

**Bombing of North Vietnam**

\*243. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE** : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States Air Force planes have attacked the dyke system in North Vietnam several times in recent weeks resulting in heavy loss of life to civilian population;

(b) if so, whether India has made any efforts to rouse world opinion against such inhuman and barbarous attack on the civilian population in that country; and

(c) if so, the nature of the efforts made in this direction ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH)** : (a) The DRVN Government have informed the Government of India of the serious damage caused to their dyke system by the U. S. bombings and loss of civilian lives.

(b) and (c). Government of India have consistently opposed the U. S. bombings of Vietnam and expressed serious concern over the situation resulting therefrom. This open reiteration of our stand on the subject is in itself a powerful element in mobilising world opinion.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE** : Since meek and mild gesture of moral reprobation of the impossibly atrocious conduct of the American imperialists appear to be inconsequential, may I know whether the Government has proceeded in the matter of recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of south Vietnam which would be a proper answer to the operation of bombings in such barbaric fashion ?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH)** : It is a suggestion for action.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE** : Efforts made in the direction include not only moral gestures of the kind Sardar Sahib made but also certain diplomatic and other steps in this direction. I do not know what is happening in this regard.

**MR. SPEAKER** : I am just keeping silent over it because it is a very important Question. But, I think, he should remain near about the Question.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE** : My submission is that it comes within the ambit of the Question.

**MR. SPEAKER** : You have gone to the P. R. G. and all that.

**SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE** : If you could give me time enough, I could give you arguments for it, that it comes within the ambit of the Question.

In view of the special responsibility devolving upon the Government of India to concretise its sense of protest against American imperialism and their bombing in Vietnam, may I know why it is that the External Affairs Minister at Guyana appeared to be more apologetic about the walk-out of Indonesia and Malaysia rather than be positive about the admission of P. R. G., which would have shown that we do not follow a namby pamby policy in foreign affairs ?

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH** : I am sorry I do not agree with the assessment of my attitude in Guyana which the hon. Member has formed. I think, it is based on incomplete information about all that happened in Guyana.

**MR. SPEAKER** : You could put a direct question on that. I am sorry I allowed him to side-track from the main Question to P. R. G. and Guyana. This is about the bombardment of the dyke system in North Vietnam. I would request the Members to confine themselves to the Question.

**SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI** : May I know whether in the recent Conference which the hon. Minister of External Affairs attended, this matter was formally or informally discussed or, even if it was not discussed, whether any feeling was thrown from the Indian side on this matter ?

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH** : I must inform the House that this matter of bombing of dykes is now known to the entire world. In the initial stages some feeble

attempts were made by the U.S.A. Administration to deny, but I think, more and more evidence that has now been available, particularly from independent sources, does point out conclusively to the fact that dykes have been the subject matter of bombing and it is also clear that even bombing of points quite close to the dykes has also caused serious damage to the dykes. This matter has been a subject matter of discussion, and this matter, along with the general question of bombing of North Vietnam territory, was very much in the minds of the delegations in Guyana. The final resolution and declaration does contain references to the situation in Vietnam and has also taken a positive and clear stand of opposition to the bombing and of finding solutions which are acceptable to the people of Vietnam.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER :** I want to know from the Minister whether Government is prepared to move and pass a resolution condemning the bombing by US Air Force of North Vietnam dykes and civilian population to rouse world opinion.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** No resolution is required. We have expressed our view-point very categorically more than once.

**SHRI G VISWANATHAN :** In view of the fact that even leading American politicians have attacked their own Government for bombing on the dyke system in North Vietnam, I want to know from the Minister what concrete steps have the Government of India taken to rouse public opinion, apart from issuing pious statements. I also want to know whether they had taken up the question in the non-aligned Conference to have a separate resolution concerning the bombing of the dyke system in North Vietnam.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** With regard to the first question, the opinion is sufficiently roused in our country and all over the world, and I do not know what more he wants us to do in this respect.

