

बुद्धा जसना इमने कोई मतलब नहीं है। जान हूनरा सवाल पूछे तो उमका पूरा जबाब दिया जायेगा।

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, I have a supplementary to put.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. I have called the next Member.

Chinese Invitation to Indian Table Tennis Team

*1043. **SHRI H. M. PATEL:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has invited the Indian Table Tennis Team to play in the Asia-Africa-Latin America Table Tennis Friendship Invitational Tournament to be held in Peking in August; and

(b) if so, the implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) The Government of India have not received any such invitation. However, it is gathered that during the recent World Table Tennis Competitions held in Yugoslavia (in April 1973) the Chinese players extended an invitation to the Indian players.

(b) It is a sports matter and it is for the sports organisation concerned to take a decision.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister says that this is a sports matter. Nevertheless, I am glad to see that the External Affairs Minister has agreed to reply to that question. There was a Ping Pong diplomacy of which the Minister is aware. May I ask whether, keeping this thing in mind, he would give consideration to this and would encourage our sports organisation to accept the invitation and also come back with whatever information they can bring?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The hon. Member would no doubt be aware that

sometime back, a Table Tennis Team had gone from India. We had encouraged that team to go. It is for the sports organisation to decide as to whether, on an oral invitation extended to them in another place, in Yugoslavia, they would like to go there or not because, normally in such cases, there is generally an invitation from the parent organisation. So, that is a matter between the inviting organisation and the Indian organisation in charge of the sports. But, we are in favour of the sports teams going from India to China or from China to India.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The Minister has not followed the first part of my question that there has come into vogue an expression called ping pong diplomacy which arose in connection with a table tennis tournament which has been taking place for the last two or three years and one of which was a precursor to the Americans going to China.

MR. SPEAKER: You are stretching this question too far.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The very fact that they have accepted this question shows that it has not to do only with sports organisations, but something more. If it had not been so, they would have declined to accept this question. I would like to ask him what is his understanding of this expression and whether that will be applicable to the present circumstances or not.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Ping pong diplomacy was resorted to between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America because they did not recognise each other and may be both sides were finding an excuse to get together. Therefore, an American team was invited to participate in a ping pong match. But if I may say so, it will be too simplistic to imagine that this refers to any contacts between the two sides. The whole world knows that the US Ambassador and the Chinese Ambassador were constantly meeting each other

in Warsaw. There were some contacts in Paris but in Warsaw there were regular meetings. They had met each other hundreds of times before the ultimate breakthrough took place in their relations. So, let us not be misled by these journalistic expressions like ping pong diplomacy. There were much deeper contacts than the players just playing at the ping pong ball with their rackets.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: During the last visit of our tennis team, may I know whether we on behalf of our sports' organisation with the concurrence of the Ministry of External Affairs invited the Chinese team to visit India? If not, may I know whether any invitation has come from China to any of our sports or cultural organisations to visit China in the recent times?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Not to my knowledge.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The Minister just now mentioned about the ping pong diplomacy between the USA and China. The point is American has no standard in ping pong. But we have reached a certain standard during the recent Swathing Cup tournament. I want to know whether the minister will have any objection if a ping pong team is sent by the Education Ministry of our country to China, whether there will be proper arrangements for passport etc. and whether it will give an opportunity to test whether the ball is in their court or in our court?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I have already said that we will favour teams from one country visiting the other, Indian team going to China or *vice versa*. In these matters we are quite liberal. There was a request from an hon. member belonging to Mr. Banerjee's party that a doctor may be allowed to go to China, because he wanted to study their acupuncture technique and we allowed that. These are the types of technological, cultural or sports matters in which

there can be, and should be, a greater exchange on either side.

Geological Survey of North Bengal

*1044. **SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the assurance given by the former Minister of Steel and Mines, whether any geological survey has been made in North-Bengal, particularly in the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Bihar, where deposits like zinc, copper and also oil-wells are found in large quantity, and

(b) if not, whether his Ministry propose to conduct a geological survey in North Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUBODH HANSDA) : (a) Geological Surveys have already been conducted in North Bengal for minerals like lead-zinc, Copper, Oil and gas. Geological Survey of India have now taken up detailed investigations in promising areas. No further exploration work for oil and gas is considered necessary in the region at this stage, as the geological formation in the area is considered unfavourable for generation of oil and gas.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Last year in reply to my question No. 699 dated the 4th May 1972 it was stated :

"The first phase (1969—74) of the ten-year plan (1969—79) of the Geological Survey of India, in progress, includes systematic geological mapping and preliminary mineral investigation in 1250 sq. km. area in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts and detailed investigations for dolomite and graphite in Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling Districts."