

as I told you, I am all the time speaking in English and as you know, I have decided that I will continue to speak in English—I announced it here—till Mr. Aladi Aruna, who is no more a Member—I hope he will be again here—asks me to speak in Hindi, or now I can say, till Mr. Gopalsamy asks me to speak in Hindi.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: He should withdraw his word. He said 'Hindi fanatics'. We are not fanatics. He has used a bad word. Either it should be expunged from the record or he should withdraw it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not unpatriotic.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: This is not fair. He is saying 'Hindi fanatics'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can be fanatics for anything. I am a fanatic for democracy. I am myself a fanatic. If it is a bad word, I accept that I am a fanatic for moral values and ethical values in the country. You are also a fanatic for moral and ethical values, I am sure.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
सभापति जी, आपको फैनैटिक नहीं
होना चाहिए, लिबरल होना चाहिए ।

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: This is not fair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is wrong. I am a fanatic for democracy. I am a fanatic for moral and ethical values. I accept to be a fanatic.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :
डेमोक्रेटिक आप हैं और फैनैटिक भी—
दोनों साथ-साथ कैसे चलेंगे ?

श्री सभापति : : उसमें शायद कभी-
कभी मेरा... (व्यवधान)... हो जाता
हो, चितन ठीक न रहता हो,
एक कमजोरी रहती हो, वह कमजोरी
हम में भी है । आप की हिंदी के
लिए चिल्लाना कमजोरी है, तो अच्छा
है ।

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, half an hour has passed. You have called me once.

श्री सभापति : आप बता दीजिए,
33 मिनट हो गए हैं, अगर आप
इस पर हाफ एन अवर डिस्कस चाहते
हैं, तो मैं इस पर विचार करूंगा ?

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: I have a supplementary on the question, Sir.

श्री सभापति : आधे घंटे का
डिस्कस मांग रहे हैं ?

Question No. 262.

*262. [The questioner (Shri G. G. Swell) was absent. For answer vide col. 38 infra.]

Successful test firing of "Akash"

*263. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the most modern medium range surface to air missile "Akash" has been successfully test-fired recently;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) what are the highlights of this missile; and

(d) in what way this missile would be useful for defence forces of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR.
RAJA RAMANNA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ballistic flight test of 'Akash' missile was successfully carried out on 14-8-90 from Interim Test Range Balasore in India. All the mission objectives were fully achieved.

(c) 'Akash' is a medium range surface-to-air missile system with capability to take on multiple air-borne targets, trying to attack a defended area. The missile has dual mode guidance and uses the modern phased array radar.

(d) Akash missile system is being adopted in different various for use by our Services. Being a state-of-the-art system, it will enhance their air-defence capability.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Sir, it is a proud moment that we are seeking some clarifications about "Akash". It is the fifth missile which has been tested from indigenous technology. First was Agni, then Prithvi, Trishul and now this Akash. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister as well as the leading scientists, defence scientist Abdul Kalam and all the members of DRDO....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very good.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: ...that they have been constantly doing very good work in bringing the country to the rank of one of the most powerful countries, having technical knowhow in this field. I would also like to congratulate the previous Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi who had not yielded. ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You ask your question.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: ...to the pressures of the U.S. Government to stop the experiments of Agni. Now my question to the hon. Prime Minister is this. Are there still any pressures on the Indian scientists not to go in for such experiments? Secondly, what is the range of the Akash missile and what are the systems available comparable to this missile? The arsenals of our immediate neighbour who has attacked us several times, are also having a similar type of missiles or better than this because, as we know, the U.S. has many times supplied weapons very sophisticated, modern and technologically superior weapons, to the neighbouring country. Would you stop importing SAM 2 and 3 from the Soviet Union and what amount of foreign exchange will be saved by introducing this technology and from which date are you going to introduce this technology to the army?

