

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : It is wrong to say that any country has asked for our warships because of their inefficiency. If any country wants to exhibit our ships it would be because of their excellence or because of their historical interest or any such thing. But the hon. Member's contention that it is because of their inefficiency is absolutely wrong and unwarranted. . .

SHRI K. C. PANDA : What about the New Zealand's offer ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : This is because of historical interest, not because of its inefficiency. But they have some interest in it and they want to show it there.

About the need to modernize the Navy there is no doubt about it. But within the resources at our disposal we are trying our best to do this. As the hon. Member knows, we have started the Leander class of frigates. We have also started manufacture of patrol boats, which are very necessary for our coastal defence purposes.

We are very actively aware of the need to modernise our Navy.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, the hon. Minister explained to us the position saying that it all depends on the priority and that we did not have any difficulty during the last war so far as our Navy was concerned. I hope the House is not convinced on both the points.

(Interruptions)

It is because our adversary did not have any Navy equal to that of ours. It has only one cruiser. That is why we could overtake Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, you put your question.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Now, Sir, in view of the fact that the super powers or the big powers have started taking greater interest in the Indian Ocean, the role of the Navy becomes all the more important. I would, therefore, like to know : What are the efforts that are being made by the Defence Ministry in this direction and what is the difficulty in getting due priority for modernising the Navy on the part of the Defence Ministry ? In view of these necessities, why is the Defence Ministry not approaching the Cabinet ? We feel that modernising the Navy is an absolute necessity.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I am glad the hon. Member has asked a specific question and I will give a specific reply to that. There are three main difficulties which we are facing in modernising our Navy. The first is the inadequate financial resources. The second is the inadequate indigenous ship-building capacity and the third is the nonavailability of a reliable ship for acquisition from abroad. The ships which are offered for sale by other countries are often the ships which are either mothballed or are sold out by modern navy and we do not want to load our Navy with such kind of ships. Ultimately and basically we have to depend on our own indigenous capacity to develop or we can order other modern shipyards elsewhere to get modern ships built. As I indicated earlier, we are actually building petrol boats, leander class of frigates and many other things for our requirements. We are also acquiring ships from friendly countries who are willing to give us the types of ships that we want but still there are difficulties that we have to face before we can get what we really want.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : While complimenting the Defence Ministry for the attempts at modernising the Navy, may I ask whether the hon. Minister knows what Mr. Khrushchev said about aircraft carriers ? Thereafter, as you know, the Russians started making a change though they have not made much of it. They have seven ship-building yards in the Soviet Union, China is also building up the same number of submarines and we have less than five submarines with us. With our vast coastal land, we need about 50 submarines. When I visited Visakhapatnam, I saw very brave Commanders of submarines there. I would, therefore, like to know what plans has he got to increase our submarines and what are his plans to guard our borders ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I cannot give details of our plans regarding this but I can assure the hon. Member that our most urgent attention is being given to this problem.

TAPPING OF RURAL RESOURCES FOR FIFTH PLAN

*38. **SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :** †
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he has called

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sitaram Jaipuria.