

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 19th February, 1981/
30th Magha, 1902 (Saka) The House met
at eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman
in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Spying by British Navy men

*41. SHRI T. BASHEER:
SHRI ARVIND GANESH
KULKARNI :†

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be
pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have
taken any action against the British
Navy men who spied on the Indian
ships in Bombay Harbour during the
visit of the British cruiser in Nov
ember to December 1980; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of
that inquiry?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI
INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Two
incidents involving taking of unauthorised
photographs by British Naval personnel
came to notice during the visit of a British
cruiser to Bombay last year. The matter was
taken up with the U.K. authorities who have
assured us that no act of espionage was
committed and that such incidents would
not recur.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI:
Sir, the report which appeared in the press at
that time was tit only about photography but
also about the act of bottomsearching of the
INS Rajput and that a British Navy man or
what you call a frogman was caught by the
Indian Navy officials. I would like to know
whether it was as simple as photography or
whether a frogman was also caught while
bottom-searching the INS Rajput which has
been purchased from the Soviet Union—it
is a

powerful missile ship of the Indian Navy—and
if so, whether any action was taken apart from
that you have protested to the British
Government and they have also assured you
about that. But it seems that in Queen's English
goodwill visits are just like spying visits. So
what deterrent action do the Government
propose to take in this respect and was the INS
Rajput bottom-searched? That I is the basic
point. And what has happened to that?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL,: The
INS Rajput's bottom was not search
ed by any frogman. We have exa
mined what was written in the press
and we have collected the informa
tion. But the bottom was not search
ed by any frogman. Of course,
two seamen were caught taking pho
tographs and then we took proper
action against them.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-
KARNI: Sir, the Minister says that the INS Rajput
was not bottom-searched. That is all right, I have
got nothing to say. But why were they let off for
photographing the sensitive
areas in the Naval Dock? Why was not the usual
law of the land made applicable to them? Why
taking this 'matter up at the diplomatic
level, giving a warning and the British -
Government assuring the Indian
Government and again repeating
the same acts? Does the Government
think that it is quite enough for the
security of the country that such acts .-':
should be let off so lightly?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The - two persons
who were in the Dock- ^ yard taking photographs
were caught. The camera of one of the seamen
was confiscated and the film was taken from that
camera. Then the officers on the ships of the
Royal Navy were called and they were identified.
And after interrogating the persons who were
caught over there, our office has come to the
conclusion that the act of taking photograph by
itself will not be involving espionage or pying
as such. And

†The question was actually asked en the
floor of the House by Shri Arvind Ganesh
Kulkarni.

the photographs were also developed, and it was found that the photographs were of a normal nature. He had taken photographs of buildings outside and all these things. The 'photographs were of such a nature that they could not have revealed any information about the Rajput or about other ships there. After considering all these aspects, it was thought that it was not necessary to take any more action, and they were allowed to go.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: May I add a word? On our part, we have tightened our own security. We have had a meeting on this issue and We are doing all that can be done.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I am sure the Government must have tightened their security: But that is not the point at issue. Now, Sir, the hon. Minister says that the British Government has denied it.. Do we expect the British Government—or, for the matter, any Government—to admit when espionage is done? That is no argument.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I brought the whole matter to the notice of the House through a special mention. All the facts I do not remember now. Sir, it seems that the photographs were taken at night in the same way as the photograph was taken when the Soviet Premier visited England and there was bottom—searching and Commander Crab was caught. The *modus operandi* was exactly of the same type. To what extent here they succeeded or not, is a different matter. It goes to the credit of our Navy—I am not criticising the Government on that score—that they released what is called in technical terms—I am not a military man by any means—"scare charge"; and then having found that the 'scare charge' had been released, these people, the British people, escaped.

Why all this crypticness if it was so> simple and honest...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I thought this question was gradual^ evolving in the Darwinian ^style. All right. Since you say it, I put it like this. Why is it that they ran away? They wanted to do it secretly; and they did it secretly." - If it .was so ^ open and innocent, why did they run away? After cross-examination they were let off. There was need for a probe. Why was that not done? Other things if I ask, you will say the question is becoming longer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not seen> the question yet. It is neither long nor short. I have not yet seen the question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The question must necessarily be either long or short.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Search other things also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We are in the middle now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: See if you *can* answer it. I have not followed it.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, if I understood him correctly, I may say, We got the answer from the Royal Navy and the British Government, and we ourselves tried to And out whether there was any spying or not. The two seamen were allowed to go for certain reasons. They were small, young boys and they were civilians. They had taken the photographs of other things also.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUI^ KARNI: Can't young boys do espionage work?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: When they were caught, they readily gave the camera and they said that they were taking the photograph. U any spying was to be done, it could

not have been done in that manner; more sophisticated methods would have been adopted. We found that the boys were there and were just taking the photographs. Of course, we have no equipment to find out as to what really was in their minds. But the method by which they were doing it was so crude that we came to the conclusion that it could not have been spying.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Is there any criterion of age for spying young or old? What is there?

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : श्रीमन्, मंत्री महोदय ने इस मामले को बहुत ही लाइटली लिया है यह हिन्दुस्तान की सिक्योरिटी का सवाल है। दो बच्चे खाली फोटो ले रहे थे यह कहकर इसको टाला नहीं जा सकता। हिन्दुस्तान के सारे बार्डर एरियाज में एक तरफ पाकिस्तान के और दूसरी तरफ चीनियों के नासूर है। यह जो इंसिडेंट हुआ है इसके बारे में आप थोरो इन्क्वायरी करना चाहते हैं या नहीं। खाली यह नहीं कि कोई मशीन हमारे पास नहीं थी जिसके जरिये से उनके दिमाग में क्या है यह हम मालूम नहीं कर सकें, यह कहने से काम नहीं चलेगा। आपको थोरो इन्क्वायरी करके इसके बारे में क्या, इक्दामात ले रहे हैं और ऐसे इंसिडेंट्स को रोकने के लिए क्या मीजर्स ले रहे हैं, इसके बारे में आप कहें।

श्री शिवराज बी० पाटिल : मुझे थोड़ा सा क्वेश्चन क्या है, इसका पता नहीं चला है।

DR. RAJENDR ZAKARIA: How does it arise out of this question?

