

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, March 19, 1959 (Phalguna  
28, 1890 (Saka))

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[Mr. Speaker in the Choir]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

French Attempt to Break into Indian Ocean

\*571. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that France is trying to break into the Indian Ocean;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the French High Command had decided to deploy two nuclear submarines in and around the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean ; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government have no information in the matter.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : If the ministers have no information, at least the departmental people in the secretariat must go through the papers and find out what is going on in other areas. If they do not know what is going on, how can they function as ministers ? France has already sent two nuclear submarines to the Indian Ocean and they are also negotiating with South Africa to have a naval base at Simons Town near Cape Town where they can station naval vessels. The French Government is having negotiations with South Africa to have their headquarters there. Will the minister take pains to know what is going on in the world and find out whether what I have said is a fact ? If so, will he take necessary

steps to protect our coast, because the French Government are going to send their submarines to operate in the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We do try to keep in touch with developments in the world, but sometimes a thing may happen somewhere which may not come to our notice. As far as our knowledge goes, no French submarines have come into this area so far. Probably the hon. member has asked the question on the basis of a newspaper report which emanated from Johannesburg sometime back that some secret negotiations were going on between the French and South African Governments. But these are merely speculative reports appearing in the press ; they are not authentic news. Nor has it been confirmed by the French Government. We cannot say very much about it.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU : Not only are French submarines operating in the Indian Ocean, but Russian submarines with a naval squadron are also operating in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea. The Defence Ministry has refused to comment on it. Already twice Russian fleet come into our waters. They had asked our Government to give them naval facilities. This time the Russian naval fleet has come into our Indian waters and they are operating in the Indian Ocean without informing our Government or taking our permission. May I know whether the Government has received any request from the Russian naval fleet about their operating in our Indian Ocean ? If not, will the Government find out whether the fleet is there and will they strongly protest to the Russian Government ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : May I request the hon. member to kindly bear in mind that the Indian Ocean is not our ocean. There is no such thing as Indian Ocean belonging to India. He has been talking of our ocean.

**SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :** I said, the fleet has come into our territorial waters. That is what I meant.

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** That is a different matter. Let us look at it from the point of view of the international laws. We are functioning under certain international conventions and laws. We cannot arrogate to ourselves the responsibility of the total ownership of the Indian Ocean or the Arabian Sea. We are concerned with that territorial waters of India and we can say that we take effective measures to safeguard our territorial waters and that we are not aware of the operation of any foreign submarines in our territorial waters. Then, whether the Soviet fleet comes to the Indian Ocean or other fleets come to the Indian Ocean, if they conform to the international law of high seas there is hardly any objection that we can take except to say that we would like this area to be kept free of conflict, to be kept free of nuclear weapons.

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**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** The hon. Minister just now said that the Indian Ocean does not belong to India alone. Agreed ; it does not belong to India. But India occupies a special position in regard to this ocean and he cannot deny it ; and whether the government accepts the concept of power vacuum or not, it has been accepted all over the world and all through history. Indian Ocean occupies an important place and a power vacuum has been created there because Britain has withdrawn from there and U. S. A. has withdrawn from there. Therefore, here is an open sea which is sought to be controlled by China, Russia, France and other countries. In view of these circumstances, if India alone cannot see that the Indian Ocean does not become the hunting ground of foreign adventurers, may I know whether it will take steps to have some kind of understanding with other countries of the Indian Ocean like Indonesia and Australia so that the Indian Ocean remains safe from these foreign adventurers and the security and safety of India and also other countries bordering the Indian Ocean is not jeopardised ?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** Within the limitations of our resources, we shall certainly take every possible step to safeguard our interests in the Indian Ocean. The second

question which the hon. Member referred to is some kind of defence co-operation with other countries. We are not contemplating that.

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** I said "understanding". Without any defence pact you can have that understanding ; can't you have that ? Let him reply.

**SHRI RANGH :** We should seek the co-operation of other countries which are directly interested in the Indian Ocean.

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** I said that we have not had any defence arrangements with any other country. We are not contemplating defence arrangements for the Indian Ocean.

**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :** Because of the power vacuum created in the Indian Ocean, because of the strategic importance of this area and because these ships do not happen to be entirely small ships but, as the hon. Member who asked to question stated, they happen to be nuclear submarines may I ask the government if it is strictly vigilant in that particular area because of its strategic nature ? Has it made any enquires whether they are small ordinary ships or ships carrying nuclear weapons ?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** I cannot understand this. How are we to make these enquiries ? What would the hon. lady Member expect me to do in this case ? The navies of other countries do not come with our permission or after informing us. But we take effective steps, according to our resources, to see and find out what ships come there.

