentioned in that statement that this matter should be raised by public opinion. What measures he has adopted for raising public opinion against this?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have already said that this matter has been taken up. We have conveyed our concern at the highest level. But what remains to be done is mobilization of world opinion, particularly the opinion of the littoral countries; not that the littoral countries have not expressed themselves so far; they have. But this has to be done again and again until we succeed in our objectives. That is why this conference is being planned and we are making elaborate arrangements to see that the conference is successful.

Former Prime Minister's secret meeting with South African Prime Minister

***172. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, had a secret meeting with the South African Prime Minister at Frankfurt; and

(b) if so, whether the purpose and content of these talks have been ascertained?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) According to available information, Shri Morarji Desai had a meeting in Frankfurt in June, 1979, with the South African Foreign Minister, Mr. R. S. Botha. This has been confirmed by Shri Morarji Desai himself in his statement to the press reported on 16 May, 1980.

(b) Government have made efforts to ascertain the purpose and content of the talks but without success, as there is no record of the meeting available.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I would like to know, as far as the Minister is aware, whether this is the first occasion at least since independence when a Minister of the Central Government of India has had any personal contact with Minister level representative of the South African Government or whether there have been any other occasions when such talks have taken place or contacts have taken place?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: As far as I am aware, this is the first occasion. There is a total ban on Indian nationals going to South Africa on business or for tourism leave alone the heads of the Governments or members of the government talking to each other.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: In that case, if that is the interpretation of