श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी : मेरे सवाल को आप नहीं समझे तो बहुत ही अफसोस की बात है। मैं आप से साफ साफ यह कह रहा था कि यह जो इंसिडेंट हुआ था इसकी थोरो इन्क्वायरी के लिए आपने

जांच बिठाई है या नहीं? आप यह कह रहे थे कि ऊपरी तौर पर यह जाहिर हो रहा था कि वह बच्चे थे और उनकी इंटेंशन कोई एस्पियोनाज करने की नहीं थी और उनके दिमाग में क्या था इसकी जांच करने के लिए हमारे पास कोई मशीन नहीं थी। मेरा सवाल यह है कि ऐसे एस्पियोनाज के काम होंगे हिन्दुस्तान भर में तो इसके लिए आपके पास क्या मशीनरी है, इसको रोकने के लिए क्या इक्दामात उठा रहे हैं? अगर उठा रहे हैं तो जो इंसिडेंट हुआ है उसकी जांच करने के लिए आपने कौन से कदम उठाये हैं?

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : मान्यवर, मैंने शुरू में ही कहा कि यह जो मूल्यांकन इसका हुआ कि जासूसी है या नहीं वह वहां नेवी ने किया और उसमें अपनी राय बनाई और वह राय हमको दी। वह राय हमने उनकी मान ली। लेकिन हमने यह जरूर मससूस किया कि अब से बहुत ज्यादा संतर्कता होनी चाहिए और इस मामले में बहुत से जो लोग हैं, संतरी हैं उनकी ट्रेनिंग में और डाइरेक्शन उन कि हमें बहुत ज्यादा केयरफुल, सावधान रहना चाहिए।

जहां तक काउंटर एस्पियोनाज के कदम हैं मेरे ख्याल से आप और मान्यवर, सब माननीय सदस्य मुझसे सहमत रहेंगे कि इन चीजों को आमतौर से पब्लिकली जाहिर नहीं किया जाता।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Goswami,

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: I have no supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very well. One of you; Mr. Rameshwar Singh.

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV: From his party one Member has already

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : श्रीमन्, मंत्री जी ने ऐसा ही उत्तर दिया है जैसे उत्तर एक बार भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री जवाहरलाल जी ने दिया था जब तिब्बत की जमीन चीन वालों ने हड़प ली थी तो जवाहरलाल जी ने कहा था कि वह ऊसर है, बंजर है। उसी तरह से हमारे मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि यह फोटोग्राफ उन बिल्डिंगों का है जिन बिल्डिंगों का फोटो लेने से कोई मतलब नहीं निकलता। लेकिन श्रीमन्, मुल्क इस बात को नहीं मानता, देश इस बात को नहीं मानता, मैं नहीं मानता हूँ क्योंकि ऊसर जमीन हो तो भी हमारी जमीन है और किसी बिल्डिंग का, किसी पुल का अगर कोई फोटोग्राफ लेता हो, कोई जासूसी करने वाला किसी लड़के के हाथ में कैमरा थमा सकता है और चैयरमैन साहब का प्रधान मंत्री की बिल्डिंग का जहाँ पर वह रहती है फोटो लेकर वहाँ पर आक्रमण किया जा सकता है। उसी तरीके से यह सरकार भी बिल्कुल ही इस मामले में असफल है। बिल्कुल यह सरकार निकम्मी सरकार है। जो सही बात को छिपाने के लिए प्रयास कर रही है। यह सही बात का उत्तर नहीं देते हैं। मेरा सवाल है कि क्या सरकार सतर्कता बरतेगी कि भविष्य में मुल्क में इस तरह की कोई हथकत न हो, इसकी गारंटी प्रधान मंत्री देंगी ?

श्री सभापति : इसका जवाब दे दिया गया है।

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : आपने कोई सवाल नहीं पूछा लेकिन एक सवाल जिस पर मैंने जोर नहीं दिया, उस में मैं जोर देना चाहती हूँ कि— which is that in today's world such photography or this type of traditional espionage does not have the meaning what it had ten or twenty

years ago. Today from satellites it is possible to get very clear photographs of almost everything that we own by way of ships etc. These matters are well known. I am not saying that, therefore, we should relax our vigilance. That is there. But we have to keep in mind the scientific progress that has taken place. (Interruptions).

*42. [The questioner (Prof. Ramlal Parikh) was absent for answer vide col

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने उत्तर दिया है कि हर जगह इस तरह की फोटो बिक रही है तो क्या मुल्क की हिफाजत के लिये, मुल्क की सेक्योरिटी के लिये इस तरह की फोटो के ऊपर प्रतिबंध लगायेंगे ?

श्री सभापति : जवाब हो गया है।

Next Question.
33/038 infra.]

Soft loans to small sick units

*43. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal V under Government's consideration to provide the sick units in the small scale sector with soft loans from the public terms lending institutions; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a Study Group to examine the proposal for a Soft Loan Assistance Fund 'for providing assistance and rehabilitation to Sick Small Scale Units.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, it is extraordinary that the hon. Minister