

SHRI GOTKHINDE : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Teja Singh—absent.

The very first questioner is not there.

Mr. Shashi Bhushan. He is here. I am very happy.

I congratulate Mr. Shashi Bhushan. He will be the first Member to ask the question.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Sale of Arms by Britain to South Africa

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*1. **SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN :**
SHRI TEJA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Britain has decided to sell arms to South Africa even before the Study Group set up by the Conference of the Commonwealth Countries could examine the issue ; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take against the unilateral decision of Britain to sell arms to South Africa ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British decision to sell arms to South Africa announced even before a meeting of the Study Group could take place has, in our opinion, rendered the work of the Study Group infructuous and we have, therefore withdrawn from the Study Group.

This matter was discussed at great length at the meeting of the Heads of Commonwealth Governments at Singapore.

The Government of India are in touch with other Commonwealth countries to concert further steps, both within and outside the Commonwealth, to oppose the supply of arms to South Africa.

श्री शशि भूषण : ब्रिटेन साउथ-अफ्रीका को जो हथियार सप्लाई कर रहा है, क्या उसका मकसद यह नहीं है कि वह हिन्द महासागर में अपना प्रभुत्व जमाना चाहता है ? उसकी इसी नीति के कारण आज बंगला देश के दमन में भी ब्रिटिश जहाजी बेड़े हिन्द महासागर का उपयोग कर रहे हैं। क्या वजह है कि हम अभी तक ब्रिटिश राष्ट्र मण्डल के सदस्य बने हुए हैं, जब कि ब्रिटेन एशिया में जितने देश हैं, जो तरक्की पसन्द ताकतें हैं, उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करना रहता है और हिन्द महासागर में इसीलिए अपना प्रभुत्व बढ़ा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमके लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं, क्या आप ब्रिटिश राष्ट्र मण्डल से अलग होना चाहेंगे या उस पर और कोई कार्यवाही आप करेंगे ताकि वह "बंगला देश" में पश्चिम पाकिस्तान की जिम तरह की मदद आज कर रहा है—वहाँ की आजादी के खिलाफ और एशिया के दूरे देशों में—वह न कर मके ? इसके सम्बन्ध में आपकी क्या नीति है ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question is a little off the point. Only you can ask the factual information regarding the unilateral decision.

श्री शशि भूषण : हिन्द महासागर में प्रभुत्व बढ़ाने के लिए ब्रिटेन ऐसा कर रहा है।.....

MR. SPEAKER : This relates to supply of Arms to South Africa.

श्री शशि भूषण : साउथ अफ्रीका को हथियार दे रहा है, हिन्द महासागर में प्रभुत्व जमाने के लिए दे रहा है—ऐसी स्थिति में हम राष्ट्र मण्डल से अलग क्यों नहीं होते हैं ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : With regard to the establishment or the presence of any base by Britain or by any other country in the Indian ocean, we have stated our position quite clearly and this was what was unanimously adopted at Lusaka. We are totally opposed to the establishment of any foreign base in the Indian ocean. That policy continues. The supply of arms to South

Africa is even more objectionable from our point of view. Not only does it strengthen the presence or the nebulous presence of Britain in the Indian ocean but it also helps to strengthen politically and militarily a regime which is practising the shameful policy of apartheid; and the Government which has strengthened the racist regime of Rhodesia is also lending support to Portuguese colonialism in the southern part of Africa. For all these reasons we have been totally opposed to British supply of arms to South Africa.

I would like to say that the British Government have categorically denied that they are affording any facilities to Pakistan in the Isles of Maladive. That they have categorically denied. We have no information to the contrary.

On the question of quitting the Commonwealth on this issue we do not feel that at the present moment it will be in our interest or in the interest of the Afro-Asian and Caribbean members of the Commonwealth that we take a decision to this effect, without further consultation with them.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : After giving the withdrawal notice from the study group has there been any request made to India to join the Group? Do the Government propose to stick to this—not only stick to this, but ask other Members of the study group to withdraw from this Committee?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : No request has been made directly to us that we should reconsider our decision with regard to our participation in the Study Group. Some other Member countries of the Study Group have also signified their intention not to participate in the Study Group.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I am happy that India has withdrawn from the Study Group of the Commonwealth. Since the British Government have consistently been sending arms in spite of protests from the progressive people and the progressive countries throughout the world, may I know whether Government have made up their mind to quit the Commonwealth on this issue or perhaps to give them an ultimatum that they will quit the Commonwealth?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH I have answered that question already.

Survey for location of Mineral Deposits in South-Eastern Region in the Country

*5. **SHRI ISHAQ SAMBHALI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether extensive survey has been carried out in the South-Eastern region of the country to locate mineral deposits during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND NON-FERROUS METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

It is presumed, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, South-eastern part of Madhya Pradesh, Southern part of Bihar, South-western part of West Bengal, while mentioning South-Eastern region of the country.

The Geological Survey of India has conducted systematic geological mapping and mineral investigations in these areas during the last three years. As a result of these investigations, reserves of about 10.6 million tonnes of nickel ore in Sukinda area; 4.74 million tonnes of lead-zinc ore at Sargipalli in Orissa; 64 million tonnes of copper ore in Rakha mines—Roam-Sidheshwar belt in Singhbhum district, Bihar and 5 million tonnes in Nalakunda and Dukunda blocks in Agnigundala belt, Andhra Pradesh, have been established. Sizeable deposits of bauxite, limestone, dolomite, iron ore, coal in Madhya Pradesh; clays and coal in West Bengal; Graphite, kyanite and coal in Bihar; lead ore, manganese ore and chromite in Orissa and coal, limestone, lead-zinc in Andhra Pradesh have also been located.

In addition, airborne geophysical surveys over selected areas of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar were also carried out. As a result of