

is absolutely a puppet Government depending on the USA for its barest existence, would the Government of India consider the question of derecognising it and establishing better relations with the PRG ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : This question has been answered more than once on the floor of the House.

DR RANEN SEN : I have asked it now as it arises out of this question.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The revalidation of the *visas* for six months does not give any cause to take the type of action suggested by the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER : This question was answered a number of times. The question at present before us is concerning the revalidation of *visas*.

Protest to U.S.A. and U.K.

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*384 **SHRI P. GANGADEB :**
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have protested to the U.S.A. and Britain for their moves to build up a base at Diego Garcia Island in Indian Ocean ;

(b) if so, their reaction thereto ;

(c) whether U. N. Members have also found concern about it ; and

(d) if so, which are those Countries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Since 1965, the Government of India has repeatedly deplored both to the U. S. and U. K. Governments their decision to set up a base in Diego Garcia in spite of our objections that it could lead to great power military rivalry in the Indian Ocean. We have also brought the Lusaka Declaration on this subject to the notice of the Governments of U. S. A. and U. K. in an Aide Memoire presented to them on 11th December, 1970.

(b) No reply has been received from either Government to our Aide Memoire.

(c) The question of military bases in the Indian Ocean has been annually considered in the General Assembly in the context of general de-colonialisation of the area. Attention is drawn to U.N. General Assembly Resolutions of 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969 and 1971.

(d) The countries comprised in the Special Committee of 24 or the Special Committee on decolonisation, have discussed the subject of decolonisation every year.

SHRI P. GANGADEB : In view of the fact that even France is planning to increase its activities in the Indian Ocean or, in other words, the Defence Minister of France, while touring Madagascar area sometime in March, 1972—last month—stated that vessels would soon be permanently stationed in Madagascar, may I know from the hon. Minister, (a) what are the immediate steps taken by the Government to avoid possible tension in the Indian Ocean ; (b) whether the USSR has been apprised for this development and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government ; and (c) whether our Government would initiate further talks for emergent session of the United Nations General Assembly instead of waiting for the next session to come ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : My reply to the first question is that I have mentioned some of the steps that have been taken, namely, the Lusaka declaration and the subsequent declarations in the United Nations and our bilateral approach to the countries concerned. We have not apprised the USSR about the situation. They themselves have the means to know what is happening in this area, and it is not for us to apprise them specially about the situation in this region.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Question.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : By whom—Question by Mr. Mody ? I am not surprised. Now, we have no intention to initiate action for convening a special session of the UN General Assembly.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA : Sir, may I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that the USA has been holding naval exercises in Indian Ocean for the last two years, and during the same period over a dozen Soviet ships made 15 visits to 15 different countries and has signed agreements for an-

chorage and port facilities with some of them and, if so, I would like to know what is the reaction of the Government, and what action has been taken to prevent the activities of the United States of America in respect of its naval exercises in the Indian Ocean.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We cannot do anything to prevent exercises by the navy of any country in the high seas. Our attitude is that this area of Indian Ocean should be spared by these big powers. They should not enter into military rivalry in this region. From that point of view we have been urging on big powers who have the capacity to bring in their naval units in this region to desist from it and also to desist from establishing bases in this region. That is our approach to this problem.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : In the Commonwealth Conference at Singapore and in the conferences of Asiatic countries, Ceylon declared herself in favour of having the Indian Ocean as a peace zone and reiterated this view in the UN Assembly along with the other countries of that region. Recently there was a report in the *New York Times* from its Colombo correspondent and the report says that the Ceylon Government has become silent about that declaration about peace zone. In view of the Indo-Soviet Pact and also the dismemberment of Pakistan, Ceylon is thinking of having negotiations with the United States to give some sort of a counterbalance. If so, has the Government enquired into the matter and tried to disabuse the mind of the Government of Ceylon about any apprehensions from this side of the region ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not think that Ceylon has any apprehensions from India and I would request the hon. Member not to project these ideas on behalf of Ceylon, about Ceylon's policy in this region. We continue to hold the view that they are still in favour of keeping the Indian Ocean as an area of peace, free from Big Power rivalry. Referring to the interpretation given by the hon. Member.....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I have given his interpretation, not mine.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is not uncommon to float such ideas in order to cause some sort of misunderstanding and confusion among the littoral countries of the Indian

Ocean. We should be careful not to fall a victim to this kind of machination...(*Interruptions.*)

SHRI R. S. PANDEY : Taking into consideration the attitude of America with regard to the Indian Ocean and the feelings expressed by the 24 countries Conference at Lusaka that no country should be allowed to have any base in the Indian Ocean what is the reaction of the US Government ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : They are continuing with the construction of what they describe as a communication centre in Diego Garcia. That is the reaction.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : In view of the attitude of the United States and the United Kingdom Governments, it appears that they are not heeding our protests. The Minister has stated that there should be no rivalry between big powers. I want to know whether the Government of India means to say that the Soviets should not send their ships to this Ocean and leave the entire Ocean free for US and UK alone ? Is the Government of the Soviet Union prepared to heed the advice of the Government of India ? Are we prepared to make this unilateral request to the Soviet Union ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : This has nothing to do with that. So far as the high seas are concerned, the navies of various countries, including the USSR, USA, UK and France, would be there.

SHRI PILOO MODY : And the Indian Navy.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The Indian Navy will not always be on the high seas, it will be in the coastal waters also. It is not the presence of naval ships alone, but what we are opposed to is the attempt to convert this area into an area of rivalry and conflict where the Big Powers try to build bases, try to get facilities etc. We are realistic enough not to raise any objection if occasionally the navies of various countries come and pass through this region.

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 385.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Questions Nos. 396 and 397 may also be taken up with this.

MR. SPEAKER : We take all the three together.

Permission not granted to U.S. Ambassador to use his Plane

*385 SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have refused permission to the U.S. Ambassador to use his private plane to go to Ranchi recently ;

(b) whether the U.S. Government has sharply reacted to this act ; and

(c) If so, the nature thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are daily I.A.C. flights to Ranchi from Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

राजदूतों द्वारा निजी विमानों के प्रयोग पर रोक

*396. श्री विमल मिश्र :
श्री ईश्वर चौधरी :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने देश के अन्दर विदेशी राजदूतावासों को अपने निजी हवाई जहाजों द्वारा यात्रा करवे की मनाही कर दी है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस बारे में विदेशी दूतावासों की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Government are considering this. In any case the specific approval of Government is necessary for each flight.

(b) Only two foreign missions are concerned. One has agreed and the other will

also have to agree to abide by Government's decision in the matter.

Personal Aircraft maintained by Foreign Embassies in Delhi

*397. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain Embassies in India are having their own private aircraft for use in the country ;

(b) if so, which are the Embassies having their own planes ; and

(c) what are the conditions for using these aircraft by the Embassy ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Embassies of France and of the United States.

(c) Government's permission is mandatory for each flight. Such permission has been granted or withheld by Government after taking into account factors relevant to each particular flight.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : In view of the answer given by the Minister, I would like to know which Government has not yet agreed to the Government of India's condition that they should not fly their own planes in our country, and why ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We have not yet taken a decision whether we shall put a ban on these flights, but this matter, as I said, is under consideration, under review. We informally consulted the French Embassy, and the Ambassador assured us that they would have no objection. But the U.S. Embassy have not said anything, they are quiet about the whole thing.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : In view of there being no reply from the U.S. Government, may I know whether the Government of India is prepared to take a decision irrespective of their reply ?