

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Wednesday, March 2, 1988/Phalgun 12,  
1909 (Saka)  
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*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

**Visits of US Naval Ships to Indian  
Ports**

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\*121. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to halt the visits of U.S. naval ships to the Indian ports ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Whether it is a fact that in the last few years—to be more specific, since this Government took over—port calls in India

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by US ships have increased ? Whether it is a fact that since 1984, 12 such visits by US ships took place and 7 of them in 1987 alone ? Whether it is also a fact without any doubt that this increase has a direct relationship with the increased involvement of US Navy in the affairs of Persian Gulf ?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I have got the figures of the ships that have visited Indian ports. In 1984, 2 from the United States, 6 from the USSR, 6 from the United Kingdom, none from France, 13 from other countries, total 27. In 1985, 1 from the United States, 2 from the Soviet Union, none from UK and France, 16 from other countries, total 19. In 1986, 3 from the USA, 6 from the USSR, 3 from the UK, 3 from France, 12 from others, total 27. In 1987, 7 from the United States, 6 from the USSR, 1 from the UK, 7 from France and 5 others, total 29.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : In view of our time-tested policy of nuclear disarmament and Indian Ocean as zone of peace, whether it is not repugnant to allow US ships to visit India when they do not fulfil accurately our proforma and when the declared policy of US Government is not to disclose whether their ships are carrying nuclear weapons or not ? So, I want a categorical reply in view of this, whether you are contemplating not to allow their ships to our country unless they fulfil our proforma requirements ? Are you going to do that or not ? You have said : 'No, Sir.' Why 'no, Sir' ? I want a categorical reply.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : The statement that I have read out would clearly indicate that we follow a uniform policy whether the ships are from the

United States, the Soviet Union or the United Kingdom.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** Their policy is not to declare whether they are carrying nuclear weapons or not.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** What is your policy ?

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** They cheat us.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** I have great respect for my young honourable friend from the CPM because he does not trivialise serious matters. But I am just wondering if a little look at perestroika and glasnost might not help the CPM.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** It is all right. We have a time-tested policy.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** What I am trying to say is that our policy is uniform. When a foreign ship, military ship, comes to Indian waters, then there is a prescribed proforma which is sent to the embassy concerned. The conditions in the proforma will have to be fulfilled by all of them. And that is the practice. You will see that more ships have called from one super Power than from the other. So, the policy is uniform.

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY :** What about the visit of the French ship, *Clemenzo*? *Clemenzo* carries nuclear weapons and it is known to everybody. How did it come to our port, the French Aircraft Carrier?

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** I was expecting you to ask me about *Clemenzo*. *Clemenzo* arrived in January 1988 in Bombay. We have given the French Embassy the proforma that we give to foreign countries which is required to give specific information. That proforma is given with a note verbale giving all our regulations since 1971-72, 1986 and the latest one and that is what we require. The French Embassy accepted this and conveyed to *Clemenzo* and the *Clemenzo* was allowed to come in here for a variety of reasons.

**SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :** In view of this reply given by the hon. Minister, I want to remind that even Pakistan, the great friend of US did not allow their port call during the Gulf war crisis. China also did not allow them when they did not agree to declare whether they are carrying nuclear weapons. In this context, our view appears to be a bit timid. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as it is a part of diplomacy, whether the Government analysed the issues involved in every case and whether the US ships, while coming in the Indian Ocean region, whether they are touching Diego Garcia at any point.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** Between 1972 and 1984, no ship from the United States called at Indian ports. Even this year in one case, we have allowed the US ship to come to our port and in the other case, they have been refused the permission. Each case is judged on its merits. There are sometimes, operational inconveniences and at other times there are other reasons but this particular matter is scrutinised with very great care and as the hon. Members appreciate, because it is a sensitive and delicate matter.

**SHRI R.L. BHATIA :** The biggest naval ship of the Diego Garcia, the American base and American fleet has been, along with Pakistan, having joint exercise in the Indian Ocean. In view of the fact, I would like to know from the Minister whether all these American ships which visit our ports, come for fuel purpose or for recreational purpose. What kind of facility has been given to them? Please explain.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** We allowed no military or naval exercise or of military kind because it is against our policy so far. In some cases, these ships come for re-fuelling purpose. In some cases, they come from Bangladesh to Madras going to Sri Lanka. There are lot of ships going to Sri Lanka. They may be going to Malaysia, Singapore and then through the Pacific Ocean. The facilities that we allow to the sailors and the men of the ships are the same as allowed the world over. When our ships go to other ports, they are allowed recreational facilities. Similar facilities are allowed by us. There,

