

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether to meet the everwidening tele-communication needs and facilities, the expansion of the tele-communication system in the country during the coming years needs a tremendous expansion of the State owned Hindustan Cables Limited also in the future years. If so, may I know the plan made by the Government to meet the future needs in this regard.

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: Well, this project takes into account the requirements of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in the field of jelly-field cables and conductor kilometers cables also. So, as and when the project is completed, there will be very little gap that will remain to be imported.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: What is the total employment potential of the cable project?

SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI: The employment potential will be about a thousand persons.

Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctic

+

*44. SHRI R. R. BHOLE:

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL
SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 21 member Indian Scientific Expedition led by Dr. S. Z. Qasim successfully completed the Antarctic Voyage in January, 1982;

(b) if so, the details of the expedition, difficulties experienced, expenditure incurred on the voyage and the data collected by them in the fields of glaciology, meteorology, Geo-magnetism etc.;

(c) the future plans to send similar teams to explore resources like oil, gas, coal, gold etc.; and

(d) whether Government propose to apply for the membership of the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND ENVIRONMENT AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement in this regard was made on the 19th February. A sum of approximate Rs. 2 crores is estimated to have been spent on the expedition.

(c) A decision will be taken after assessing the report of the team which is yet to be received.

(d) There is no such proposal.

SHRI R.R. BHOLE: Sir, I am glad our first Indian Scientific expedition to Antarctica has successfully landed and the Prime Minister was good enough to move the House to congratulate our Indian Scientific Expedition Team and Dr. Qasim. Probably it will take-according to the note presented before this House-some time before we could perhaps find the results. Sir, I would like to know what are the consequences of our landing in Antarctica comparable to the other nations landing on the moon? In other words, are there any rights vested in us when we land there or is it comparable to the rights vested in the nations which have landed on the moon?

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Why not send a delegation of MPs there?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): To the moon? If you put down your name for going to the moon, we shall certainly consider it.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:
One way or both ways.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:
Both ways.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We can't take the risk of losing such an important member.

MR. SPEAKER: Dont go there and get moon stuck.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, so far there are no rights. It is when we undertake some substantial experiments and research that we can claim to have greater rights. But, of course, once we have reached there it shows that we can go again and do further work. For the time being we have to study the data. The team has not yet returned to Delhi. They are coming in a day or two. Then we will know more about this achievement. But as I have said before we do not subscribe to the theory that only some nations have rights in other areas whether it be the moon or Antarctica or any part of this globe or any other planet. Dr. Subramaniam and others may not be able to make journey to the moon soon, but we do hope that sometime an Indian will be able to go there.

SHRI R. R. BHOLE: Sir, in the note it has been stated that some rock samples which appear to be similar to the rocks found in Deccan were also collected. However, detailed analysis will be needed to establish whether the Deccan and Antarctica were joined together at any time. I am happy to say, Sir, that we people from Deccan are kinsmen of the Antarctica people. (*Interruptions*) But I find that the site of the unmanned weather station is named 'Dakshin Gangotri'. Sir, if we can establish some connection between Deccan and Antarctica, it should be called 'Dakshin Gangotri-Kaveri or Dakshin Gangotri—Godavari'.

Mr. Speaker: If name can satisfy the hon. Member then I think the Prime Minister will have no objection.

SHRI R. R. BHOLE: Sir, what is the membership of Antarctica?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: Is it the team? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI R. R. BHOLE: Not the team. I am talking about the Membership relating to the original Antarctica Treaty.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: The hon. Member talked about the rock samples being similar to that of the Deccan. I think that he is quite aware that at some stage or the other we did study about the 'Continental Drift' and may be, from the samples that have been collected, this point could be ascertained, whether this 'draft' was a mere figment of imagination or it was really true. The second part of his question is this. The hon. Member wanted to know as to who are the Members of the original treaty. Initially, when the Treaty was signed in 1961 there were 12 countries who become members. They are:

Argentina
Chile
New Zealand
Australia
Norway
France
U. K.
U. S. A.
U. S. S. R.
Japan
South Africa; and
Belgium.

Later on, two other countries joined the Consultative Committee and these are:

West Germany; and
Poland.

This is the original committee and it is known as the 'Consultative Committee', with a right to veto and to take decisions; under the Antarctica Treaty all these rest with this committee alone.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Will the hon. Minister kindly let us know the time when this team to the Antarctica completed its work? (*Interruptions*) I want to know when the voyage of the team was concluded. I want to know also the distance covered. I want to know the entire time taken by this team to complete its voyage.

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH: The team left Goa on the 6th December and reached the Antarctica on the 9th January, 1982 and they have come back to Goa on the 21st of this month.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: We are all happy about this brilliant achievement of our scientists, technologists and other persons who are involved. In this connection, I would like to ask one question. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the press reports which have appeared in the U.S.A. where they have questioned not only our right, but, they have imputed some bad motives and political motives also? I want to know the reaction of the Government of India to those reports which appeared in the Press in the United States of America.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: There is no political motive in the sense that they probably insinuated. The political motive is the interest of India. It is in the interest of India to see what greater knowledge and information we can get about the monsoon and other climate conditions.

As I said in reply to another question, we do not subscribe to the view that only a few rich countries have the right to such uninhabited and other places. I think we, and other countries have equal rights.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The team richly deserves the accolades that were received both nationally and internationally.

I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister, how soon guidelines

would be formulated for any follow-up action that would take place? Specifically, a number of countries who have achieved this enormous and courageous task have set up permanent manned stations in the Antarctica. Is the Government of India contemplating such a move? If not, would this be considered?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I think it is too early to give any definite answer to this question. Naturally, all these matters will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question: Shri R. L. Bhatia.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a supplementary on this,— a very important one.

My hon. friend just now said that those who are parties to this Treaty possess the right of veto. Who gave them this right to veto, Sir? Would not the Government consider the advisability of appealing to all the nations, as well as the rest of the countries and nations also, to hand over whatever their interests may be, to the United Nations, instead of leaving all these things to a few signatories of this wonderful treaty?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I think that they have given to themselves the right of veto. But, as I said, if we can show some substantive research, we also can become a member and perhaps exert some pressure.

UNESCO study on British news Media's Connivance with British Intelligence Service

*45. **SHRI R. L. BHATIA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 21 December, 1981 to the effect that a study sponsored by UNESCO has