

preliminary project reports. There were four reasons given in the report. As I have said, this is the latest examination and according to this examination, Haldia is not a suitable site.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: By this noise in this House the CPM and others are trying to create an impression that they are the only people who are interested in Haldia. We are much more interested in Haldia. I want to know from the Minister whether he will have a fresh look into these reports.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I am very sorry to say this that first of all, there is a question of provision of funds also. All these examinations were conducted subject to the availability of funds. If my friend suggest that one more look should be given by some consultant or some expert, I may consider that but this has not been done in other cases because once the consultant's report is available, that is a final thing.

Indian Officials Statement Re: American Arms Supply to Pakistan

*146 **SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the official of the Ministry has made a statement in New York recently that the Government of India does not believe in the assurances of USA in the matter of supply of arms to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether Government had made any attempts to get categorical assurance from USA that Pakistan will not use those arms against India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) During his visit to USA Shri Gonsalves, Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, stated in a press conference that while India had no reason to doubt the sincerity of United States of America, as regards

the supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan, past experience had shown that the arms were invariably used against India. This has been extensively reported in the Indian press.

(b) In view of our past experience in such matters, and for other equally important reasons, the Government of India has urged the U.S. Government to desist from going ahead with any massive supply of arms to Pakistan.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Is it not a fact that Pakistan is demanding still more massive arms aid from the United States? Will that not pose an additional threat to the security of India, even if Pakistan gives an assurance not to use it against India?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is why we have been asking the United States not to supply arms to Pakistan.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE: Is it not a fact that US arms aid to Pakistan and the continued occupation by Soviet military force of Afghanistan together pose a threat to the peace and security of the region and, if so, what steps are taken by the Government to defuse the situation?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: This has nothing to do with the main question. This is a different question...

(Interruptions) This question concerns the statement made by one of our Secretaries. So far as the Afghanistan question is concerned, that would be answered separately. This question is confined strictly to the arms supply to Pakistan and the statement of our Secretary. I do not propose to bring in the question of Afghanistan in connection with the answer to this question. This is very limited. If other questions are put, or if time is allowed for it, I am prepared to discuss it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: In a 'Times of India' report emanating from Islamabad dated 1st March, the Pakistan President is reported to have said that he has received "indirect signals"

from India that it will not be against Pakistan getting military aid, provided it is not extensive and that he considered that this was a "very interesting development". I would like to know the hon. Minister's reaction to this report of the Pakistan President's statement.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We have not given any such signals.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: The hon. Minister said that the Government of India had urged the United States of America not to supply arms to Pakistan. What is the reaction of the United States to your request? Secondly what kind of arms America proposes to supply to Pakistan? In this connection, may I know whether the Government of India has taken any initiative to talk to the Government of Pakistan that they should not arm themselves in this manner?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: When our Foreign Secretary visited Islamabad, he had extensive discussions with the leaders of the Government in Pakistan and he urged upon them the undesirability of arming themselves, because that would only add to the tensions in the area and would not solve any problem. This has been impressed on them.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: What is the reaction of the United States of America to your request?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: USA pointed out that what they propose to supply Pakistan is not really massive, it is only in the nature of normal supplies and, in any case, that would not be directed against India. This, we have pointed out, is an assurance which has been given time and again in the past, and has been violated.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether USA has sent any intimation to the Government of India regarding the kind and type of arms to be supplied to Pakistan?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, we have got only the information of \$ 400 million worth of arms being proposed for Pakistan. In the first place, arms which were already in the pipeline worth \$ 150 million were being expedited, we were told, and later on we had the figure of \$ 400 million.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to reports based on the concern which has been expressed mainly by India and by some other countries of this region also regarding arming of Pakistan, that there is a possibility of these American arms being supplied to Pakistan not directly but through a proxy, namely, Saudi Arabia? Also, I would like to know whether he is aware that Pakistan is again negotiating with the French Government to augment its supply of mirage aircraft. Would he please tell us that apart from this formal approach to the United States Government, what other steps the Government of India may take to see that the re-arming is not actually done through various dubious methods?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are aware of all this and we are in touch with the Governments concerned. We have been trying to impress on them the need not to go ahead with this aid.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the statement made by Ambassador Mr. Goheen in Calcutta recently wherein there was a reference to the cordial relations between the American Government and the then Prime Minister, Morarji Desai? Since the hon. Minister is returning from the States, may I know whether he has known what the special reasons for the cordial relations are and whether he continues them or they have been kept in the cold storage?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, in the first place I have no particular information in regard to any special

friendship and secondly, the reasons therefor.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: Sir, he has said that he had cordial relations with the then Prime Minister.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir I am answering the question on behalf of the Government. We have no information of any special cordial relations with an individual.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just returned from America and other countries. I would like to know whether he had any discussion with U.S. officials and U.S. leaders regarding the arms supply to Pakistan and also whether he had expressed any displeasure and also whether he told them that the arms supply to Pakistan will be deemed as unfriendly act towards India.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, this question did not come up in any discussion. I have been there only for the Group of 77 meeting. After the meeting, I have returned.

Bridge over Ganga

*147. **SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the importance of connecting the coal-belt of Dhanbad and Giridih in Bihar to the Nepal border, *via* Belhar and Katoria;

(b) whether a bridge over the Ganga shall be necessary to complete the construction of this National Highway; and

(c) what steps Government contemplate to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). Dhanbad and Giridih are already connected with Indo-Nepal Border Area by a State

road. The Member presumably desires this road along with a bridge over Ganga to be declared as a National Highway. It is, however, not possible to consider adding at present any new road to the existing National Highway System due to financial constraints and other priority considerations.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, in view of the importance of providing facilities for coal reaching North Bihar and in view of the fact that there is one single road bridge over Ganga in the whole State of Bihar, and the necessity to construct another road bridge at Sultanganj, would the hon. Minister please reconsider the entire matter?

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: Sir, I have not denied the necessity. The necessity is there, the need is there. Our difficulty is the paucity of fund and as soon as the fund is available, we will definitely consider this question.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: I would like to know whether the Government would consider the possibility of including this project in the Sixth Five Year Plan.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already said that so far as we are concerned, I mean, so far as the Ministry of Shipping and Transport is concerned, we do realise the necessity of this road to be declared as a National Highway, but at present we are not adding any new road to the existing National Highway and that is due to paucity of fund and we will definitely consider this question as soon as the fund is available.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: The Government's decision to have a bridge on the river Ganga at an equal distance like Buxar and Patna is being flouted by not providing funds for a bridge at Sultanganj or Bhagalpur. So, may I know what action Government propose to take on the reports of the past expert committees submitted to them?