is no exception. No special arrangements are made for the personnel of any particular country or a particular ship.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** I understood the Minister to admit just now that we are giving rest and recreational facilities to the crews of these naval vessels. I am sure he is aware of the historical experience of some countries in the South-East Asian region like Philipines, Vietnam—Vietnam before liberation I mean—where rest and recreation facilities used to be provided by the Governments of those countries to the United States vessels. I am sure he is aware of the experience which was not a very salutary experience. I would like to know what is the nature of these rest and recreation facilities. Does it mean that the crews of these vessels, irrespective of the country to which they belong, are allowed not only to come ashore and do some shopping etc., but they are allowed to stay for some time ashore and some facilities are provided to them? What exactly is meant by rest and recreation facilities because this is a practice which we have never followed in the past? This practice has brought social havoc to countries like Philipines and pre-liberation Vietnam and other countries. Are we learning any thing from that?

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** There seems to be some misunderstanding. Government does not make any special arrangements. There are time-honoured customs and practices of all the navies the world over going back several centuries, but Government is in no way involved. But if any of our laws are violated by the crews, which come ashore—they might go to some restaurants and go for shopping—and if they indulge in some activities which to us are not acceptable, certainly we will come down on them very heavily. And I can assure the hon. Member that the kind of happenings that happened in Vietnam have not happened and will not be permitted to happen in India.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** Our declared policy is to make the Indian Ocean zone of peace. Before allowing these foreign naval ships to visit our ports, do we insist on getting an assurance that the ships do not carry and are not capable of carrying any nuclear weapons? If not, why?

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** As I said several times this morning as also last week when the same question was asked, that there is a proforma which is sent to the mission concerned.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** What is that proforma? Please read that.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** The proforma is several pages long.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** We want to know about the relevant clause which relates specifically to nuclear weapons carrying of nuclear weapons or their capability to carry nuclear weapons.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH :** The proforma is accompanied by this note. The note says :

“... have the honour to draw the attention to all the diplomatic missions to our earlier circular dated 17th November, 1972 (copy enclosed for ready reference) along with a proforma for obtaining diplomatic clearance for visits of all foreign vessels of Indian ports. This proforma has since been revised and a copy is enclosed.

It is requested that in future requests for clearance for the visits of foreign vessels to our ports may be made in this revised proforma.”

The 1972 proforma said :

“While making such requests for clearance, the mission should keep in view the well known policy of the Government of India regarding the disposition of nuclear weapons in the Indian Ocean area

The Ministry would like to draw particular attention of all the Missions to the United Nation's Resolution 2832 of the 26th session of 16th November, 1971 regarding the declaration of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace which interalia calls upon the

Great Powers to enter into immediate consultations with the littoral States of the Indian Ocean with a view to eliminating from the Indian Ocean the disposition of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The Government of India trust that the requests for host facilities will not be sought for vessels which have nuclear weapons aboard.

This proforma and the new one are sent to every single mission.

[Translation]

**Amount of Assistance to Madhya Pradesh**

\*122. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance given to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years in the form of grant or loan ;

(b) the percentage of assistance given to Madhya Pradesh as compared to other States ;

(c) if the percentage of assistance given to Madhya Pradesh is relatively less, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the assistance to Madhya Pradesh ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI) : (a) An amount of Rs 1131.29 crores has been allocated to Madhya Pradesh during the last three years for funding its Annual Plans. According to the prevailing pattern of assistance, 70 per cent of the above amount is in the form of loan and 30 per cent by way of grant.

(b) As compared to other States, the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh accounts for 9.09 per cent of the total allocation.

(c) and (d) The percentage share of Madhya Pradesh in the total assistance allocated amongst 14 non-special category States is higher than that of 11 States but lower than that of 2 States only. The allocation made to each State is based on its respective share in the total allocation for the Seventh Plan determined under the modified Gadgil Formula as approved by the National Development Council. Besides, additional assistance linked to externally aided projects has been allocated to each State taking into account the progress of disbursement of aid for the concerned projects. Hence, the question of taking steps to increase the assistance to Madhya Pradesh or any other State does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV ; The hon. Minister has informed that at present 30 per cent of the allocation is made by way of grant and 70 per cent in the form of loan. Madhya Pradesh is more backward as compared to other States and it is predominantly inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Adivasis. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the amount of Central assistance to Madhya Pradesh would be increased.

[English]

SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI : Sir, as I said, the Central assistance given to the States of Madhya Pradesh is according to the formula which says that 70 per cent is in the form of loan and 30 per cent by way of grant. This formula is applicable to all the States including the non-special category States. This assistance can not be increased because the formula is such that it is applicable to all the States. It is approved by the NDC. The State of Madhya Pradesh is getting higher according to the Plan outlay and the special allocation for the first three years of the Seventh Plan is Rs. 1131.29 crores. This accounts for 9.09 per cent of the total allocation.