

SETTLEMENT OF VIETNAM CONFLICT

- *16. SHRI BHOGEENDRA JHA :
 SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE :
 SHRI HEM BARUA :
 SHRI K. N. PANDEY :
 SHRI PRAKASH VIR
 SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent escalation of U.S. air raids on North Vietnam has made the prospects of a peaceful settlement of the Vietnam conflict more difficult;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to persuade U.S.A. to stop bombing of North Vietnam;

(c) whether India has taken any fresh initiative to find a peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) to (d). In the view of the Government of India, the first essential step for the creation of a proper atmosphere for discussion of the Vietnam problem with a view to achieving a peaceful solution is the immediate and unconditional stoppage of the bombing of North Vietnam. Consequently, continuance or escalation of the air raids or of the other hostilities is likely to make the achievement of a peaceful settlement more difficult.

The Government of India is in touch with the various parties concerned and is taking all possible action through diplomatic channels to achieve the above-mentioned objective of a peaceful settlement. It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the action taken at diplomatic level.

CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL SHIPS

- *17. SHRI TULSIDAS DASAPPA :
 Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal for the construction of Naval ships such as, frigates and minesweepers, has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which their production will start ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. Mazagon Dock Ltd. Bombay are at present constructing two inshore minesweepers and Leander Class Frigates for the Indian Navy. The first inshore minesweeper was launched in April 1967 and is expected to be commissioned in early 1968.

Production on the first frigate commenced in May 1966 and it is expected to be launched by end 1968 and to be commissioned by October 1970.

DR. DHARMA TEJA

- *18. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
 SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
 SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :
 SHRI A. K. GOPALAN :
 SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :
 SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL :
 SHRI P. GOPALAN :
 SHRI NAMBIAR :
 SHRIMATI SUSEELA
 GOPALAN :
 SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :
 SHRI ARJUN SINGH
 BHADORIA :
 SHRI RABI RAY :
 SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
 SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :
 SHRI MRITYUNJAYA
 PRASAD :
 SHRI N. K. P. SALVE :
 SHRI SARJOO PANDEY :
 SHRI HEM BARUA :
 SHRI S. M. JOSHI :
 SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH :
 SHRI PREM CHAND
 VERMA :
 SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :
 SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Dharma Teja against whom extradition proceedings are going on in the United States, jumped bail and fled to Switzerland; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?