**SHRI RANGA :** That is not enough.

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** But other countries do not necessarily inform us before their navies come to our sea. I have not been able to understand one point. Much has been said about the withdrawal of the British navy. Apparently, according to them if the British Navy is there, everything is all right. Because of the withdrawal of the British Navy all these things have come... (Interruptions). So far as the question of no other navy being able to come there is concerned we can only function under the

international arrangement that is existing for navigation on high seas. We shall function according to it. But, so far as the area is concerned, we have said on a number of occasions that this area should be an area of peace, it should not be disturbed and that it should be kept free from nuclear weapons.

**SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI :**

The point which I raised in my question has not been answered. My suggestion was precisely for carrying out the intentions which were laid down by the hon. Minister just now, namely, that this area should not be disturbed. I would like to know whether any action has been taken by the government to see that this area is not disturbed by allowing or deploying nuclear submarines.

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** What are we expected to do in that matter? We have to respect the laws of navigation on high seas.

**SHRI P. GOPALAN :** Despite a mild and formal protest made by the Government of India earlier it seems that the United States has decided to go on with the establishment of a naval and missile base in and around the Seychelles Islands in the Indian Ocean. This poses a very serious threat to the security of our country. May I ask the minister whether the Government considers this as a threat to the security of our country and whether it is true that there is an understanding between the Government of India and the Government of United States, despite the protest made by the Government of India, to set up a base in the Indian Ocean in the name of protecting our country from the so-called menace of China?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** We are against the setting up of any foreign bases in this area. This has been declared by us on a number of occasions. We are informed by the United Kingdom Government and the United States Government that they are thinking of setting up a staging post and also a communications set-up there.

**SHRI P. GOPALAN :** How have you checked it up?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** In any case we are not in favour of any bases in this area.

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :** It has been stated more than once in this House

that the Government is not a believer in the power vacuum theory in the high seas, that is, the Indian Ocean; at the same time, reports have been emanating that in view of the British withdrawal both the Soviet and the US presence might have increased in the Indian Ocean. What is the Government's report in regard to that, whether that presence has increased, and what is the Government's reaction thereto? In addition to merely saying that we cannot do anything about the Indian Ocean, certainly we might try to do something through diplomatic channels and otherwise and see that the Indian Ocean is converted into an area of peace.

**MR. SPEAKER :** What is the question? Shri Fernandes.

**SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** He does not know it himself.

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :** I have not received any answer.

**श्री जाजु करनेश्वरी :** मैं मन्त्री महोदय को याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश पर जितने भी विदेशी, विलायती, आक्रमण हुए हैं, चाहे वे आक्रमण पुर्तगाल, फ्रांस और चाहे इंग्लैण्ड की तरफ से हुए हों, वे सब हमारे समुद्र का इस्तेमाल कर के हुए। मन्त्री महोदय का कहना है कि इंडियन प्रोशन हमारा नहीं है और दूसरे न्योग क्या करते हैं, इसकी पूछताछ करने की हमें क्या आवश्यकता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि विशेष रूप से देश की सुरक्षा के सम्बन्ध में सरकार की ओर से यह लापरवाही दिखाई जा रही है। जहाँ तक फ्रांस का सम्बन्ध है, बम्बई के एक साप्ताहिक हिम्मत में 27 दिसम्बर को यह छत्रा था :

"A correspondent in *The Sunday Times* of Johannesburg reports that France and South Africa are holding secret military negotiations which involve providing a submarine base from which 'to deploy the first two of France's growing armada of nuclear submarines in and around the Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean'. They already are said to be modernising their low level refitting stations in Madagascar and the Comoro Islands. Despite the United Nations

embargo, France was the only country supplying South Africa with arms."

मन्त्री महोदय कहते हैं कि इस बारे में अखबारों में जो कुछ प्रकाशित हुआ है, उसके अलावा उन के पास कोई जानकारी नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब अखबारों में यह रिपोर्ट आई और विशेषकर हिन्दुस्तान के किसी अखबार ने इसको छापा, उस समय क्या सरकार ने अपने राजदूत के द्वारा फ्रांस की सरकार से इस बारे में कोई जानकारी ली। अगर फ्रांस ने किसी गुप्त वार्तालाप में इसकी जानकारी नहीं दी है, तो क्या सरकार ने किसी और सूत्र या तरीके से कोई जानकारी ली है; यदि हाँ, तो इस बारे में उस की मालूमात क्या है? अगर फ्रांस इस किस्म का व्यवहार साउथ अफ्रीका के साथ मिल कर हमारे इर्द-गिर्द, हमारे पानी के इलाके में, कर रहा हो, तो सरकार इस के बारे में किस-किस किस्म के कदम उठा रही है?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : अभी फ्रांस के साथ हमारी जो वार्ता भारत में हुई थी, उस में हम ने उन के सामने यह जाहिर किया कि हम चाहते हैं कि यह एरिया शान्त बना रहे और इस में अशुभ बर्तन कोई इस तरह का सामान न लाया जाये। फ्रांस ने हम से उत्सुकता दिखायी।

