

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ARTICLE BY A CORRESPONDENT OF "BALTIMORE SUN"

*722. SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the Baltimore Sun of the 22nd July, 1968 from its New Delhi correspondent (circulated by P.T.I.) stating that a "Senior" Cabinet Minister discussed with this correspondent confidential matters regarding Russians arms purchase ;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the following significant comment of the Correspondent :

"The Sun report added that even if the Indian Government declines to furnish these figures, American intelligence would have no difficulty in estimating the costs and details of Soviet arms since Indian defence secrets were so poorly kept."

(c) who was this Cabinet Minister ; and

(d) What he said to the correspondent of the Baltimore Sun ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) . Hon'ble Members might be interested to know the actual text of the PTI report which is reproduced below :—

" NEW YORK, July 22, (PTI)—The Baltimore Sun carried a report from New Delhi today that a senior Cabinet member (not identified) had said that the U.S.A. had sought from India precise details of its Soviet arms purchases but that the Indian Government had refused to give them.

The 'Cabinet member was quoted as saying that India had told the USA "it was none of their business."

The Sun report suggested that the issue might again come up during the India-United States talks due to be held this week between Indian officials and the American team headed by Mr. Katzenbach, US Under Secretary of State.

The Sun report added that even if the Indian Government declines to furnish these figures, American intelligence should have no difficulty in estimating the costs and details of purchases of Soviet arms since Indian defence secrets were "so poorly kept".

It will be seen that the only words attributed to the Cabinet Minister are the words : "It was none of their business". This is in general consonance with our policy. In any case, no Cabinet Minister has said anything to the effect that even if the Indian Government declines to furnish these figures, American intelligence should have no difficulty in estimating the costs and details of purchases of Soviet arms etc.

CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON EXPORT POLICIES

*727. SHRI ANBUCHZHIAN :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman Planning Commission has stated that a small group of representatives of export industries will be formed for consultation in the formulation of policies and measures for raising exports during the Fourth Plan period ;

(b) if so, how far it is likely to help Government ;

(c) the names of members of the consultative group ; and

(d) when it is likely to be formed ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) At a meeting held in the Planning Commission on August 2, 1968, with some leading industrialists in connection with the formulation of the Fourth Five Year Plan, the Deputy Chairman observed, in response to the suggestions made by some of the participants, that it would be necessary to work out supporting measures in terms of Government's policies in order to realise exports targets. He added that the Planning Commission would be glad to associate representatives of Industry in these tasks.

(b) Consultation with the interests concerned, in the light of Government's own policies, is useful in taking decisions.

(c) and (d). No consultative group as such has been set up so far.

MURDER OF GENERAL KAITO

*728. SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA:
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI MAHARAJ SINGH BHARATI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any information that hostile Nagas belonging to the pro-China group were responsible for the killing of General Kaito ;

(b) if so, whether any person has been arrested in this connection ; and

(c) whether the hostile Nagas have denied any responsibility in the matter ?

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

SINGH) : (a) and (b). The State authorities are making necessary investigations to track down the person responsible for the murder. No arrest has been made so far.

(c) No, Sir.

INDEPENDENCE TO FIJI ISLAND

*729. SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH:

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI ONKAR LALBERWA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have urged upon the U.K. Government to grant independence to Fiji Island immediately ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) India has supported U. N. Resolutions demanding early independence for Fiji.

(b) So far, the U. K. Government have not acted on these resolutions.

SATELLITE LAUNCHING STATION

*730. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10154 on the 8th May, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the plans for establishing a satellite launching station in India have since been finalised ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the progress which India has made so far in space science ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS : (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.