

not always possible to keep this thing but our ultimate objective is to rely on our own organised labour which is required for the public sector projects.

Conference on the Law of Sea held at Caracas

*412. SHRI SIKANDER ALI WAJD:
SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :
DR. V.A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:
SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANI-
SHANKAR JOSHI:
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:†

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 239 given in Rajya Sabha on 3rd May, 1974 and state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached on the limits of territorial waters and the extent of exclusive economic zone at the recent Conference on the Law of Sea held at Caracas;

(b) what stand India had taken on these two issues; and

(c) the names of the countries which were in favour of India's stand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No agreement has been reached so far on the extent of territorial waters or on the extent of exclusive economic zone at the Conference on Law of the Sea. The Conference is due to end on 29th August.

(b) India is agreeable to a territorial sea limit of 12 nautical miles measured from the appropriate baseline along the coast. We are also of the view that a coastal State should be entitled to establish an economic zone of upto 200 nautical miles from the coast.

(c) More than 90 States at present attending the Caracas Law of the Sea Conference are in favour of a 200 nautical mile economic zone. India's stand has been supported by many other countries including Canada, Norway, Indonesia, Mexico, Iceland, New Zealand, Mauritius and Columbia.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Sir, may I know whether Government have proposed in the conference of Sea Law a new proposal for creating a zone of 18 miles adjacent to the territorial limit of 12 miles for the protection of fiscal, customs and health interests ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Yes, Sir. It is true that the Indian delegation made a proposal to create what is called a contiguous zone and the width of this belt would be about 18 miles beyond the territorial waters. The idea is that inside this belt the coastal country can impose certain customs, quarantine and health laws.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Do you want to ask any other question ?

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Sir, the developed countries also want full freedom for their advanced technology to exploit the resources of the ocean. By 1980, off-shore oil output may be close to today's oil production and specially-built ships may be scooping up from the sea bed the potato-sized nodules of manganese, cobalt, nickel and copper which will yield incalculable riches to the industrially advanced countries. In this way only the industrially rich and advanced nations will profit. In this respect, I would like to know whether India supports the view that the most advanced nations will be allowed to exploit resources in the deep ocean. May I also know from the hon. Minister which the countries are who want to exploit resources from the deep sea for their own interests. And, which nations are opposed to such a proposal ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Buragohain, you can ask only one question at a time. If you go on putting questions, other Members will not be able to ask.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is a fact that highly industrialised countries of the world have got the necessary capacity, technical know-how and scientific knowledge to explore the sea-bed resources and this conference at Caracas has been convened for this very purpose, to go into the whole question, because there is a lurking fear in the mind of many poorer and developing countries that perhaps because of their advanced scientific knowledge in this field the bigger nations will be able to exploit the sea-bed to their own

advantage and to the disadvantage of the smaller and poorer countries. Sir, this whole question is being given thought to in this very important conference and it is our hope that as a result of the deliberations at Caracas some kind of an international convention or treaty will be evolved, which will bring about some kind of a disciplined regime under which the sea-bed will be explored in future for the benefit of mankind on the basis of equality and justice.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, the Minister has just now said that India regards its territorial waters as 12 nautical miles from the shore. Now, Rameswaram is 12 miles from Kachchativu. Could the Minister enlighten the House precisely how he proposes to draw the international borders with Ceylon now that Kachchativu has been handed over to Ceylon and from Kachchativu the shores of Rameswaram are only 12 miles away? Have you made an amendment there?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The question is completely outside the scope of this particular question as to how we draw the boundary between India and Sri Lanka in Palk Straits. It is a bilateral matter and we have arrived at an agreement. It has nothing to do with this conference.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I do not know how this question can be just set aside like this. Does it apply or not? Do you believe in the 12 miles or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Tyagi.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, you have to protect me when I ask a question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You will have to ask a supplementary which has a direct bearing on this.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This has a direct bearing.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have called Mr. Tyagi now.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, may I clarify this point? Wherever the territorial waters between two coastal countries overlap like in the case of India and Sri Lanka then a decision has to be arrived at bilaterally.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: According to what?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You cannot have a dialogue with the Minister now. Yes, Mr. Tyagi.

