

Deployment of Chinese sub-Marines in the Indian ocean and the Arabian Sea

222. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased state;

(a) whether it is a fact that China is deploying nuclear submarines in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Government have no information on this. However, Government continue To maintain a constant vigil over the induction of outside naval force into the Indian Ocean area. Our defence plans are updated from time to time to meet emerging situations. Government also fully support the concept of the Indian Ocean region as a Zone of Peace.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Sir, from what the honourable Minister has stated, it is there. It is not only that. I do not say that China will deploy nuclear submarines in the Arabian Sea with a mini to destroy our offshore oil installations, but it will be very much an encouragement for Pakistani and Sri Lankan frogmen to enter our Bombay High. Will the honourable Minister please say what steps the Government is taking to prevent this type of activities?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir. I have already stated that we believe in the Indian Ocean being a zone of peace. But, as far as the question of Chinese submarines is concerned, there is no positive indication available at present that China has deployed any of its available submarines in the Indian Ocean or in the, Arabian Sea.

SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: My second supplementary is, I want to know whether in this regard the Defence Ministry has set any special committee to keep a watch from time to time over these activities which are going on for the last many years. So, sir, about Pakistan and Sri Lanka, if is a well-known fact, everybody knows,

that this is going on, so many things, inside and outside. In this regard, is the Government of India going to appoint a special committee to keep a watch from time to time over these activities?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, I assure the hon. lady Member that she should have no apprehension on this account. Our military response is to strengthen our navy. India cannot sit back and watch the qualitative change in the navies of other countries.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Mr. Chairman, the question of China's deployment of nuclear submarines in the Indian Ocean and other oceans arises because of the known existence of the U.S. nuclear submarines in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, what I want to know is what our information is with regard to the existence of the United States nuclear submarines in the Indian Ocean including Diego Garcia.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, we have always protested against the super powers presence in the Indian Ocean, and naturally, whatever movement of the navies of the super powers is there in the Indian Ocean, we are keeping a watch on it; and we are constantly watching it.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: Sir, the question is about the Chinese presence, presence of the Chinese submarines in the Indian waters or in the Indian Ocean. At the moment, Sir, there may not be any Chinese submarines in the Indian Ocean; we grant that Sir. But with the fast development of technological advances which are being made in China, it is within our knowledge that China at present has got two, definitely two nuclear submarines and four are under construction and that they have a capacity of 1 to 3 megatonne missile which they can fire. With the axis which has been formed in this area, the axis of America, Pakistan and China, it really becomes a very dangerous situation. With the American CENTCOM in Diego Garcia, which has at the moment got 220,000 men who are likely to be increased to 440,000 men, with the Americans in Oman...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kapur, please

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: What I want to know from the Government is whether a watch is being kept and whether the navy is being built up to the strength to counter all this, the presence of the foreign navies, particularly the Chinese navy in case an unfortunate situation arises because the Indian Navy is not equipped today.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Please sit down.

SHRI H. L. KAPUR: I would like to know, Sir, what action is being taken to counter such a thing because we have got a very large coastal line.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Please sit down. You have put the question.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, the hon. Member will not expect me to disclose all the secrets of our navy.

MR. CHAIRMAN; You do not have the information on this. It is the Defence Minister who can give it.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: But, certainly, I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Indian Navy's and Army's acquisition and construction plans are suitably updated to meet any situation that may possibly arise.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY; Sir, the Hon. Minister just now said that he believes firmly that the Indian Ocean should be zone of peace. May I say Sir, that his belief in this concept that the Indian Ocean should be a zone of peace, is dead as a dodo. And many communiques have been issued between the Government of India and other dignitaries who visited our country in the past about this matter. But there has been increasing escalation of naval vessels fitted with very sophisticated weapons in this area. What fresh initiatives have been taken by the Government of India to stop this? Apart from the submarines deployed by China, there has been increasing movement of naval forces by super powers in this zone. May I know, Sir, whether any fresh initiative or new effort has been made in the United Nations or elsewhere to stop this menace?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, we are pursuing the matter regarding

declaration of Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. The ad hoc committee which met recently has unfortunately postponed the Conference on Indian Ocean to 1986. As soon as this Committee meets, its recommendations will be placed before the United Nations for further necessary action.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ramanand Yadav,