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Bhaskar Annaji Masodkar) in the Chair]

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: I deeply appreciate the comments of the hon. Member in taking note of the success of the Akash missile and particularly his congratulations to the scientists which the Prime Minister and I will pass on to them. Considering the more important issue of pressures on the Indian scientists, I would like to say that the entire missile programme has been developed in such a way that these pressures cannot stop us in our progress. I think it is quite a good example of how technical developments can take place in India. If you permit me, Sir, the same thing was done by Homi Bhabha in the Atomic Energy Programme in the old days and similar type of systems have been followed in the development of our missiles and the missile programme is going faster because a certain system which would automatically succeed, has been followed. So the question of pressures from any other country does not arise. If there are pressures, we will just neglect them. The range of the Akash missile is 25 kms. Unfortunately I don't have with me the comparable types that are available of this nature from other countries. But if the honourable Member insists, I will produce a list for him. The question of missiles being introduced into the Army and the Air Force entirely depends on the various types of operations, the threats, etc. and this has to be taken into account. But in dealing with the various types of missiles which have been developed, each one has a specific task to perform and it is not simply the AKASH missile which has been developed. For each operation a different missile has been developed. For instance, TRISHUL is a short range surface-to-air missile and it has only a range of 9 kms. and there have been 13 launches already. As you know, the surface-to-surface missile PRITHVI has a range of 150 kms with a one-tonne warload. And the range depends on the warload. If it is a lighter warload, it goes a longer distance; 150 kms is a big distance. On the other hand, for

specific jobs we have surface-to-surface missiles. Then there is the third generation AAG missile which is only an anti-tank missile and which has only a range of 4 kms. But the whole spectrum — I will not refer to AGNI because you have already been introduced to it in the House—has been developed and tried and we are now concentrating on production aspects and then their delivery to the users in a very short period of time.

[Mr. Chairman in the Chair]

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Sir, this programme was launched in 1983 with a funding of about Rs. 750 crores. May I know from the honourable Minister what the position of the funding is at present and what other projects the PRDO is aiming for? Secondly, after development of this technology indigenously, the question is of upgradation, and upgradation and development go together. The weakest sector of ours is the component sector. Now, is the Government going to invite the private sector for their help in this sector, in the component Sector? And also the question which has not been replied yet is: By the indigenous development of these technologies in the sector of missiles, how much foreign exchange will be saved by stopping the missiles which are yet to be imported from being imported from the Soviet Union or other countries?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: The Government sanctioned in July 1983 Rs. 388.83 crores for the programme. This cost has recently been revised to Rs. 784.04 crores. I think the honourable Member has made a very important point about the components sector. The missile programme tries to make as much as possible within its laboratories, within other laboratories, within India. But there are certain sectors where certain imports have to be made. You see, it is reflection of the state of the industry in the country and I can assure the honourable Member that whatever can be done by the private indus-

try for the benefit of our missile programme generally, for the defence programme, we will accept their help in every possible way. The question of foreign exchange is always an important one because we are particularly short of foreign exchange. But the defence programmes and many of the scientific programmes in this country have been designed to become free of foreign exchange as much as possible. So we can minimise it to a certain extent, but some degree of foreign exchange will be necessary and it will not be possible for me to give a figure as such because it depends on so many items. But it will not be possible for me to give the figures as such because it depends on so many items. But it is our principle to reduce foreign exchange at all stages.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Basant Kumar Das.

श्री बसंत कुमार दास : एक दो सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ सप्लीमेंट्री के । यह प्रक्षेपास्त्र “आकाश” छोड़ा गया था, लॉन्च किया गया था, इसके कुछ दिन पहले “अग्नि” भी वहाँ पर लॉन्च किया गया था । क्या वही एक ही साईज के “अग्नि” और “आकाश” का लॉन्च हुआ ? जब “अग्नि” लॉन्च हुआ था उस वक्त एक वॉरिंग दी गयी थी, एक डेफिनिट टेरीटॉरी से आक्रमियों को हटाया गया था और सेप्टी प्रिकॉशन्स लिये गये थे । जब “आकाश” लॉन्च किया गया तब क्या ऐसे कोई प्रिकॉशन्स लिये गये थे या नहीं ?

दूसरा सवाल मेरा यह है कि—सवाल यहाँ उठाया गया था कि कुछ रेसिस्टेंट हो रहा था तब प्रिवियस गवर्नमेंट ने एक लॉन्चिंग पैड बनाने के लिये बलियापाल में, उस वक्त प्रपोजल था । क्या सरकार के पास अभी भी वही प्रपोजल है कि यह लॉन्चिंग पैड बलियापाल में ही बनेगा या इसके आसपास बालासेर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में या और कहीं बनेगा ?

