

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 12, 1974  
Agrahayana 21, 1896 (SAKA)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Gokulananda Mohanty who passed away at Bhadrak in Orissa on the 4th December, 1974 at the age of 76.

Shri Gokulananda Mohanty was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during the years 1962 to 1967. He was also a Member of the Orissa Legislative Assembly during the years 1952 to 1957. He joined the Freedom Movement during his student days and suffered imprisonment on a number of occasions. A noted social worker, he devoted a major part of his life in rural uplift and social reforms.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while, to express its sorrow.

*(The Members then stood in silence for a short while).*

2954 LS-1

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Indian Ocean

\*435 SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:  
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Lanka has also taken initiative to make the Indian Ocean a Peace-Zone; and

(b) the gist of the talks held between the Foreign Minister of India and Sri Lanka in that regard in November, 1974?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):

(a) Sri Lanka has played a leading part in promoting the proposal.

(b) During the visit of the Foreign Minister to Sri Lanka in November 1974, further exchanges on this subject took place. Both sides agreed to pursue their efforts to secure the objective of establishing the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace.

SHRI N. E. HORO: Sir, I had asked for the gist of the talk that is going on. I would like to know from Government, in view of the fact that the U.S. Senate has decided to curtail their expenditure on Diego Garcia—they have sanctioned 18 million dollars instead of 33 million dollars—what would be the reaction of the Government? Would not the demand or effort for keeping the Indian Ocean a zone of peace become a futile exercise?

Also, in view of the fact that the American and Russian leaders have agreed to some kind of a settlement

in the international field, would that not suffice? And, in that situation, is not our government's commitment for keeping this as a zone of peace a futile exercise?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Sir, it does not matter whether the amount spent by the U.S. is 18 million or 33 million dollars. We are opposed to the expansion of this particular base because that will disturb the peace of the area which will endanger the whole area. Now the question is this. We welcome detente in other parts of the world and as U.S.A. and Russia want the detente to be extended to this part of the world, we very much desire that the base of the Diego Garcia should not be extended.

**SHRI N. E. HORO:** One of the reasons why the U.S. is trying to improve their defence position in Diego Garcia is the presence of the Russian Navy. I would like to know from Government whether in any talks with the U.S.S.R. Government leaders we have made efforts in this regard.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Horo, this is the same question which was posed during this session and the Minister said that even the Secretary-General of U.N.O. denied that there was any presence of the Russian naval base in the Indian ocean. This was very categorically mentioned in this House.

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Sir, I agree with what you have said. I can only say that a military base is certainly different from a naval presence. Further, this is the way through which Russian ships have to go. This is the usual practice. But, building up of a base and expansion of it certainly makes a difference because it will cause disturbances in the whole region.

**SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:** Sir, the UK Government have now granted permission to USA to have its

base there. I would like to know, what is the reaction of our Government and I would also like to know whether they have taken up this matter with UK, in consultation with Sri Lanka?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Sir, UK Government had an agreement even earlier and they have simply repeated this. We are certainly very unhappy about it that the UK Government have finally agreed to grant some additional facilities to the USA for the expansion of the Diego Garcia base.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे : डिप्लोमा गॉगिया में नोर्सेनिक अड्डा बनना जाए इसके सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार ने अभी तक कौन से ऐसे कदम उठाए हैं या लिटोरल कंट्रीज के साथ किस तरह की वार्ता की है ताकि इसका शान्ति का बॉन बनाने के लिए ऐसी स्थिति पैदा की जा सके जिससे यू एस ए या दूसरी जो इम्पीरियलिस्ट पॉलिसि है उनके सम्बन्ध में ऐसे ब्रेसिस् के खिलाफ कार्रवाही करने में मदद मिल सके ?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Sir, we have repeatedly said in this House and in the other House as well as publicly, that we have been making efforts in cooperation with Sri Lanka and other countries in the United Nations to declare the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. We have been repeatedly raising the matter in the United Nations. We did this in 1971 in 1972 and in 1973. Even this year a resolution was passed in the United Nations. Our efforts have been to create a world-wide public opinion through the UN forum so that this area can be declared a zone of peace.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY:** Sir, is it not true that many countries have taken the initiative to make the Indian ocean a zone of peace? Particularly, the Asian countries met at Lusaka and they have passed a una