श्री आज फरणोजी : श्री दिनेश सिंह से पहले मन्त्री महोदय ने उत्तर देते हुए कहा कि उन्हें इसके बारे में जानकारी नहीं है और अब श्री दिनेश सिंह कह रहे हैं कि फ्रांस के साथ उनका वार्तालाप हुआ है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस प्रश्न विशेष को लेकर वार्तालाप हुआ, या इस तरह की मीठी मीठी घिसतलब बातें हुईं कि हम इस समुद्र में किमी को नहीं चाहते हैं। मन्त्री महोदय को इस का खुलासा करना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मृत्युंजय प्रसाद।

श्री मृत्युंजय प्रसाद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह आकाश पर विमानों आदि का पता लगाने के लिये जमीन पर रेडार लगाये

गये हैं, क्या उसी तरह सरकार ने समुद्र के लिए रेडार या सोनार की कोई व्यवस्था की है, जिस से यह पता लगाया जा सके कि हमारे तट से पचास, सौ या दो सौ मील दूर किस तरह के जहाज आ जा रहे हैं। मन्त्री महोदय इस बारे में चाहे कोई डीटेल्स न बतायें, लेकिन वह इतना आश्वासन दे दे कि सरकार ने ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था कर रखी है, जिससे हमें विदेशी जहाजों की गतिविधियों का पता चल जाता है।

श्री दिनेश सिंह : हम यह पता लगाने की चेष्टा करते हैं और जो आधुनिक यन्त्र इसके सम्बन्ध में हमारे पास हैं, हम उनका भी प्रयोग करते हैं।

SHRI HEM BARUA : Is it a fact that Indonesia has suggested that the Indian Ocean should be known as Indonesian Ocean and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto and may I know whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has already sent two thermo-nuclear submarines which are cruising in the Indian Ocean at present and if so, what action do Government propose to take, whether they propose to have a discussion with the Soviet Union to see that the Indian Ocean—up till now it is known as the Indian Ocean—is free from any political disturbances?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The story of the Indonesian Ocean is an old one. It is no longer current. So far as the question of.....

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : You mean to say it is given up?

SHRI HEM BARUA : That demand may be an old one. You cannot reject the old people right away because they are old. You don't reject a demand because it is an old one.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : So far as the question of approaching Soviet submarines is concerned, we are not aware of any Soviet nuclear submarines approaching. Our position is known to the Soviet Union. We want to keep this area free of nuclear weapons. This is very well known.

**SHRI SWELL :** Sir, it seems it has become the habit of many of our Ministers to say that they have no information in answer to many questions. Whatever happens in and around us in the Indian Ocean is of the greatest import to us. If they have no information of what is going on there, I think, they do not have the right to sit where they are sitting.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Come to the question now.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** But the question is : Will they oblige ?

**SHRI SWELL :** I am putting the question very seriously and carefully. I would like the Minister to give me a careful and serious answer.

It is a fact that consequent on the British decision to withdraw its military base from Singapore and on the probability of American withdrawal from Vietnam, there is a scramble among many powers to register their presence in the Indian Ocean and to carve out their spheres of influence there. As you said just now, you have been repeating that our method of meeting the consequent vacuum in the Indian Ocean is to increase the economic strength of the littoral countries. I would like to know whether the Minister's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Gorton, justifying the presence of Australian troops in Singapore and Malaysia precisely on the ground to increase and safeguard the economic life of the littoral countries against externally-promoted aggression and, if so, what is the attitude of this Government to this action of one of the littoral countries ?

**SHRI DINESH SINGH :** We are not in favour of any kind of military pact in that sense. The question that the hon. Member has raised is a general question that I wish he would put during the general debate where I would have a longer time to give a longer explanation. During the Question Hour, I can only say a few words. I can say this much that so far as the question of the Indian Ocean is concerned, it is not necessarily linked with British withdrawal—perhaps, that may be one factor—but the growing influence of other countries is felt in different parts of the world,

whether there are other countries present there or not present there. Therefore, for us, what is of the greatest importance is to increase our own defence capabilities to protect ourselves.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS** *Rise*

**MR. SPEAKER :** For the Information of the hon. members I will read out the main question and it is for the members to see whether any of the supplementary questions has any bearing to the main question. The main question is :

- “(a) whether it is a fact that France is trying to break into the Indian Ocean ;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the French High Command had decided to deploy two nuclear submarines in and around the Bay of Bengal in the Indian Ocean ; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction thereto.”

