

They are fixed for certain days. It is the member's duty to be present.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY** : I do appreciate, Sir, that it is very important. But you have adopted certain procedures by which many members send questions but the names do not come in the ballot. I had sent some questions, but in the ballot the name is not there... (*Interruption*).

**MR. SPEAKER** : You must be prepared for all these contingencies.

**SHRI P. VFNKATASUBBAIAH** : In the absence of a Member, he can authorise another Member to put the question.

**MR. SPEAKER** : He is authorised for the second round.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE** : Suppose, I have tabled a question and the same question has been tabled by some other members, then you have been allowing five names to the questions. Then, in that case, if I am absent, it can be asked by another member. Let there be four or five names to a question.

**MR. SPEAKER** : We have allowed this practice of allowing three names already.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY** : I support the contention of Mr. Banerjee

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय** : अध्यक्ष महोदय, पहले एक एक सवाल के लिए चार-चार और पाँच-पाँच मेंबरों का नाम कलकड रहता था और इस तरह से कोई न कोई उन चार, पाँच में से खड़ा हो ही जाता था।

**MR. SPEAKER** : I did not make these observations to invite a regular debate on it. The list is circulated quite in advance. The Member ought to know. The Member who is not coming should inform us.

**SHRI P. VANKATASUBBAIAH** : According to the procedure, if the Members authorises, it can be taken up along with up along with the other questions.

**MR. SPEAKER** : That is for the second round, not for the first round.

Mr. Samanta.

#### **Shipment of U. S. Arms to Pakistan**

**\*409. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA** : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent shipment from U. S. A. to Pakistan of huge quantities of arms, ammunition and military hardware; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA)** : (a) Government have information on this subject which is being verified.

(b) The impact of these supplies on our security is being assessed so that it can be taken into account in our plans for defence preparedness.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA** : Were any shipments diverted from some other countries ? If so, may I know the names of those countries ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** : There have been press reports that some of the supplies of military hardware from the United States are being diverted to Pakistan through third country sources and these are the reports that we have been verifying.

**SHRI PILOO MODY** : Which countries, he wants to know.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** : The countries that have been mentioned are, Libya, Jordan and Iran.

**SHRI S. C. SAMANTA** : I would like to know the source of information for the Minister.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** : Obviously, we cannot disclose our sources of information.

**SHRI M RAM GOPAL REDDY** I want to know what sort of arms shipments were sent to Pakistan. Has the Minister got any information about it?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** In reply to the original question I have already stated that we have information which we are verifying, but I don't think that unless we have definite information, we should disclose the nature of the information that we have.

**MR SPEAKER** Mr Sathe, you have come on the front line?

**SHRI VASANTRAO PURUSHOTTAM SATHL** I could not catch your eye sitting there.

**MR SPEAKER** No, no. You will have a better chance by being a back-bencher.

**SHRI S M BANERJEE** Members are supposed to ask the questions from their seats.

**MR SPLAKAR** Yes, they are supposed to.

**SHRI S M BANERJEE** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that according to the revelations made by Jack Anderson, the United States Government, despite their denials that they are sending any fresh arms to Pakistan directly, are sending sophisticated weapons to Pakistan through various countries, and if so, whether this matter has been taken up with the US Government, and with what result?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** This matter was taken up with the United States Government, in Delhi as well as in Washington. They have denied it. They have said, "Well, no transfer from third countries can take place, of USA equipment without their knowledge."

**SHRI K. MANOJARAN**. An utter lie.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA**. But, later on, they said that they are looking it, they are investigating whether such a thing has happened or not. Therefore, the

denial was not also categorical, and we are pursuing the matter with them.

**SHRI VASANTRAO PURUSHOTTAM SATHL** Will the hon. Minister say if this shipment is the remnant of the pipeline or in addition to it, and what is the value of the present supply?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** The pipeline was never stopped and these are surreptitious supplies and not pipeline supplies. Pipeline supplies were direct and, therefore, it is obvious that they do not belong to the pipeline so far as pipeline supplies are concerned.

**SHRI VASANTRAO PURUSHOTTAM SATHL** What is their value?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA**. Well, I don't think we can say anything about it, unless we have verified it.

Some hon. Members rose—

**MR SPLAKAR** I am sorry. So many questions have already been asked on it.

Shri Pampan Gowda

#### Visit by Foreign Army Chiefs

\*410 **SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the names of foreign Army Chiefs who visited our country after the recent Indo-Pak war, and

(b) whether they have made any reports on the performance of our Forces in Bangla Desh?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA)** (a) Col. Gen. Viktor Bubanj, Chief of the General Staff, Yugoslav Armed Forces visited India from 25th February to 7th March, 1972.

(b) No, Sir.