श्री सभापति : यह बलियापाल का सवाल इसमें उठता ही नहीं है।

श्री यशवन्त त्रिहा : उठता है, म।

श्री सभापति : यह सवाल : यशवन्त जी कह रहे हैं—उठता है।

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS. Sir, I am asking this question because some popular resistance was offered earlier and it was referred to by the honourable questioner also. So, I want to know specifically whether the Government is still having that proposal to construct the launching pad at Baliapal.

श्री सभापति : इसमें उठता नहीं है। अगले मंत्रीजी जवाब देना चाहें तो जवाब दें।

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Sir, there is one more thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough, please.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, I can answer this question. The missile 'Akash' was fired from the Balasore launching pad in Orissa. It was done from an area which has been for long a part of the firing range under the Defence Ministry and the firing was done towards the sea. So, there is no question of any danger because the range is only 25 kms. So, it has been done according to what has been going on for several years.

With respect to resistance, yes, people have created some difficulties. But I have a feeling that it has not properly been explained to them, that is, the dangers to them or the benefits to the country. We are trying to understand this problem of resistance and trying to explain to them as to what is good and what is not necessarily good for them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kalmadi.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate our scientists on the good job done in respect of our missile programme for several years. At the same time, Sir, I would like to state that indigenous manufacture of missiles on a commercial basis would take some time. In

the meantime, all the missiles that we have, SAM-2 and SAM-3, are obsolete in the world today, especially because of the electronic counter-measures that the forces opposing us today have. In this context, I would like to ask the Government what new weapon systems as far as missiles are concerned are intended to be set up immediately.

Secondly, I would also like to ask whether, with the increase in the threat in certain vulnerable areas, which has grown over the last few years, the Government is thinking of increasing our missile systems versus aircraft. This issue has been going on in India for the last so many years, particularly because of the installations like the Bombay High, the Atomic Energy installations and many other installations becoming targets. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government will place any priority on the missile programme and what is the thinking for the future?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the honourable gentleman speaks of obsolescence,

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He is a Member, not a gentleman... (Interruptions)...

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: With due apology, I would say.... (Interruptions).

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Why? Members are also gentlemen... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: All Members are gentlemen and gentle ladies ... (Interruptions) ...

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, some flexibility must be given for a slip of the tongue but it is not a bad slip either. However, when the hon. Member speaks of obsolescence particularly with reference to SAM missiles, the Army has a store of these missiles which are meant to last for a particular period of time. Suddenly things showing a little sign of obsolescence means, the whole stock does not become obsolete. It is used for several years to come. It is even produced for several years to come. The idea is to tailor our deve-

lopments with those which have been imported that has been the programme. Now I have here in front of me a list which clearly says when the Prithvi will be deployed, when the Trishul will be deployed, when the Nag will be deployed and, of course, Akash. The Agni missile we don't, at the moment, talk of and all these dates are now in the range between 1992 and 1993, just around the corner in time. In the sense that our missile programme is rushing ahead to take over the problems of obsolescence and, therefore, we are right in the forefront of the things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 264.

*264. [The questioner (Shri Ramdas Agarwal) was absent. For answer vide col. 40 infra.]

Review of Implementation of non-formal Education Programme

*265. SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH
AURORA:†

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Hindu dated the 15th August, 1990 under caption "States not well disposed to non-formal Education;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed implementation of this programme during the last few years;

(c) if so, what are the results thereof;

(d) whether Government have decided to discontinue this programme; and

(e) if not what scheme has been chalked out to make it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora.

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMAN-BHAI MEHTA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Yes Sir.

The NFE Scheme has been reviewed from time to time in various meetings and consultations with State Governments, meetings of the Central Advisory Board of Education, visits to States etc. The reviews have shown that there is need for

(i) greater investment of resources on improving the quality of non-formal education programmes;

(ii) strengthening the administrative and technical resource support systems of the programme;

(iii) improving the selection and training procedures of NEFE instructors;

(iv) developing mechanisms for entry from formal to NFE system and vice-versa;

(v) setting up proper managerial information and monitoring systems for programme.

No. Sir.

Revision of the Scheme will be considered in the light, *inter alia*, of the recommendations of the National Policy on Education Review Committee.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Sir the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House is full of generalities and gives an impression that the Government is not really serious about the non-formal education. It is mentioned in the reply "greater investment of resources on improving the quality of non-formal education programmes; strengthening the administrative and technical resource support system of the programme; improving the selection and training procedures of NFE instructors" are required. Now are we going to start it *de novo* or