

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : The defects have been discovered; they have been re-treaded and after re-treading they have been issued to the units. The units have used them.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : For what period has this contractor been supplying tyres and what is the amount of deposit received by the department as deposit amount ?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : We do not receive the deposit amount nor do we deal with the firms directly; we deal with the firms through the Director General of Supplies and Disposals.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या सरकार के पास ऐसा भी कोई यन्त्र है या ऐसी कोई मशीनरी है कि जिस समय यह टायर खरीदे जायें उस समय इसकी पूरी खोजबीन कर लें कि इसकी मियाद कितनी है, इसमें ताकत कितनी है और यह जो डिफैक्टिव टायर्स उस समय खरीदे गये तो उस समय जिन अफसरों ने इस बारे में लापरवाही बर्ती और जो इसके दोषी हैं उन के खिलाफ भी क्या आप ने कोई कार्यवाही की ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : This matter has come up here again and again and on the performance of tyres also a very clear statement was made here. I would reiterate the same. The performance of these tyres was judged with reference to the mileage performed by tyres which had been removed from the vehicles as beyond local repair or beyond economical repairs in comparison with the similar performance of standard indigenous tyres. The average kilometrage per tyre performed by these cordiatic tyres was 20,747 against the average kilometrage per tyre performed by indigenous tyres of 21,580.

श्री मधु लिमये : बिल्कुल गलत है। पब्लिक एकाउंट्स कमेटी ने नहीं माना है।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : In other words, the performance of cordiatic imported tyres was more or less the same as of indigenous tyres.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : What is the usual life of a good tyre and what is the difference between the two ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have given it.

SHRI PILOO MODY : From what has been said so far it seems that there are three places at which inspection takes place—firstly, when the purchase is made; secondly, when it is supplied to a unit the unit has its own inspection system; and, thirdly, after 21,000 kilometres of use. It is not quite clear whether the guarantees that they get from the manufacturers cover period one, two or all the three periods. Will the Minister please clarify ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There is no inspection as such at these three stages. This is the performance at various points. It is not that there is inspection at these three stages.

SHRI PILOO MODY : I am sorry, I asked the question.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am very sorry that I noticed it. I should have ignored it.

श्री मधु लिमये : अच्छा आप इन्फोर भी कर सकते हैं ? क्या आप सुपर स्पीकर हो गये ? मंत्री महोदय द्वारा प्रश्नों की अपेक्षा नहीं की जा सकती है यह काम स्पीकर का है। मंत्री महोदय जग मंत्राल कर बोला करें।

BRITISH NAVAL BASE AT SINGAPORE

†

* 304. **SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :**
SHRI CHINTAMANI
PANIGRAHI :
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore has sought India's co-operation for converting the existing British Naval base into a commercial dock-yard after Britain carries out its phased plan of withdrawal of its forces from that base; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) The possibility of converting the Naval Base into a Commercial Dockyard after the British withdrawal was informally mentioned but no specific request for Indian assistance was made.

(b) The Government of India are willing to assist to the extent possible, if so requested.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : While we have several ports to be developed in our own country, where is the necessity for agreeing to develop the Port of Singapore ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is not that there is any conflict with our port development programme. We have the capacity. If they need our assistance, apart from the fact that a large number of Indian people are working there, because this is within our region it is in our overall national interest to help in this development. But, as I said, the request has to come from the Singapore Government.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : May I know what is the estimated amount involved in such a help ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : That cannot be said at the moment because the help can be only of a technical nature or technical facilities to be provided. It can only be said if there is a specific request from them.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : I only want the estimated amount.

SHRI R. BARUA : On the withdrawal of the naval base from Singapore by the British and also the withdrawal from the Persian Gulf, it is likely that a power vacuum will be created in that area. Considering our deficiency in naval force, may I know what steps Government is taking to meet our naval requirements vis-a-vis the withdrawal of the British Naval Base from these two areas ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As far as power vacuum is concerned, in the present context, we do not believe there is a power vacuum.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Just now the hon. Minister said that there is no power vacuum. In view of the fact that the Singapore Naval Base provided naval defence for the entire British empire to the east of Singapore, and in view of the fact that with the growth of the naval power of communist China, the need for such protection has become all the more, and also in view of the fact that the Singapore Government is reported to have contacted the Government of Malaysia and other neighbouring Governments that they should cooperate with them in maintaining some kind of naval power there, may I know what is the attitude of the Government if this naval base is maintained with the cooperation of the other Asian countries ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : There is no question like that. It is a hypothetical question. That is for the Singapore Government to decide. On all counts, it appears that this will be, if at all, converted into a commercial base, not a naval base.

SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The withdrawal of British Naval Base will effect, particularly, the Indian nationals, the people of Indian origin, who are citizens of Singapore and Malaysia. Will it not be wise on the part of the Government to approach the Singapore Government either to cooperate, to continue the naval base, as a co-ordinated naval base, or to make it a commercial dockyard ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As far as the question of the employment of the Indian people is concerned, even if the naval base is withdrawn and converted into a commercial base, the employment can be tackled. But, as I said, it is precisely for the Singapore Government to decide, not for us to decide.

SHRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : It affects the people of the Indian origin and their employment. Is it not wise on the part of the Government to approach the Singapore Government for that ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We are in touch with the Singapore Government as to how far, in the new context, alternative employment can be given.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I understand from the hon. Minister's statement

here that the Government of India is willing to assist the Singapore Government in converting this naval base into a commercial dockyard. If that is so, may I know what are the terms and conditions that the Government of India have in mind to be laid down before the job is undertaken. What I am aiming at is this: are we going to have any commercial advantage? Can you use Singapore base for marketing Indian products for Far-Eastern markets?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The Singapore Government has not taken any decision so far. Our view arises only when they come to a decision and consult us.

TALKS WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL

†

*305. **SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:**
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:
SHRI HIMATSINGKA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be please to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the UN Secretary General visited India during this month; and

(b) if so, the nature of discussions held with him and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). The U.N. Secretary General visited India to address the UNCTAD II. His visit provided us with an opportunity of exchanging views with him on the current international situation.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यहाँ की सरकार के नेताओं ने वियतनाम के मिलसिले में श्री ऊ थांट से बात चीत की थी यदि बात चीत की थी तो क्या उससे इस बात की भी चर्चा हुई थी कि उत्तर वियतनाम समझौता करने के लिये तैयार है लेकिन अमरीकी सरकार आनाकानी कर रही है और मुकर रही है? अगर यह बात सही है तो क्या भारत सरकार वियतनाम के मिलसिले में अपनी पहले की नरम नीति को बदल कर

कड़ा रुख अपनाने को तैयार है क्योंकि वह कभी-कभी अमरीकी साम्राज्यवादियों के सामने घुटने टेक दिया करती है?

श्री ब० रा० भगत: उनसे जो बात चीत हुई वह गोपनीय है और मैं उस की तफसील में यहाँ नहीं जाना चाहता मगर वियतनाम के बारे में उन से बात चीत हुई। वियतनाम के बारे में जो हमारी नीति है हम ने उस की खुले तौर से घोषणा की। वह उन्हें मालूम है और उस को पसन्द भी करने हैं।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री: वहाँ की जनता तो अपने तरीके से लड़ रही है और अमरीकी साम्राज्यवादियों के परखचे उड़ा रही है। लेकिन उस से काम चल नहीं रहा है और लड़ाई बढ़ जाने का खतरा है। इसलिये क्या भारत सरकार ऐसे लोगों का सम्मेलन बुलाने के लिये तयार है जो अमरीकी साम्राज्यवादियों के हमले का विरोध कर रहे हैं, ताकि उस सम्मेलन में कोई ऐसी योजना बनाई जाय कि अमरीका को मजबूर किया जाय कि वह अपनी लड़ाई की नीति बन्द करे और वियतनाम की सरकार से, दक्षिणी वियतनाम के नेशनल फ्रंट से बात चीत करे?

श्री ब० रा० भगत: भारत सरकार की यह नीति है कि उन की लड़ाई जल्द से जल्द बन्द हो और शान्तिमय तरीके से इस समस्या का हल निकालना जाये। इस के लिये दुनिया की सभी सरकारों से हम सम्पर्क बनाये हुये हैं। सँक्रेटरी जनरल भी जो प्रयास कर रहे हैं उस में हम उन को पूरा सहयोग दे रहे हैं। इस से अधिक कोई दूसरी बात मेरी समझ में अभी नहीं की जा सकती। सम्मेलन बुलाने से तो मैं समझता हूँ कि कोई रास्ता निकलेगा नहीं, बल्कि रास्ता निकलना और मुश्किल हो जायगा।

SHRI HIMATSINGKA: May I know whether the Government informed the U.N. Secretary-General that, in view of the massive offensive started by the Viet Cong, there was no possibility of the USA