श्री ओउम प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि श्री आप ने बताया कि समुद्र की तह में बहुत से खनिज पदार्थ हैं और जो उन्नत देश हैं वह इस अवस्था में हैं कि वह उन को अधिक ग्रामानी से एक्सप्लायट कर सकने हैं जिस प्रकार से पहले साम्राज्यवादी शक्तियों ने पिछड़े देशों को एक्सप्लायट किया था उसी तरह से समुद्र को भी यह देश एक्सप्लायट करेंगे। तो मैं आप से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारतवर्ष का अपना दृष्टिकोण इस संबंध में क्या है। समुद्र के अंदर छिपा हुआ जो खनिज है उस में समान रूप से सब देशों को लाभ पहुंचे, इस संबंध में भारतवर्ष का सिद्धांत क्या है?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : उपसभापति महोदय, भारत वर्ष का दृष्टिकोण यह है कि पहले तो हम टेरीटोरियल वाटरर्स की सीमा तय करना चाहते हैं कि वह क्या होनी चाहिए। उसके बाद हमारा मुद्दाव है कि उसके बाद दो गै मोल का एक इकोनामिक जोन होना चाहिए जिसके अन्दर कोस्टल कट्रीज को पूरा हक होगा कि वह उस के अन्दर के रिमोर्सेज को एक्सप्लायट कर सके और उसका उनको पूरा अधिकार होगा और उसके आगे का जो समुद्र है उसके बारे में हमारी राय यह है कि कोई इंटरनेशनल बाडी ऐसी होनी चाहिए कि जो इंटरनेशनल कम्युनिटी के बिहाफ पंग उस को एक्सप्लायट करे और उससे सभी को फायदा पहुंचाया जाए केवल दो या चार मुल्कों को ही फायदा न पहुंचे। ऐसा हमारा मुद्दाव है।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I should like to know which are the countries which are opposing the stand taken by India and some other nations and what are the reasons being given by them in opposition to the stand that we have taken and whether the matter has been taken up also at the bilateral level with a view to impressing upon these countries that they must give up their present stand.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This Conference has been attended by a large number of countries and all of them have made their individual statements. All of them have made their position and stand known on each issue. It is very difficult for me to say on each particular issue which country stood for what, but with regard to the main issues like, for instance, the territorial waters and economic zone, by and large, the majority of countries participating in the Conference are in favour of our stand.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Give the names of the countries.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have not got the names of all the countries.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What about the straits ? Will the 12 nautical mile zone cover control over straits because there are many straits ? If there is freedom of the seas, then those countries may feel themselves endangered. This is one point. I would also like to know what was the stand taken by Moscow, Peking and Washington on the stand that we have taken.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Our viewpoint in regard to international navigation and passage of ships has been stated. India is of the opinion that the smooth and uninterrupted passage of ships through the straits which have been traditionally used for international navigation must be maintained.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Including warships.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Peaceful navigation. This matter is being considered in the Conference itself. This is the statement which we have made from our side. As to what will be the outcome of the deliberations, I cannot say in advance at the present moment, but we are in favour of keeping the straits open for peaceful navigation for all ships. We are also in favour of giving some right to the coastal countries to take measures in regard to control of environments and pollution of water, etc.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What about the stand taken by Moscow, Peking and Washington on the general stand taken by India.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As far as my information goes practically all the maritime countries, I think, are in favour of the stand that we have taken.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: While the Conference is going on, have India signed any bilateral agreement with any country e.g. Indonesia or any other country regarding sea bed ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Perhaps the hon. Member is referring to the agreement between India and Indonesia in regard to the continental shelf boundary. As far as my information goes, the

agreement has been signed by now. No bilateral arrangements are being taken up in the Caracas Conference.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is it a fact that 200 nautical miles for the economic zone have also been suggested by the People's Republic of China and, if so, has the Government of India contacted any representative of the Peking Government, so that on this issue both the great countries of Asia may take a joint stand ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I cannot say for certain as to whether China has supported our stand or not, but I can say this much that on this particular issue it has been supported by nearly a hundred countries out of 115 which are participating in the Conference. I cannot say for certain whether China has supported us or not.

Rental paid by Burn and Co. at Calcutta

*413. **SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN :** †
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :
SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :
DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Burn and Co., Howrah, has rented a house at Hungerford Street at Calcutta on a monthly rent of more than ten thousand rupees despite its bad financial position; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to probe into its working to make the Concern a profitable one?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Head Offices of these Companies were located in Martin Burn Building. After takeover it became necessary and unavoidable that these Companies shifted out of the building.

(b) The financial state of these Companies is under constant review of the Government and necessary steps are being taken to improve the financial performance of the Companies.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nabin Chandra Buragohain.