श्री रामानन्द यादव : मैं तीन क्वेश्चन पूछना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात यह है कि मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मारिशस के प्राइम मिनिस्टर जल्दी ही भारत आने वाले हैं, शायद पहली या दूसरी को आवें। क्या भारत सरकार मारिशस के प्राइम मिनिस्टर से इस बात पर विचार करेगी या अपना विचार व्यक्त करेगी कि मारिशस के लोग अब डिगो-गार्शिया में जा कर के जहाँ अमरीकन मिलिटरी ब्रिड्ज है रेपिड डवलप-मेंट फोर्स का और जहाँ पर न्यूक्लियर वेपंस का भण्डार है उसके सम्बन्ध में मारिशस ने अपने विचार में किसी तरह का परिवर्तन कर दिया है? क्या इसकी जानकारी के लिए कुछ चर्चा करेंगे? दूसरी बात... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not relevant. Next, Mr. Kalmadi.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV. Why, Sir? This is related to the foreign office.

MR. CHAIRMAN, Please sit down. This is not relevant.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI. I am surprised when the Minister said that the Government has no information about deployment of Chinese submarines in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea, on the 15th October, 1984, Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, who is the Director of the Institute of Defence Studies, has stated that China is about to deploy the new generation nuclear missile submarines. The present range of nuclear missile submarines is 1500 KMs; and the newer generation is much more. They want to come to the Arabian Sea to start second front on Russia. They also need a base in the Indian Ocean which is more disturbing. The Minister has

also stated that the defence plans are being updated. But, I am very *much* surprised to find that in the defence the allocation for navy is only Rs. 600 crores. allocation was 11 per cent. But this time instead of increasing it they have brought it down to 8 per cent. In view of our long coast line and Shri Lankan problem the allocation for the navy should have been more. Of course, the Southern Navy Command is coming up. It is a good thing. I think more money must be pumped into navy. I specially request the Prime Minister to look into this vital aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a very good suggestion.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI- Sir, we will definitely look into it. But, I would also like to have a suggestion from the hon. Member where we should cut that money from.

SHRI SURESH KALMADL You can cut it from the Army budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Jaswant Singh.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question is about the presence of Chinese nuclear submarines. My gallant colleague, Air Marshall H. L. Kapur, spoke about an 'axis'. I would like to ask, Sir, what information the Government of India has on the Sino-Pak nuclear axis, about which in the U. S. Foreign Relation, Senate Com mittee, Mr. Howard Scheaffer, before his posting to Bangladesh, gave a closed door secret testimony. Actually he indicated in this secret testimony that there are reports of an existing Sino-Pakistan nuclear axis. How far has it been established? How do you intend containing it? Have you taken up the question with the Republic of China or with the Government of Pakistan? And, finally, have you sought an official comment on Sino-Pak nuclear axis from the U. S. Government?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, this is entirely a different subject. It needs a separate question. Then, we will answer

MR. CHAIRMAN., Notice is to be given.

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN: ...
 Our government is committed to the philosophy of peaceful co-existence and it is the desire of the Government to maintain the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. In view of that, may I know from the hon. Prime Minister whether the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' Conference in Delhi would take up this issue for consideration and secondly, whether the attack on Indian fishermen by the naval boats of Sri Lanka on the high seas...

MR. CHAIRMAN; Not relevant.

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN. ... will be construed as a proxy war.

MR. CHAIRMAN; No, no, you must ask only about Chinese submarines.

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 SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN. The first part is about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN; The first part will be answered.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN; Sir, I would like the hon. Member to repeat his first question.

