

## RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 30th November, 1973/the  
9th Agrayana, 1895 (Saka)

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The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### U. S. Arms Aid to Pakistan

\*410. SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT† :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI :

SHRI SITARAM KESRI

SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Bhutto recently visited Washington and had talks with the U. S. Administration regarding arms aid to Pakistan ;

(b) whether U. S. Administration have refused to lift embargo on the supply of arms and lethal weapons to Pakistan ;

(c) the reaction of Government of India thereto ; and

(d) whether Government have received any communication in this regard from the Indian Mission in Washington?

The MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a.) During his recent visit to the United States, Prime Minister Bhutto is reported to have discussed with the U.S. Administration the question of supply of U. S. arms to Pakistan.

(b) and (d) We have received reports from various sources, including our Embassy in Washington which indicate that the U. S. Administration has not agreed to change the present policy under which U. S. supplies are restricted to non-lethal equipment and spare parts for equipment previously supplied.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Debananda Amat.

(c) Government of India hope that the United States will not resume supply of arms to Pakistan.

SHRI DEBANANDA AMAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir. Mr. Bhutto insists that the U. S. is obliged to supply red hot arms to Pakistan under the treaty which was signed during his last visit to Washington in September. The Foreign Minister of Pakistan Mr. Aziz Ahmed, uttered in Rawalpindi that Pakistan's Armed Forces were stronger now than in 1971. Our Air Chief Marshal, while addressing Air Force personnel in Bangalore, has also said that Pakistan can launch another attack on India in the future. Taking all these points into consideration, what is the reaction of the Government?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, I have already indicated in my reply that there has been no change in the Policy of the United States with regard to supply of arms to the sub-continent. It is true that during the recent visit to the United States, Prime Minister Bhutto discussed the requirement, military requirements, of Pakistan. But according to the U. S. Administration there is no change in their policy. And we welcome that there is no change in their policy.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has any information about the supply of U. S. arms to Pakistan indirectly through third countries? If so, what is the extent of such supply, and to what extent they pose a threat to our country's security?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, this question has been replied to earlier also. It is true that despite our efforts to prevent it, some U. S. military hardware has been passed on to Pakistan in the past through third countries. We have brought this to the notice of the House earlier also. Some countries prior to 1971 did indulge in such transactions. But after 1971, no such transaction has taken place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Lokanath Misra.

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA** Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon Minister to a news-item published in the 'Indian Express' of 28th September which says that six helicopters were supplied to Pakistan after Mr Bhutto, Prime Minister's visit to Washington? These were supplied from Okinawa and that in spite of the fact that it was decided that six helicopters should be returned as soon as the floods were over Pakistan did not send these six helicopters back. The 'Washington Post' has reported that this has the potentiality of the necessary arms supplies to Pakistan.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAI SINGH** Sir, it is true that these helicopters had been loaned to the Government of Pakistan by the USA for flood relief work. And it is also a fact, that a decision has now been taken to leave these helicopters in Pakistan. When we heard about this we took up this matter with the U S Administration, and they told us that these helicopters are not equipped with any arms, etc. and they do not treat them as lethal weapons. Naturally we disagreed with them on this point. But they assured us that they are not lethal weapons and that they are just ordinary unarmed helicopters.

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA** Do we have any intelligence reports on this?

**MR CHAIRMAN** This is the second question.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAI SINGH** These helicopters belong to the Armed Forces. So, I presume that if the recipient Government so decides, they can convert them into armed helicopters.

**SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN** : May I know from the hon Minister the total quantum of arms received by Pakistan from the U S A directly and through other nations indirectly and does the Government consider that these supplies threaten the security of India? If so, what steps are being taken by the Government?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH** It is not possible for me to give the value of the arms supplies to Pakistan by the U S A since, 1967. As has already been stated in the House earlier, I think two billion dollars worth of military equipment was supplied to Pakistan by the U S A under their mutual aid treaty prior to 1967. It is difficult to say what has been given to Pakistan since 1967. The hon Member asked whether we are vigilant about it or not. We are vigilant and we are doing all that is necessary to counter that.

**SHRI C D PANDE** In regard to this question of arms supplies to Pakistan by the U.S.A., France and other countries, is it in the knowledge of the Government that huge quantities much beyond the needs of defence of Iran, Kuwait, Turkey and Saudi Arabia are being supplied to these countries by the U S A? They are also purchasing huge quantities of arms from other countries as Kuwait has purchased 30 Mirages from France. It has been our experience that in times of war or when there is a clash between India and Pakistan these friendly countries like Iran and others which are more friendly to Pakistan, have been supplying arms to Pakistan. It has been our experience even in the previous conflict. May I know what steps is the Government taking to balance this immense force at the back of Pakistan and what are the plans of the Government if some untoward thing takes place between India and Pakistan?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH** As regards Pakistan's right to purchase arms from other countries we cannot challenge it. It is open to them to purchase arms from any country. It is true that Pakistan has purchased arms from France and other countries also. She has also received enormous help in this field from China. Americans had also supplied arms to them earlier. But as regards the purchase of arms by Iran, of course it has been causing us a great deal of concern. It is also true that in the past some military hardwares and aeroplanes had been passed on to Pakistan by Iran and we have been very

much concerned about it. May I inform the House that when our Foreign Minister paid a visit to Iran recently, this matter was taken up with the Iranian Government? It was taken up by him with the Shah of Iran also and he was informed by the Shah very categorically that whatever arms Iran was buying from outside, they were meant for their own domestic use.

