

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

2

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 14, 1973/Phalguna 23,  
1894 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Indo-French Space Commission

\*321. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of **SPACE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Joint Commission for Indo-French space research; and

(b) if so, the functions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) (a) A Joint Commission consisting of representatives of the Indian Space Research Organisation and Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales (the French national space agency) was set up in April, 1972.

(b) The Commission, which will be assisted by Working Groups, will decide on co-operation programmes, subject to the agreement of the authorities under whom CNES and ISRO function; settle the differences that the Working Groups could not resolve or which lie beyond their competence; and approve the annual lists of training programmes in France for ISRO Engineers.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : May I know for how many years this agreement has been reached?

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is not time-bound. There is no time limit in this. It is meant to increase co-operation and I presume it will continue so long as both sides have the willingness to continue the co-operation.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : What are the aims of this research and what is the utility of this research?

MR. SPEAKER : Send him some book on the subject.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is a very wide question. In brief, this involves space research which means technology involving rockets, propellants, ground station, electronic work connected with this and so on. Working Groups have been set up to cover some of these fields. The field is a very wide one and it will take a long time to go into it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: May I know whether this agreement with the French agency is meant to supplement or to replace the arrangement which the ISRO has at present with the American agency, namely, NASA? If it is to supplement that, are the two agreements or arrangements supposed to cover different fields or the same field of space research?

SHRI K. C. PANT : This agreement is not meant to replace any other agreement. The Indian organisation is collaborating with various countries like Germany, France, Japan, UK, USA and USSR. Various agreements are there, including the agreement with NASA to conduct a satellite instructional television experiment in 1975. That is not covered by this at all. But the know-how is common in many cases. Here the areas that were discussed during the first meeting

of the Commission and the visit of the President of the French organisation included launchers, especially the test facilities, technology of rocket and satellites, utilisation of satellites for communication, earth resources, space survey and exchange of scientific and technical personnel.

**SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether France has backed out of the original commitment to assist us in the development of diamond BC satellite launcher and, if so, how has it affected agreement and collaboration with France? How has affected our satellite launching programme?

**SHRI K. C. PANT:** I am not aware of France having backed out of any commitment. The agreement provides for sale of some centaur rockets to India, supply of technical know-how for manufacture of centaur sounding rockets, licence for manufacture and supply of special machinery required for fabrication of rockets, providing technical assistance, training of engineers and also providing know-how for the manufacture of propellants. This is apart from the construction of infrared scanning camera for remote sensing on which India and France has collaborated. These are specific instances of collaboration that I have with me. They will also supply centaur launcher with necessary accessories. Apart from that, I am not aware of this particular launcher.

**SHRI P. R. SHENOY:** What is the amount so far spent on this project by the Government of India? Is there any scheme to spend liberally on the scheme in future?

**SHRI K. C. PANT:** I am not sure how much exactly we have spent. In future, we will spend according to the needs.

About diamond BC satellite launcher, enquired earlier by another hon. Member, I understand that the French Government has dropped the development of this.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** In the development of space science USA and USSR are the two most advanced countries. Japan is

now coming up. We do not know much about the progress of France in this field.

I want to know from the Government as to what are the particular reasons why we are not having our collaboration with both USSR and USA and what are the reasons for our entering into collaboration with a less advanced country in the field of space science like France?

**SHRI K. C. PANT:** I do not really think that that would be the right approach to the question. There has been parallel development in some of the modern fields of science in many countries and many have developed on their own without getting help from outside. France has developed its own technical know-how in many fields. It is not right that one is necessarily less developed than the other.

So far as our collaboration with France goes, it dates back to 1963. They have been collaborating with us right from the beginning and the collaboration has grown and it has been to the mutual advantage of both the countries.

### Approval of Foreign Collaboration Agreements

\*322. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:**  
**SHRI VEKARIA:**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the names of private firms and public undertakings whose proposal for collaboration with foreign firms Governments have been approved during 1972 item-wise and the names of the foreign firms and Governments involved?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):** The number of proposals for foreign collaboration approved by the Government during 1972 is 257. Quarterly statements of foreign