

of funds in the insurance industry, Sir, it is only because of this that the Government has decided to nationalise General Insurance for putting the public sector in a commanding position. As far as the specific reference is concerned, I need some notice to find out the facts.

SHRI R. D. BHANDARE : In view of the fact that Government is committed to the nationalisation of General Insurance for a long time, may I know from the hon. Minister what comes in the way of taking early steps for the nationalisation of General Insurance ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : In matters, like these, I think the Hon. Member and the House may leave it to the Government to suitably take the timing. There are no hurdles. As far as we are concerned, we have made a policy commitment and I think the Hon. Member will leave it to the Finance Minister to have a proper timing for nationalisation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : May I know whether the policy of the Government is to nationalise with compensation or without compensation ? If the policy is to nationalise with compensation, may I know the quantum of compensation which is likely to be paid in case of nationalisation ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : The hon. Member is asking a question in anticipation of what might happen. May I ask a question of my hon. friend ? Will he support us on that count ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, I am not a Minister. On a point of order. I put a question to the hon. Minister and I expected a reply, and not a counter-question.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will he change the Constitution so that they cannot go to the Supreme Court ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the hon. Minister do everything with my consent ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : Sometimes, a counter-question is a reply.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I would like you to give your ruling. I had put a definite question, namely whether a compensation would be paid or not, and what the quantum of compensation would be.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : That is a hypothetical question now.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No reply has been given about the quantum of compensation that would be paid in case of nationalisation.

MR. SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Member to take the counter-question as the reply ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We want no compensation to be paid.

Utilisation of P.L.-480 Funds

*92. **SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals have been made by the U.S. Government regarding the disposal of P.L.-480 Rupee funds accumulated with the U.S. Embassy in India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). The utilisation of accumulated U.S. rupee funds for technical and agricultural education and housing and urban development has been under informal discussion with the U.S. authorities. In this context, the question of creating endowments for these activities has also been discussed. The discussion have not yet reached a stage where formal proposals have emerged.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Would the hon. Minister vouchsafe to the Ho some information about the amount of rupees placed at the disposal of the U.S. Embassy in India for its own expenses and the expenses of organisations like the USIS ? In view of the report which was given early

in this House that the amount placed at the disposal of the US Embassy in India out of the PL-480 funds was something which was larger than the total allocations for our Embassies abroad or for the information section of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, would he give us some facts and figures in regard to the actual position ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : I can only indicate the percentage that normally is earmarked for their use and for the Embassy purposes out of the total holdings here on an annual basis. But it is very difficult for me to give the break-up of their expenditure, because that is just not done. I cannot say that I have got all the details about it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : They do not tell him.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I did not want a break-up of the expenditure. What I wanted was the total volume of money placed at the disposal of the US personnel in this country. How they spend it is not for him to supervise, because that is perhaps the condition of his agreement. Has he got the figures in regard to that?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : I can give him some figures. So far, the money which is at the disposal of the US Embassy, which they can make use of, not exactly at the present moment with them, for US uses, that is, the accruals and allocations, is Rs. 513.14 crores, but the disbursements and expenditure so far were Rs. 299.53 crores throughout the period; I am giving the total figure of the entire period.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : In view of our difficulty in controlling the manner of rupee expenditure by the United States in India or the difficulty caused by our having to pay back in dollars since we are on the horns of a dilemma, may I know if Government is considering proposing something of a moratorium in regard to this payment so that later on we can find out what we should do about this particular aspect of American foreign policy which utilises and exploits aid for its own external policy purposes ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : I think it is a very legitimate question and I will certainly try to answer it in some detail.

This question is being approached from two angles. We will have to see that the rupee part of it does not grow further. So under our new policy, we have said that henceforward whatever payments are made will partly be in dollars. This is the last year when we have entered into an agreement under which the payment will be made in rupees. From next year onwards, rupee payment will no longer be there. This is one part.

Now the question remains of whatever rupee holdings are there, whatever rupee commitments in India are there. In this matter, I must say that the US Government also have shown interest in understanding the problem of the rupee holdings. I hope they will also take some constructive view in this matter. There is no doubt we will have to work out some proposals whereby by mutual understanding this question will be solved on permanent basis.

श्री राम चन्द्र बिकल : क्या वित्त मन्त्री जी बतायेंगे कि वार्ता कब से चालू है और कब तक यह समाप्त हो जायेगी ?

श्री यशवन्त राव चव्हाण : वार्ता तो बहुत पहले समाप्त हो गई थी, जब पी०एल० 480 का एग्रीमेंट हुआ था । मैंने अभी हकीकत बताते हुए कहा है कि उसके तरीके में जो बदल करना चाहते हैं, वह अगले साल से होगा, लेकिन उसका पेमेंट कब करना है, वह लम्बे अर्से की बात है ।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Has it been brought to the knowledge of the hon. Minister that huge funds out of the PL-480 accumulations here with the US Embassy were drawn during the mid-term elections and have been given to some of the most reactionary political parties...

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : To the Communist Party of India.

MR. SPEAKER : No. This question does not arise.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want information.

MR. SPEAKER : This is about disposal of the funds.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want to know whether this has been disposed of politically during the recent elections.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : No, I have no information.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : The question relates to the disposal of the accumulated funds under PL-480 programme. Is it a fact that some time back the US Government had proposed the setting up of an Education Foundation from out of these accumulated funds ? If so, what is Government's reaction thereto ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : I think this question was considered many times on the floor of the House ; there is no question of Government supporting such a proposal.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : Apart from importation of food items, what are the other things Government are bringing in under PL-480 ? Also, apart from meeting the expenditure of the US Embassy here, what are the items Government have been covering in disbursement under PL-480 during last three years ?

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : The other items are important raw materials like oilseeds and cotton. These are very important. The other part of it which is used here is in some Indo-US collaboration industries set up under certain agreements entered into.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : Are Government aware that the PL-480 funds are being disbursed through Christian Mission centres and the same are being utilised for furthering proselytisation to one particular religion, Christianity, among the poor and innocent tribals all over the country, thereby undermining the secular character of our country...

MR. SPEAKER : No please.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : If so, what steps are being taken to ensure uniform distribution of this money among all handicapped communities through governmental agencies, thereby avoiding eccentricity of distribution of such money.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a leading question.

SHRI YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN : I do not think that he is right in making this allegation. Whatever uses are made of the PL-480 Funds are made with the knowledge and permission of the Government of India. Possibly he is referring to some grants which the missioneries may be getting from elsewhere.

Special Training to Guards to Stop Hijacking

*93. **SHRI G. VISWANATHAN :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are giving special training to the guards to stop hijacking in future ; and

(b) what are the other precautionary measures which Government have introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). Security arrangements are being strengthened, and a number of stringent measures have been introduced including frisking of passengers and search of hand baggage. The Police personnel concerned have been given special briefing instructions.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN : The recent hijacking of our Indian Airlines plane must be an eye-opener to the Government and particularly to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. It is preposterous that one of the hijackers was both a member of our Border Security Force and also the so-called National Liberation Front. I think the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir should be held responsible for this air piracy and sabotage.

I want to know from the Minister if the airport officials at Srinagar failed to