If you see the supplementaries, you will find that they have absolutely no bearing to the main question. I do not mind allowing the other members also. But who loses the time ? I do not mind one question being answered during the whole Question Hour. But who loses the time ? And the supplementaries also have absolutely no bearing to the main question. After all, the debate on foreign affairs is there and all these policy matters can be talked about during that debate. Unfortunately, Question Hour is being used like this. After all, you are the sufferers and not the Chair or the Ministers. One question has already taken 20 to 22 minutes. We can take another 20 minutes ; I do not mind. If I call Mr. Jyotirmoy Basu, I will have to call the others also. I do not mind. If that is the desire of the House, I will call everybody who gets up on the first question and one hour will be over, and nobody need be angry.....

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** Whether a particular supplementary is relevant or not, that is for you to decide. But you permit, and this goes on.

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is why I am saying this. If members co-operate by not putting supplementaries which have absolutely no bearing to the main question, that

will help me. Let us try to take up more questions— at least five or six if not the whole list.

Next Question. Mr. Maharaj Singh Bharati.

### हाकियों का निर्यात

श्री ७७२ श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूति मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ओलम्पिक में भारतीय हाकी टीम की हार तथा पाकिस्तान टीम की जीत के कारण भारत से हाकियों के निर्यात पर कितना प्रभाव पड़ा है ;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने विदेशों में यह प्रचार किया है कि भारतीय हाकियां सर्वोत्तम है और भारतीय हाकी टीम की हार अन्य कारणों से हुई है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसमें प्रतिकूल प्रभाव किस हद तक कम हो गया है ?

बंदेशिक व्यापार तथा पूति मन्त्रालय में उप-मन्त्री (श्री राम सेवक चौधरी) : (क) नवम्बर-दिसम्बर, 1968 में लगभग 3.17 लाख रु० की हाकियों का निर्यात हुआ जबकि 1967 की उसी अवधि में 1.84 लाख रु० की हाकियों का निर्यात हुआ था। उपलब्ध अधुनातन प्रवृत्तियों के अनुसार, अक्टूबर, 1968 में ओलम्पिक में भारतीय दल की हार के परिणामस्वरूप इस मद के निर्यात पर अभी तक कोई कुप्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है।

(ख) खेल कूद सामान निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् अपने निर्यात संवर्धन कार्यक्रम के एक अंग के रूप में भारतीय हाकियों के गुण तथा प्रतिस्पर्धीत्मकता पर बल देते हुए आवश्यक प्रचार का अभियान चला रही है। भारतीय हाकियों के गुण निष्पादन तथा प्रतियोगी मूल्यों सम्बन्धी अपनी विशेषताओं के कारण वे विदेशों में पसन्द तथा आवाल की जाती हैं। हमारे दल की हार अथवा जीत तो खेल में संयोग पर

निर्भर होती है निसका निर्यात सम्भावनाओं के सम्बन्ध में कोई महत्व नहीं होता।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह हाकी बनाने का बिजनेस पाकिस्तान में था और जब देश का बटवारा हुआ तो फिर हमारा यहाँ भी आ गया और मेरठ आदि दूसरे कई जिलों और दूसरे सूबों में बड़े पैमाने पर हम लोग अब यह काम कर रहे हैं। मन्त्री जी ने उत्तर दिया कि प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है और यह तो पुराने आर्डर बुक हुए थे आप के हारने के पहले जिन की सप्लाय आप कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान आज लगातार विदेशों में यह जोरों से प्रचार कर रहा है कि असली हाकी बनाने वाले हम लोग हैं। वहाँ तो हमारे कुछ लोग चले गये थे। वह नकली हाकी बनाते थे इसी-लिए वह हार गये हैं। दुनिया वालों, जीतना चाहते हो तो हमारी हाकी से खेलो। यह जो प्रचार दुनिया के सामने वह चला रहा है, क्या सरकार दुनिया के सामने इस प्रचार के जवाब से यह कहना चाहेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान की जो हाकी की हार हुई है वह हमारे खिलाड़ियों में हुनर की वजह से हुई है, हाकी की कमजोरी की वजह से नहीं हुई है। हाकी तो बहुत बढ़िया है। लेकिन यह जो देश है यह बहुत कमजोर देश है, खुराक कम मिलती है। हुनरबाजी बहुत है। हम खिलाड़ियों में नहीं है। गुटबन्दी बहुत चलती है। पाँच सौ के पाँच सौ हार गये। एक तमगा मिला वह भी कांस का। तो यह हाकी की वजह से नहीं हारे हैं, वह तो बड़ी शानदार है, क्या इस प्रकार का प्रचार करने की आप ने कोशिश की है ?

श्री चौधरी रामसेवक : भीमन्, यह कहना गलत है कि हारने पर हमारा हाकी का निर्यात कम हुआ है। मुझे आशा दी जाय तो मैं फिगर्स दे दूँ। सन् 1960 में हाकियों का निर्यात 1.86 लाख रुपये था। 61 में 4.26, 62 में 4.40,