

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know what the usual procedure is of evaluating this type of wealth, whether that usual procedure was followed, whether any deviations were made and whether the so-called usual procedure has been found defective, and, if so, what steps the Government proposes to take to revise the procedure so that such anomalies as have been pointed out by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta do not occur ?

SHRI K. R. GANESH : The usual procedure for public limited undertakings is to accept the quotation given in the Stock Exchange. That procedure was followed. In answer to the second question, certain facts have come to our notice, there is a study of the Company Law Board. These are being considered by the Government, whether certain remedial changes are necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question, Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI : Sir, before you pass on to the next question I would request you to allow a discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You give me notice and I will consider it.

#### PRESENCE OF FOREIGN NAVAL SHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN

\*2. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : †

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

2/LT. K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the Government of USA have decided to keep its aircraft-carrier Enterprise and its accompanying task force in the Indian Ocean;

(b) if so, the names of other countries which have their naval ships in the Indian Ocean;

(c) what steps Government are taking to keep the Indian Ocean free of tension; and

(d) whether the action of USA and other powers is in keeping with the UN resolution declaring the Indian Ocean to be a zone of peace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE  
(DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI  
VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) Government have no precise information, although Government have seen the press reports on the subject.

(b) The United Kingdom, France, U. S. A., U. S. S. R. as also the littoral countries have their naval ships in the Indian Ocean.

(c) Government have brought the terms of the Lusaka Declaration to the notice of the powers concerned. We have also been one of the co-sponsors of the UN General Assembly Resolution of 1st December 1971 calling on all powers to maintain the Indian Ocean area as a zone of peace.

(d) The action of any of the big powers in maintaining a naval presence in the Indian Ocean beyond legitimate requirement cannot be in keeping with the UN Resolution.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The hon. Minister has said that he has no precise information about the decision of the United States Government in this matter. May I know what he means by 'precise information' ? Does he expect that the United States Government would give

official intimation of the movement of their Destroyers and Task Force to the Government of India? Are not press reports sufficient especially when press reports have been found to be correct so far

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA**

I said that we do not have precise information because there have been declarations in the Pentagon that the Task Force of the Seventh Fleet has been asked to rejoin the main fleet in the South China Sea. This was declared on the 10th January. But we can not take American declarations on their face value and therefore we cannot say whether it has gone back or whether it stays on where it was.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR** When the Government see press reports, do they try to verify them? Or does it suffice to say that 'we have no precise information'?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** You should have a little patience. I was telling you what the American Government have officially announced. We have tried to find out ourselves. We have got our sources to find out what are the movements in high seas around our country or in high seas where we have interests. We keep a constant watch over these movements and we have constant sources of information.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR** Constant watch is all right. What is the precise information you have?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** I have already said that we have no precise information.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR** Then what is the use of all this vigilance?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA** There are changing situations.

**MR. CHAIRMAN** Please put your next question.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR** The hon. Minister has used the expression 'beyond legitimate requirements'. May I request him to inform us what he means by 'legitimate' because in the United Nations Resolution the description was 'reasons of mechanical, technical or humanitarian nature'. Is that all that comes under 'legitimate' or does it mean something more?

Secondly, what efforts is the Government making to make these powers realise that according to the spirit of the Resolution passed by the United Nations, the world powers should be asked to take their ships away from this so called zone of peace.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA**

The hon. Member has rightly defined what 'legitimate' means. It is also mentioned in the U.N. Resolution which has been passed. We have also indicated that we have taken up this matter with these powers whose naval presence has been seen in the Indian Ocean and we have drawn their attention to the Resolution of the United Nations. We have asked for their cooperation to maintain Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

**DR. BHAI MAHAVIR** Including Soviet Union?

**MR. CHAIRMAN** Shrimati Pratibha Singh.

**SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH** Is the Government aware of the tonnage and location of the naval vessels of different countries in the Indian Ocean and if so what is their relative strength?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :** We have all this information, but I do not think it is in the public interest to disclose the precise information we have.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI** With regard to item (c), I want to know whether the Government is taking into consideration the necessity of strengthening our own

ship-building base, apart from conventional type of ships, with development of electronic and communication equipment.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

Sir, the question that has been asked by the hon. Member does not arise out of the main question. I have already indicated in pursuance to reply to part (c) of the question, what steps we have taken in this regard.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Mr. Godey Murahari . . . I am sorry. Mr. Singh Deo.