SHRI B. KRISHNA MOHAN; I wanted to know whether this patlicufar aspect of concentration of submarines of super powers in the Indian Ocean would be taken up for consideration by the Foreign Ministers' Conference in Delhi.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN; The Bureau meeting is being held for an entirely different purpose and this subject will not be discussed.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his reply the Minister has stated that the Government is keeping vigil on the induction of naval forces in the Indian Ocean region. The five-year US Plan for Strategic Development has provided an enormous amount of 25,000 million Us dollars for strengthening its naval forces in the Indian Ocean region. They are already having 25 military installations there. They are having a military base in Deogo Garcia and getting operational facilities at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka. I am afraid that Trincomalee may become another base for the United States. In that case, will

... a tangible threat, a grave threat to India. Under these circumstances, I would like to know whether the issue will be taken up with Sri Lanka by the Indian Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no relevant question. Mr. Satya Pal Malik.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I have no reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Satya Pal Malik.

श्री सत्यपाल मलिक : श्रीमान्, इधर एक खतरनाक बात हुई है कि अमेरिका और यूरोप के जो हथियार बाजार हैं वे पिछले कुछ सालों से चीन के लिए खुले हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो चीन की नौसैनिक शक्ति है खासकर पनडुब्बियाँ और उनमें लगे हुए वार हेड्स क्या आपको जानकारी है कि उसमें ये सारे चीन के बने हैं या यूरोप और अमेरिका से इन हथियारों के लिए कुछ सहायता चीन को मिली है और अगर अमेरिका या यूरोप से कोई चीज पनडुब्बी या वार हेड्स के लिए हासिल की गयी है तो क्या हमें कूटनीतिक स्तर पर इस मामले को उठाना है ?

श्री खुर्शीद अलम खान : मान्यवर, ऐसी कोई जगह हमें सूचना मिलती है तो उस सूचना को हम बहुत गौर से देखने से पहले उसको जांचना जरूरी समझते हैं उसके बाद ही यह फैसला किया जा सकता है कि इस बात को किसी देश से उठाना है या नहीं उठाना है। यही हमारे पास ऐसी सूचना नहीं है जिससे कि हम यह जरूरी समझें कि हमें किसी मुल्क में शक तो उठाना है।

Landing permits to Foreign Tourists to visit restricted areas in the country

*223. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of organised groups of foreign tourists who were granted landing permits for thirty days for visiting restricted areas of the country during 1984;

(b) what are the areas for which such permits were granted indicating the number of permits granted, area-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue landing permits to individual tourists for such visits in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There is no provision for granting landing permits to organised groups of foreign tourists for visiting restricted areas for thirty days. (The Police checkpost authorities at Bagdogra Airport have been authorised to permit foreign tourists reaching Bagdogra by air to visit Darjeeling town and adjoining areas for fifteen days on condition that return journey is also made by air). Similarly the Immigration Officer at Port Blair has been authorised to permit foreign tourists reaching Port Blair to visit Port Blair Municipal area, Jolly Bony and Cinque islands for a period of fifteen days. Since no prior reference to Government is necessary in these cases information regarding the number of foreigners so permitted by these authorities is not available).

(c) The facilities mentioned above are available to individual tourists also.

SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: I have no supplementary to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Syed Rahmat Ali.

श्री सैयद रहमत अली : टूरिस्ट वीजा पर जो फॉरेनर्स इन दिनों, मारे मुल्क में आये हुए हैं उनमें ईरान और ईराक से ताल्लुक रखने वाले कुछ टूरिस्ट भी हिन्दुस्तान में हैं और जिनके वीजा का वक्त खत्म हो चुका है, इनको यहाँ से वापस जाने के लिए प्लेन की कोई स्टूडियन नहीं है इसलिए वे बगदादाभय तेहरान नहीं जा सकते हैं। तो ऐसे केमेजत क्या गवर्नमेंट इन्हें मजिद ठहरने की इजाज देगी, यह बात मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब से जानना चाहता हूँ।