

Monex-79 Programme

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*991 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU;
SHRI DHARMAVIR VASISHT

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of Monex-79 Programme;

(b) when was it started and which is the country conducting experiments;

(c) what are the details thereof; and

(d) how many American scientists are now in Calcutta to participate in the monsoon experiments and how many artificial satellites, ships and aircrafts are being used/or are going to be used to probe and take meteorological readings?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK (a) to (d) I lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha, giving the required information.

Statement

(a) and (c). MONEX (Monsoon Experiment)-79 is a regional sub-programme of the Global Weather Experiment being carried out under the joint auspices of the World Meteorological Organisation and the International Council of Scientific Unions. The experiment is designed to collect meteorological and oceanographic observations over India, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the equatorial Indian Ocean during the period 1 May—31 August, 1979. The overall objective is to acquire a reliable and comprehensive data base for research to lead to an increased understanding of the south-west monsoon so vital for agricultural production and economic development of India. The oceanographic data collected during the experiment will be of value to the country.

Three ships of Indian Navy and one of the Indian Institute of Oceano-

graphy, Goa, equipped with meteorological and oceanographic equipment will participate in Monex-79. One aircraft of the National Remote Sensing Agency of India is scheduled to participate in the experiment for recording air borne observations.

In addition to the above, three aircraft of U.S.A. and four ships of U.S.S.R. are expected to record observations of great scientific value.

Facilities for reception of cloud pictures from the American Geostationary Satellite (GOES) now located at 60 E over the equator will also be provided at Bombay during the Monex-79 programme.

(b) The Monex experiment Project commenced on 1st May, 1979. This is an international experiment and India, U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. are its major participants. India's participation in Monsoon experiment Project was approved by Government in November, 1976.

(d) At present no U.S. scientist is at Calcutta or Monex. From around 25th June till the first week of August, 1979, about 50 to 100 U.S. scientists are likely to participate in the experiments at Calcutta. (Their exact number is not yet known).

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, the House is aware how dangerous these things are. There was a project called Genetic Control on malaria mosquitoes which was examined by the Public Accounts Committee in 1973-74 and it was found that it was done by the American Defence Department in order to do exhaustive research in India on biological, hereditary and chemical aspects and the Government was compelled to throw them out of the country and the project was completely dismantled. But within 7 years' time they have done the mischief. This is another example where the main collaborators are the United States and India. Nine artificial satellites are picturing pole to pole every half-an-hour. The USA ships and the USSR ships will take

readings on the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. About one hundred American scientists are now in 5-star hotels of Calcutta to participate in the monsoon experiments, or they are about to come to Calcutta for this purpose. The participating scientists in this project are 5000 in number and are from different countries and a huge number of aircrafts are employed to probe and take meteorological readings. I am deeply concerned about this. I have a lot of material but it is not the occasion to go into them. Sir, since it covers the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the littoral States including China have been consulted in this matter and whether they are also participating in this project. If so, give details thereof. If they are not participating, what are the reasons for the same? What is the value of the total project and how much is India supposed to give and how much has been spent altogether so far?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: So far as China's participation is concerned, we have received a proposal that China is also going to send some experts. They want to send three of their scientists to take part in this Monex Programme and that is under the consideration of the Government. It is not only China but many other countries also propose to send their scientists. The Government is considering the proposal and it will consider all the aspects and I think it will be considered favourably. So far as India is concerned, we do not make any difference between one country and the other but we see, the interest of our country is not jeopardised.

MR. SPEAKER: In your statement you have said that the major participants are India, the USA and the USSR.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: Major partners are India, the USA and the USSR.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: What is the total amount involved in this and

what is India's share in this and how much has actually been spent so far?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: The details of the expenditure is presently not with me. But I can assure the hon. Member that I will lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Is he aware of the fact that in this project there is one particular issue, that is, sea surface temperature readings can probe the location of submarines etc.? Is he aware of that; if so, whether he has consulted our Defence Intelligence Department? Is he aware that an American scientist belonging to CIA called Grossman is constantly poking his nose into our affairs and collecting data in coded and cipher language? Is he aware of the fact?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: I do not know how my hon. friend has got this information. The Government does not have it. So far as security point of view is concerned, we are taking all precautions. It is not only the Civil Aviation Ministry, but we are also asking the Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence to do it. Other Ministries are also informed about it. I can assure the hon. Member that our interest cannot be allowed to be jeopardised in any way.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have been hearing assurances for the last 30 years. From Rs. 200 crores, it has gone upto Rs. 800 crores. That was an assurance. I take it with a pinch of salt. The hon. Minister will publish a white paper and lay it on the Table of the House. I want an assurance from him. It is a very serious matter. It affects the Mangalore coast also.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: He has stated in his statement about the use of aircrafts. Will he be pleased to tell the House the type of aircrafts the Americans are going to use, the USSR is going to use their flight path and the bases from which they will fly?

Whether USSR and America are going to fly over Uttar Pradesh and Tibet via Bhopal, Delhi, Calcutta and Trivandrum. If so the type of instruments and aircrafts they are going to use. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: I think you have read the statement.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: Will he place the Indian scientists on these foreign places to see that these flights are not misused?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: To assure the House I am just informing what precautions we are taking, so far as security is concerned (1) All the flight tracks will be filed before the Civil Aviation Authorities and will be duly cleared before commencement of each mission. All these aircrafts are civilian. They do not belong to the Navy.

SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: There is one civilian aircraft, but it is being used for military purposes.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: All the 3 USA aircraft will be inspected by Defence personnel upon arrival in India. The security officer from the Ministry of Defence will be on board on each flight. Primary data recorded during monsoon experiment will be handed over to Indian scientists before the departure of the US personnel

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Minister's statement has been pretty exhaustive and in detail. Yet I am afraid, it does not give certain important links of the entire factual situation, especially in view of the fact that it was pointed out only recently that the United States had used Nanda Devi for nuclear device detection on China, and the matter was brought to the notice only after a consistent and persistent demand. Therefore, I would like him to take this question very seriously as my friend Mr. Jyotirmoy

Bosu had pointed out. My question is when was exactly Monex-79 mooted? The Minister said in part (b) that it is international—US, USSR and India, and some other countries are there. But he also said that 50—US, scientists are likely to attend it. Is it that the same number of Scientists are able to come from Russia? Are there any other scientists coming from other countries? What is the number of Indian scientists participating in it? Whether it is a fact that these 100 and odd US scientists are coming under the auspices of Indo-US Joint Sub-Commission on Science and Technology or through some other auspices. We want to know, in short, how the American involvement is so extensive and so deep and whether the Government of India is taking them on face value or going into detail by seeing that India's security interests are not jeopardised in the name of scientific exploration

AN HON MEMBER: He cannot reply.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: This is a global weather experiment organised by the World Meteorological Organisation in which India is also participating for its advantage, because we have said that weather data can help our agriculture and also economic activities here

MR. SPEAKER: In between supplementaries will be difficult.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: So far as U.S.A. and other countries are concerned... (Interruptions)

The countries, who wanted to participate in this experiment, made offers to our country. U.S.A. made an offer to send three of their aircrafts and also some of the scientists.

MR. SPEAKER: How many scientists?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: The exact number of scientists is not yet know. It is approximately 100.

Similarly, other countries also including U S S R, China, they have also sent their offer to send their scientists—

USA about 100
U S S R — 3
Other countries 30
and China about 3

China has also sent the proposal

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Proposal

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK If China does not want to participate, we cannot compel China. We are not preventing any country to come.

PROF P G MAVALANKAR How many Indian scientists are there?

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK About the Indian scientists I have no information at present.

PROF P G MAVALANKAR This is a very important question. Unless the House gets the precise information.

MR SPEAKER I will ask him to place the statement on the table of the House about the Indian scientists.

(Interruptions)

PROF P G MAVALANKAR All relevant facts about this whole matter must be placed on the table of the House.

MR SPEAKER Q No 992

(Interruptions)

PROF P G MAVALANKAR This affects the vital interests of the House and the nation.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK I can assure the House that the vital interests of the House will be taken care of.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Let him place the statement on the table of the House.

(Interruptions)

I am asking him to place the statement on the table giving all the details.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK On what points?

SHRI K LAKKAPPA There is no question of making or placing the statement. We must be allowed to put supplementaries.

SHRI B SHANKARANAND The defence of the country is involved.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER One by one please. What is all this? Half a dozen.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU My submission is let him come prepared a week after and let the question be put again. I would beseech you.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK Will you permit me to state the whole thing in the House? It may take time. I can just do it and if Members are not satisfied they can then.

PROF P G MAVALANKAR If you Sir could kindly hold over this question let him come with the details on 18th May.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: On what points do you want that?

MR SPEAKER There is no point in saying all this. He must know what are the details that you are wanting. About the matter you have asked now I can ask him to place the statement. If any member wants any more details you send him a letter, I will ask him to incorporate that information in the statement.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK Only two questions have been put. One is by Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu in which he asked how much amount is involved, Indian as well as foreign.

MR SPEAKER How many Indian scientists are there.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: About the amount involved, I said I have no information at present.

Prof. Mavalankar asked how many Indian scientists are there....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: How much money?

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: This is relating to the Department of Science & Technology also. So, the Minister of Science and Technology should also be present.

तम्बाकू का मूल्य निर्धारण

*992. श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : क्या वाणिज्य, नागरिक पूर्ति तथा सहकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत वर्ष की तुलना में इस वर्ष तम्बाकू का मूल्य कितना है ;

(ख) सरकार ने तम्बाकू उत्पादकों को सहायता देने के उद्देश्य से तम्बाकू का उचित मूल्य निर्धारित करने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने दूरस्थ क्षेत्रों में भी उत्पादकों को उचित मूल्य दिलवाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The whole-sale prices of tobacco at selected centres during 1978 and 1979 (upto April) are given below:

Prices in Rs. per quintal

State/Centre	Variety	1978		1979		
		Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	
Andhra Pradesh	Virginia Flue Cured Grade	1—V	650	970	750	1000
		2—V	400	850	500	750
		3—V	250	500	300	500
		5—V	250	425	250	450
Andhra Pradesh (Warangal)	Nawid	825	1200	600	880	
Maharashtra (Nagpur)	Chewing Black	1100	1125	1120	1130	
Karnataka (Mangalore)	Sanded	1100	1450	900	1300	
Tamil Nadu (Erode)	Chewing 1st sort	818	955	591	864	
Gujarat (anand)	Bidi I	250	380	333	476	
U. P. (Kanpur)	Kampla	900	995	615	995	
West Bengal (Calcutta)	Motihari Medium	780	900	870	940	