

impossible for any young entrepreneur to get any loan from the State Bank even after going through all those conditions and the red tapism.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Well, if you ask some specific questions about such matters, I can give information. But, at the present moment, I have not got the information on this. I thought the question was about getting certain information about some of the irregularities.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Yes, it is about the State Bank only, about the irregularities in the Bank only. *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Not in any Bank in any part of his State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni, you are putting the question to the Minister or to the questioner ? All right. Next question.

PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIAN NAVY IN INDO-PAK CONFLICT 1971

*37. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : f

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL : SHRI K.

P. SINGH DEO : SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI

CHANDRAMOULI JAGAR-LAMUDI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Hindustan Times' of the 15th May, 1972, regarding the problems of the Indian Navy which were high lighted in the conflict with Pakistan in December, 1971 ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b) Government have seen a report in the Hindustan Times of 15th May 1972 regarding the Indian Navy. The report highlights the fact that a number of Indian Naval ships are ageing but does not, in fact, refer to any problem faced by the Navy during the last conflict with Pakistan.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the lion. Minister whether it is correct that the

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.

effectiveness of our aircraft carrier has been greatly limited by the shortage of aircrafts which are capable of operating from the aircraft carrier, particularly in view of the reported refusal by America to supply Sky Hawks which the Navy wanted ? Has the Government been able to get any alternative aircraft like the British Harrier for our aircraft carriers ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, it is well known that the aircrafts operating out of our carrier have grown aged and we have been thinking of replacing them. Various offers have been made and the HARRIER which the hon. Member has mentioned has also been offered to us. This matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon Minister whether any offer of VTOL kind of aircraft is under the consideration by the Government, and also whether the Government is thinking of adding to our aircraft carrier fleet itself ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, it would be desirable for us to have another aircraft carrier. As far as the desirability is concerned, there is no doubt about it. But whether in view of our overall financial position we will be able to give it a priority or not, that is a matter to be decided, taking the entire Defence strategy as a whole. As the hon. Member knows, the maximum that a carrier can take is already there. Now if the aircrafts have to be replaced, they have to be replaced from the present type to another type. No more aircraft can be added unless we add another carrier to our fleet.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : The first part of my question was whether the VTOL kind of aircraft is also being considered by the Government.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I said that various offers have been made and they are under consideration.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : It is also reported in the papers that some of our warships are requested by some countries to be kept as exhibits because of their inefficiency. But during the last war, due to the super manpower of our country, we have been able to combat the situation. Now that the UK fleets are proposed to be withdrawn from the Indian Ocean, naturally India has to command the Indian Ocean. What steps are being taken to increase the warships and the fleet of the Indian Navy?

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.

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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 : t SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

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

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