simous resolution asking the big powers not to hob-nob in the Indian Ocean. I would like to know, what is the reaction of the Government?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Sir, what the hon. Member says is quite true. They have not listened to our appeal up till now. We have been repeating this.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** From the replies that the Minister has given up to now, I get the impression that the concept of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean seems to be co-terminus with the projected base at Diego Garcia. May I know from the Government, whether their concept is as limited as that or whether it also includes, for example, the activities like the recent naval exercises carried out by the fleets of the Five Cento Powers, namely, USA, UK, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan off the Karachi coast in the northern part of the Indian Ocean and how do they view this type of activity in relation to the demands which we, along with Sri Lanka and other countries, have made to keep the Indian Ocean a Zone of peace?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Sir, it is not true that our idea of the Indian Ocean being a zone of peace is confined only to the military base of Diego Garcia. It is not true. We have been repeatedly expressing our opposition to these kinds of exercises, which took place recently and which have taken place earlier. But, this time, it was on a larger scale. It was near the Pakistan border. We feel that it will encourage certain circles in Pakistan to go against the Sankta process and disturb peace in the whole area. We have been opposed to these kinds of exercise all the time.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Apart from our repeated protests and creating world opinion, it is true that India may not be in a position to

take any positive steps to prevent this activity on behalf of the neo-colonialist and imperialist forces threatening the peace in this region. What is the reaction of Government to a recent suggestion of some pacifist organisations who wanted to take a ship of pacifist volunteers to Diego Garcia as a matter of protest very much as the New Zealand people wanted to do at the time of the French nuclear explosion in the S. W. Pacific area?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Any organisation is free to take up any course of action like the pacifist organisations. But so far as Government are concerned, we function at the political level and we have said we are opposed to the expansion of this base in Diego Garcia.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** The naval presence in Diego Garcia is the main irritant in the way of Indo-US relations. May I know whether this subject was formally or informally discussed between the US and India or with the other CENTO powers, to which reference was made by Shri Indrajit Gupta? If not, is there any proposal to hold such a discussion in the immediate future?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** We have taken up this matter with the Governments concerned.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** From the point of view of keeping the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, have Government sent any official protest note to the UK Government for allowing a military base in Diego Garcia to the US? If so, what is their reply?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** We have conveyed our views recently to Dr. Henry Kissinger when he was here. We have communicated our views also to their ambassador stationed in New Delhi. So we have been conveying our views to the US, on op-

position to the expansion of the base in Diego Garcia. Their reply, as I stated earlier in this House itself, is that their views continue to differ from our views.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Have you sent a protest note to the UK?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** Conveying our views or protest is as good as sending an official protest note.

**DR. RANEN SEN:** He is asking about UK.

#### Compensation to Indians for their Assets left behind in Burma

\*437. **SHRI S. N. MISRA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payment of compensation to the persons of Indian origin who left behind assets in Burma figured in the talks held with the Prime Minister of Burma when he last visited India; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI BIPINPAL DAS):** (a) This question was discussed in the talks during the visit of President of Burma, U. Ne Win, to India in April, 1974.

(b) The Claims which were submitted to the Burmese authorities under the provisions of the Notification of the Burmese Government dated December 6, 1973 are under the consideration of Burmese authorities.

**SHRI S. N. MISRA:** By what time do Government expect a settlement would be arrived at?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** It is very difficult to say from our side by what time a settlement will be arrived at. We last took up this matter with the Burmese President when he was here. The matter is still under discussion.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : क्या सरकार को जानकारी है कि वर्मा में अधिकांश बिहार के लोग बसे हुए हैं और वे वहाँ बहुत परेशान हैं वे गंदी बस्तियों में रहते हैं और काफी दुखी हैं। क्या इस तरह की शिकायतें आपकी मिली हैं और इसके सम्बन्ध में आपने वहाँ के राष्ट्रपति के साथ कोई चर्चा की थी ?

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** The question is about compensation to be paid by the Government of Burma for the enterprises taken over.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : वे बहुत परेशान हैं इसीलिए छोड़ कर आए हैं।

संरक्षक मंत्रालय पत्रावी भी देना है आपको बिहार ही नजर आना है।

**SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:** This matter has been dragging on for more than 15 years. Not only compensation is not paid to the Indians, but when the Indians left Burma, they deposited their money with the Burmese Government and with Burmese banks because they could not bring it. Even that money is not paid. The aggrieved people have been approaching the External Affairs Ministry, but no action has been taken. I would like to know whether Government will expedite it and ask the Indian Embassy there to take up this matter seriously. I think they are taking it very lightly. I have personal experience, I myself have to get some compensation from Burma for property I left there 20 years ago.

**SHRI BIPINPAL DAS:** In the notification of the Burmese Government dated 6th December 1973, they