

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: The employees can take loans. Whenever there is need, they can take it.

SHRI K. SURYANARYANA: May I know whether any employer who has not deposited the provident fund money has been prosecuted for violating this rule? What action has the government taken against such persons?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: Whenever the employers do not deposit the amount as required, we take appropriate action. The number of prosecutions launched was 55,590 as on 30th June 75 and 64,745 as on 30th June 76. The number of convictions secured was 35,083 as on 30th June 75 and 37,116 as on 30th June 76. The number of cases launched under section 406/409 IPC was 436 as on 30th June, 75 and 637 as on 30th June 76. The number of cases launched for revenue recovery under section 8...

MR. SPEAKER: Is it a long statement?

SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA: There are only a few more figures.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is a long statement, you can lay it on the Table. Next question.

Colombo Summit Deliberations on American Nuclear base at Diego Garcia

*227. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:**

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American nuclear base at Diego Garcia camp up as a major issue in the Non-aligned Summit at Colombo in August, 1976, and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). The Diego

Garcia base came in for strong criticism during the discussions on the item on the "Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace" at the recently concluded 5th Non-aligned Summit Conference in Colombo. The Conference, *inter-alia*, adopted a formulation condemning "the establishment, maintenance and expansion of foreign and imperialist military bases and installations, such as in Diego Garcia, by the great powers in the pursuit of their strategic interests as well as the continuing escalation of great Power military rivalry and tension in the Indian Ocean as they constitute a direct threat to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of States of the region."

A similar paragraph also figured in the Resolution adopted by the Conference on the subject.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: It is really good news that Diego Garcia has been specifically mentioned and it has come up not only for criticism but for condemnation also. In the formulation quoted by the hon minister it is said:

"the establishment, maintenance and expansion of foreign and imperialist military bases and installations, such as in Diego Garcia...."

It implies that there are other bases and installations by foreign imperialist powers. In the formulation it is said that "it is in pursuit of the Great power rivalry". So far as the Soviet Union is concerned, it has categorically stated, not once but several times, that it is interested in preserving the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. So, there is no question of rivalry, so far as the Soviet Union is concerned. It is very well known that America is building the base in Diego Garcia. So, will the Government tell us which are the other foreign imperial powers, which are building bases and putting up installations in the Indian Ocean, apart from America?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: If he really wants information on facts, in Djibouti France has got a base. I am mentioning this for the purpose of illustration. But the basic question is keeping the Indian Ocean a zone of peace by eliminating the foreign bases, imperialist bases, as you would call it....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is this "imperial and foreign"? Could there be an imperial base, which is not foreign?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: There cannot be, I can understand it. But in a conference like this, to meet the other man's point of view, you have to accommodate certain phrases. Really speaking, there cannot be any non-imperial foreign bases. Foreign base is the basic thing. These bases are certainly imperialistic and we should certainly try to contain them. That is my intention. The great powers are many, not only one or two.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Which are the other great powers which are building up installations there.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister gave the information.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: The question is not who has got it. The question is what are the possibilities. We are trying to provide against potential possibilities.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: In view of the fact that Diego Garcia is so close to our country and also in view of the fact that so many countries have condemned this base, what further action do the Government propose to take to mobilise public opinion and to see that it is eliminated? Secondly, will the hon. Minister be able to give us information about the present stage of the base in Diego Garcia. Lastly, what has happened to the people who were there in that island?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, we are participating in a meeting of the littoral countries to be convened by the Ad Hoc Committee. I think the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee had made a reference to all the participating countries, littoral countries, about their suggestions on the agenda, timing etc. of the Conferences. The recommendations and suggestions from the different countries have been received. If at all the Conference has to be of any practical use, we should secure the participation of the Great Powers in the Conference. Otherwise, it would be just talking at in a conference. So far, I do not think we have succeeded in getting any willingness on the part of the Great Powers to participate in it.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Which are the Great Powers which were approached and which have refused?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: I think I will have to ask this question to the Chairman of the Conference. I am giving you the information I have got.

So far as the present stage of the base is concerned, I think it has advanced quite a bit and it has become operative.

So far as the population of that area is concerned, I think it is well-known—in fact, we were also worried about this controversy—that there were some people and those people were evacuated to some other parts.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The hon. Minister has not stated what steps the summit conference has taken to mobilise world opinion, and whether any strong official protest has been sent to the United States to remove the nuclear base from Diego Garcia.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: It is not a question of sending protests. We have many times stated our views bilaterally also to the United States Government. In my discussions with the Secretary of State I have more than once emphasized this aspect of India's point of view. Of course, we have not received any positive response to that.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: In view of the fact that the non-aligned countries are strongly in favour of peace in the Indian Ocean and adopted a resolution unanimously condemning the nuclear base in Diego Garcia, may I know whether any specific direction was provided to the countries attending the conference to persuade other countries which were outside the non-alignment movement but were not hostile to non-alignment to mollify opinion in the U.N., and whether any such countries outside the non-alignment movement were present as observers when this resolution was adopted by the conference?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: Efforts will have to be made to keep the unity of the littoral States and see that they are not manipulated by others by introducing some extraneous elements in the discussions of the conference. That is one part that will have to be taken care of because attempts are made to introduce such elements as *inter se* rivalry or the naval positions of the States in the Indian Ocean itself. Then, as I said, the major emphasis will have to be to call this conference and secure the participation of the Powers concerned.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: When I referred to non-imperialist bases there was some laughter in the House, but I had a purpose in using that phrase, because we read from press reports of the Colombo Conference that some allegations were made there or attempted to be made by the delegation of Bangla Desh to the effect that in the Indian Ocean security and peace are also threatened by another great Power

or big Power, namely India. This is what they were trying to put across, saying that they were a small country while India was a big one with large naval power.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: They never mentioned India.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It was understood whom they were meaning. So, I would like to know the reaction among other countries regarding this question whether other people also really consider that India is a big Power in the Indian Ocean about which they should be careful and vigilant.

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: As we did not make any reference to this statement in our statement, we can very well say that it was really speaking ignored by others as well as by us.

DR V. K. R. VARADARAJA RAO: The hon. Minister has made it clear that in spite of all the protests and on one great Power has established what is now termed an operational or operative base in the Indian Ocean, and the remedy now sought is to hold another conference trying to get the major Powers to attend it, but so far the major Powers have failed to respond. In case these efforts continue to fail or the littoral States in the Indian Ocean are not in a position to resist the danger that arises from the foreign base, will they permit another Power to come into the Ocean in order to counter the first Power?

SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN: It depends upon the unity of littoral States concerned. This is the basic thing. It is not a question of now asking some other power not to come. What about the power which is already there? This is the main thrust of the question. These problems and these conceptions have to be patiently worked out. There cannot be any quick answer for it in a short time.