

## 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 (SHRI-  
MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and  
(b) Two incidents involving taking  
of unauthorised photographs by Bri-  
tish 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 KUL-  
KARNI: Sir, the report which ap-  
peared in the press at that time was  
not 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 whe-  
ther it was as simple as photography  
or whether a frogman was also  
caught while bottom-searching the  
INS Rajput which has been purchas-  
ed from the Soviet Union—it is a

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

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  
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 con-  
clusion that the act of taking photo-  
graph by itself will not be involving  
espionage or spying as such. And

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 gradually 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 find 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 KULKARNI:** 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. If 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 रेडडी :** श्रीमन्, मंत्री महोदय ने इस मसले 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 सके, 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. RAFTQ ZAKARIA:** How does it arise out of this question?

**श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेडडी :** 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 बताई 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 spoken.

**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 चेंबरमैन 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 वरतेगी कि भविष्य में मुल्क में इस तरह की कोई हरकत न हो, इसकी गारंटी प्रधान मंत्री देंगे ?

**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).

**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.

\*42. [The questioner (Prof. Ramlal Parikh) was absent for answer vide col 33|38 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 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