**2/LT. K.P. SINGH DEO :** Sir, I want to know whether the Government has made any correct and non-sentimental assessment of the specific motivations of the various powers with reference to the Indian Ocean and, if so, what is the long-term or the short-term policy for the development of our own Naval forces and our Naval strength and our oceanography and also our unclear technology ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

Sir, the answer to part one of the question is 'Yes' and with regard to part two of the question, I do not think I can go into that matter here.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Yes, Mr. Godey Murahari.

**SHRI ARJUN ARORA :** Sir, . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** No, please. Yes, Mr. Murahari.

**SHRI GODEY MURAHARI :** Sir, I

would like to know the exact reasons that were set forth by the US Government for the "Enterprise" to come into the Indian Ocean, because, Sir, when it came to the Indian Ocean, there were reports in the Press that the Seventh Fleet was going to come and evacuate some of the Pakistani soldiers who were being driven out from East Pakistan. And, Sir, there were also reports that probably the "Enterprise" was going to interfere in the freedom struggle that was going on there. I would, therefore,

like to know whether the Government had at that time asked the United States Government for any explanation for the despatch of this task force and, if so, what were the reasons that the US Government gave for the despatch of this task force ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

Sir, the hon. Member knows that there were many conflicting reports about the intentions of the unit of the Seventh Fleet coming in here and we also did make our assessment about the intentions and ultimately, there were several aspects of the question that we took into consideration and we came to the conclusion that the Seventh Fleet could not pose any danger to our operations in the area, and, therefore, we did not pursue the matter with the United States Government.

**SHRI GODEY MURAHARI :** Why ?

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :** Even after the disclosure that it was meant for a nuclear war ?

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

I have said that there were many conflicting reports about this matter and we did make our assessment. I am only talking about our assessment. Their intentions might have been different and about what their intentions might have been there have been conflicting reports and their intentions might have been aggressive.

**SHRI GODEY MURAHARI :** You should have asked for the explanation from the US Government.

**SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :**

Sir, at that time the attitude of the US Government was so clearly and patently anti-Indian that there was no need for asking for an explanation. It was an anti-Indian move and it was apparent on the face of it and so, what was the need for asking them ?

**SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :** Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government knew that

the United States launched anti submarine warfare exercises in the Indian Ocean after the US "Enterprise" came in here and, if so, what was the idea behind these exercises and whether those ships engaged in some form of activity like keeping track of the movement of ships and relaying this information to those countries which were against us and interested in such intelligence reports? Will the hon. Minister say something clearly about this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is too long.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Sir, I would like to know whether he has any positive information from his own source or not.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, the various countries of the world, the various maritime powers, do have exercises in the different parts of the world, in different seas, and in this manner the US or the other powers might have their exercises. But, Sir, whatever information we collect about such exercises we do not disclose.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Mani.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, I want to ask...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you have already put your question. Yes, Mr. Mani.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the hon. Minister is replying like a member of the External Affairs Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, I want to ask him, in view of the statement made by the Defence Minister that the "Enterprise" was interfering and there were airmen ready to sink it, why the Government has not made it clear that this was a hostile act and that we did not want the US Navy to be anywhere near the Bay of Bengal or the Indian Ocean. This is a matter of concern

to all. Has anything been said in concrete terms to the Government of United States?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, the entire thing was so obvious. Not only this particular action of the US Government, but several actions of the US Government were so hostile that to call a particular action hostile was not at all necessary. The entire attitude of the US and all actions taken by them at that time were hostile to us...

(Interruptions)

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Why did you not ask for an explanation from them?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next question, please.

#### PIPELINE SCANDAL

\*3. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Commission of Inquiry looking into the alleged pipeline scandal has submitted its report to Government, if so, the details thereof, and

(b) the decision taken by Government on the report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: May I know from the Minister whether it is a fact that because of the non-cooperation of Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Indian Oil Corporation, the Commission of Inquiry could not finish its work within the stipulated period? Is it a fact?

SHRI H. R. GOKHALE: Sir, it is not a fact.