About the second question, as I have said already, the question of Vietnam situa-

tion and the bombing by the Americans of North Vietnam territory, including dykes, was very much before the Guyana Conference, and if the hon. Member carefully studies the relevant resolution and declaration he will find the answer to what he is asking me.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY :** Heavy bombings by Americans is going on in North Vietnam, and Mr. Kissinger is also going here and there. The Minister of External Affairs is competent enough to assess the American attitude. May I know what exactly is the motive of the Americans? Do they want to destroy North Vietnam or do they want to finish the war or do they want to negotiate and come to some sort of solution?

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** I wish I could answer for the United States Government. But I cannot.

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** There has been the reported visit of Dr. Kissinger to South Vietnam to persuade that Government to come to some sort of an understanding with North Vietnam. May I know whether the role of India and also that of the non-aligned nations had had any impact on the United States to make them initiate this move? I also want to know whether it was known to our Government before Dr. Kissinger made his visit to South Vietnam.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Why do you not put a separate question on this?

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** This is my question: whether the reported visit of Dr. Kissinger . . .

**MR. SPEAKER :** So many people come and so many people go. Please ask a relevant question: whether any Americans tried to . . . (Interruptions) You are again going to repeat it?

**SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH :** I am not repeating it.

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** We know that yesterday Dr. Kissinger flew in a plane

and he has reached Saigon. What he is going to do there, what are his plans—I do not know anything at all.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Before I put a question, I really wanted to bring to your notice that when we put questions, I have seen that an American diplomat is violating the rules and regulations and goes on taking notes there sitting in the gallery. They come here merrily and go on dictating their own terms I want that that should be snatched away. The security men should be sent immediately to snatch it away.

**MR. SPEAKER :** It happened once earlier also. Don't make reference to the galleries.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** A little while earlier, the hon. Minister said that in the beginning the American administration was trying to deny the fact of the bombing of the dykes, but later on, was forced to admit the truth I would like to know from him. Irrespective of whether the Americans deny or confirm it, have we on our own sought or received any direct information from our envoy in Hanoi who, being on the spot, is probably in a position to give us a better and fuller information and on the basis of that information, can he tell us as to what is the actual extent of the bombing of the dykes and the damage caused to the civilian population and cultivation and so on, and on that basis, why has the Government of India not said anything? Why are you to wait for the Americans to deny or confirm it?

**SHRI SWARAN SINGH :** It is a pertinent question. We did receive information from our own representative in Hanoi who, along with certain other diplomats, was taken by the North Vietnam authorities to see some of the dykes which have been damaged by bombing. Of course, he could not go to all the places and, therefore, it was not possible for him to assess the entire damage to the dykes caused by bombing. But he did see with his own eyes and he sent a report to us that he did see the damage caused to some dykes by bombing.

### Setting up of Mineral Exploration Corporation

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\*244. **SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM :**  
**SHRI ARVIND NETAM :**

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Mineral Exploration Corporation to accelerate the mineral exploration programme in the country;

(b) if so, the main features thereof, and

(c) the time by which the Corporation is expected to be set up?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) and (b). Government have taken a decision to set up a Mineral Exploration Corporation in the public sector with its headquarters at Nagpur. To start with, this Corporation will function with the personnel and equipment to be transferred from the Geological Survey of India. The Corporation will be charged with exploring in detail and proving the resources in specific mineral prospects in the shortest possible time in order to facilitate their expeditious exploitation.

(c) The Corporation is expected to be set up within 2-3 months.

**SHRI S. A. MURUGANANTHAM:** May I know from the hon Minister whether Rs. 100 crores is being spent for the import of non-ferrous metals?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is about setting up a Mineral Exploration Corporation to accelerate the mineral exploration programme. You ask it in the shape of question and don't give information yourself.

**SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN :** The import bill of metals would be about Rs. 200 crores roughly.

**SHRI S.A. MURUGANANTHAM:** May I know from the hon Minister whether the