

equipped with 30 mm guns which are better and heavier than those on Indian Coast Guard ships as reportedly observed by the Director General, Coast Guard on June 27, 1990;

(b) if so, what is the present strength of Indian Coast Guard ships and the guns on them, as compared to those of their counterparts in Pakistan; and

(c) what is the scheme for upgrading and augmenting the Indian Coast Guards fleet equipment so as to be able to guard the coastal belt effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The recently acquired Pakistani Maritime Agency vessels are equipped with modern 30 mm guns. Our Coast Guard vessels are equipped with the older 40/60 Bofors guns. The strength of Coast Guard Fleet and their fire power are determined according to the roles assigned to the Coast Guard vessels.

(c) The augmentation of Coast Guard Fleet and its modernisation are undertaken in accordance with the Coast Guard Development Five Year Plans.

Alleged misleading of Swedish Newspaper "Degens Nyheter" by investigation team in Bofors Gun deal

2389. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Swedish Newspaper DEGENS NYHETER has tendered an unqualified apology to Shri Ajitabh Bachchan in a libel suit filed by him against the newspaper for publishing a report, linking him with the Bofors Gun deal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the proceedings, the said newspaper had blamed the CBI and the persons directly involved in the investigations into the deal on behalf of Government of India, for mis-

leading both the correspondent and the editor of the newspaper; and

(c) if so, what are the names of such persons who have misled the Swedish newspaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The Ministry of Defence has no information in the matter.

(b) and (c) According to the CBI, no officer of the Government of India who was associated with the investigation at any stage had anything to do with the story published by Degens Nyheter on 31-1-1990.

मंत्रिमण्डल सचिव द्वारा हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स को दिया गया साक्षात्कार

2390. डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान जुलाई 1990 के अन्तिम सप्ताह में हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में मंत्रिमण्डल सचिव द्वारा दिए गए साक्षात्कार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें राजनीतिक और प्रशासनिक मामलों पर उनके विचार प्रकाशित किये गये हैं;

(ख) क्या उन्होंने साक्षात्कार को देने से पहले सरकार की अनुमति ली थी; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह):

(क) से (ग) सरकार ने हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में प्रकाशित मंत्रिमण्डल सचिव के साथ हुए साक्षात्कार को देखा है। साक्षात्कार के दौरान विभिन्न मुद्दों पर चर्चा की गई। इस साक्षात्कार में सरकारी नीतियों या राजनैतिक पार्टियों की आलोचना नहीं की गई थी।

वर्तमान अशुदेशों के अनुसार भारत सरकार के सचिव स्तर के अधिकारी सरकार की पूर्वानुमति के बिना प्रेस के साथ बातचीत