**SHRI N. G. GORAY :** We must remember that while we deal with America, we deal with the Nixon administration and it is a very illusive entity. I would like to know that taking into consideration the fact that America has many alibis like Persia and other States, what attempts are we making to make sure that these alibis will not be used by America whenever such a moment arises? Another question that I would like to put is that Bhutto is very confidently talking about having arms from the Arab countries. As our relations with the Arab countries are very good, have we made sure that so far as the Arab countries are concerned, they will not supply arms to Pakistan if unfortunately there is some confrontation between India and Pakistan?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH :** This question of American arms reaching Pakistan through third countries has caused us concern in the past and it is something about which we feel concerned even now. Whenever it has been brought to our notice that any friendly country is trying to pass on these arms to Pakistan, we have taken up this matter with that country and in many cases we have succeeded in persuading them not to pass the arms on to Pakistan. As regards the Arab countries, it is a fact that about 3 or 4 Arab countries did transfer military equipments which they received from the U.S.A. to Pakistan during the 1971 as well as 1965 conflicts.

**SHRI N. G. GORAY :** I am referring to Bhutto's recent statements in which he said that they are getting arms from Arab countries.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH :** I have already admitted that 3 or 4 Arab countries have transferred such arms to Pakistan in the past. The possibility of these equipments finding their way to Pakistan again cannot be ruled out. But, to the extent possible, we are trying our very best to persuade friendly countries not to indulge in this practice. But I cannot say that we have always succeeded, or will always succeed.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : ये कौन कट्टीज हैं नाम बताइये ।

श्री सभापति : आप कहा से खड़े हो गये । कायदा मत तोड़िये ।

**SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :** In view of the bellicose speeches of Mr. Bhutto in recent days, especially in relation to Kashmir, and in view of M. Aziz Ahmed's speech which appeared in the paper yesterday, that Pakistan's army is now stronger than ever before, it is obvious that some arms are reaching them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how he can be cocksure that no fresh arms are reaching Pakistan and how he can be so sure that no arms are reaching Pakistan from Arab countries. How can he be cocksure...

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Cocksure or sure?

**SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :** It is cocksure. That means definitely sure. So, Sir, my question is : Are you very definite about it and is it likely that in view of the new fraternity between the U. S. A. and China and Mr. Kissinger's visit to Peking via Rawalpindi, some arms of the U.S.A. may be reaching Pakistan via China and via the so-called silk route?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH :** Sir, I do not think that any American arms will reach Pakistan via China because the United States has not yet started supplying arms to China. If the United States wants to supply arms to Pakistan, why should they use China? They can as well supply them through other countries friendly to Pakistan. This, I think, is far-fetched.

About Mr. Bhutto and Mr. Aziz Ahmed making statements that their army is strong, you cannot except any Defence Minister of any country saying that their army is not strong.

**DR. VIDYA PRAKASH DUTT :** Is the hon. Minister speaking from his own experience?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH :** These are the normal expressions of confidence and every Defence Minister has to do that. It is not something about which we need, have any undue worry. While thinking of Pakistan, we should adopt the attitude, as we have done in the past, of keeping our defences strong and trim and at the same time, we should always try to adhere to the Simla Agreement and try to resolve all differences by peaceful means. Ultimately, we should aim at eliminating war rather than always talking in terms of war. This is the approach that we should have.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : क्या यह सही है कि श्री भुट्टो और श्री अजीज अहमद के पिछले दिनों जो वक्तव्य आये और अमरीका जाने के बाद भुट्टो माहव ने जो तथाकथित जिसे आजाद काश्मीर वह कहते हैं और जो हमारा हिस्सा है वहाँ यात्रा की, उन्होंने वहाँ भाषण दिया, उसके पश्चात् अभी जो हमारे देश के अन्दर रुस के जो कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के महासचिव एक अतिथि के रूप में अपने देश में पधारे हैं उस यात्रा के दौरान काश्मीर के अन्दर गड़बड़ करने का प्रयत्न पाकिस्तान ने किया और काश्मीर बाडर पर कुछ मामूली दनादन भी हुई । तो क्या यह सही है कि पाकिस्तान ने जो भुट्टो और श्री अजीज अहमद कह रहे हैं उस थोट देने और उसको ट्रांसलेट करने की दृष्टि से या सारा काम किया है ?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH :** Sir, we did have some information that Pakistan is trying to help elements in the Valley which are still pro-Pakistan although their number is very small. We are aware of that, and the political handling and the

strong handling by the Administration of Kashmir is the surest guarantee that such elements will never be permitted to have the upper hand. We have a Government there, elected by the people, and we should leave them to deal with the internal situation. So far as threats by Mr. Aziz Ahmed and Mr. Bhutto are concerned, I would like to inform the House that we have already taken this matter up with the Pakistan Government pointing out to them that they should not indulge in this type of propaganda because this will be counter-productive besides being against the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Next question—Shri Barbora.

#### Irregular Allotment of Steel

\*411. Shri GOLAP BARBORA† :

SHRI N. G. GORAY :

SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY :

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a new organisation to keep an eye on irregular allotment of steel ;

(b) whether it is a fact that this organisation has got involved in a number of shady steel allotment in Bombay ; and

(c) whether C.B.I. has enquired into the matter?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) :** (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to be office of the Regional Iron and Steel Controller at Bombay. Government have no information that the Office of the Regional Iron and Steel Controller, Bombay is involved in any shady allotment of Steel.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Golap Barbora.