

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 14th April, 1972/the 25th Chaitra, 1894 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPANSION OF THE F. B. I. IN NEW DELHI

*586 SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the U. S. A. President's approval for the expansion of the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have seen press reports to this effect. Constant vigilance is maintained in such matters.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Sir, the news item which reported this extraordinary reaction of the President of the United States said that it was expansion of the activities of the FBI in India and it presupposes that already the FBI has an organisation in India and that it is being expanded. May I know from the Government whether it is the prerogative of the Government of the United States to set up an espionage organisation like the FBI in this country and whether the Government of India has protested against the US Government's action in giving sanction to this thing ?

Secondly, Sir, may I know whether the Government has considered the implication of this, that is, that India is being made into the 51st State of the USA ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, about this news item which has appeared in the press, we have also seen it. At the

moment, all that I can say is that we have no information to corroborate the veracity or otherwise of this news item. The normal functioning of a foreign mission in a country is to promote cultural economic and other activities and, generally speaking, to promote friendship, etc. between the receiving State, and the country which the mission represents. Indulgence by either the mission or any individual member of the mission in such anti-national activities would certainly not be allowed by the receiving State and we are keeping vigilance over that.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIAMENON : Sir, my second question is this : Sir, it is strange that the Government says that it has not information about it. It is a fact that the American Government is not going to inform when they are going to set up this sort of thing. After what we have seen in South America and elsewhere, I meant the activities of the CIA and the FBI and such other things, will the Government take special steps to see that these activities are not carried on in India and, also, Sir if anything has come to light, will the Government see that this sort of thing is wound up as early as possible ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, I think I have already said that. But, Sir, I am prepared to give another assurance to the House that the Government is very vigilant about all these things and activities and if any mission or any individual of a mission carries on any activity which is prejudicial to our national interest, we shall stop it and we shall take every step to prevent it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Shrimati Purabi Mukhopadhyay.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, will the hon. Minister let us know whether they have set up any machinery to identify the persons who are connected with the FBI and, if not, why not ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, the hon. Members should not press the Government for mere details about these things. All I can say is that the Government is vigilant about it. I can assure the hon. Members that necessary steps are taken

by us to see that this kind of activity is not indulged in by any foreign mission in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Mohta.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, may I ask the hon Minister to give the names of the newspapers in which such reports were published and the names of the news agencies which circulated this report and whether such news agencies and newspapers are reliable to make the Government jump to conclusions about everything that they publish ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, I think, as far as I can recollect this news appeared in India in "The Indian Express" of the 22nd January. . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Goenka's paper.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I have already said that we have not jumped to any conclusion and that we are not having with us any concrete information for verifying whether this report is correct or not. But, Sir, we are vigilant.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Which news agency circulated it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Malaviya.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, which is the news agency which circulated this report ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : May I correct my earlier statement ? The news appeared on 22nd February, 1972 and not on 22nd Jan.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is the Government aware that apart from the activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency of the US Government is also very active and is using the PL-480 funds which accrue to the US Embassy for their expenses ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is no question. C.I.A. . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : It is a question...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH-GUPTA : Is the hon. Minister aware that even in the statement of the Government remitted to us through question hour, accruals of PL-480 funds have come to Rs. 2229 crores, out of which Rs. 247 crores are set apart for the expansion of US Embassy and other US agencies functioning in this country ? Is the hon. Minister aware that a good part of it is being utilized for advancing subversive activities by the FBI and CIB ? Has his attention been drawn to a statement by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh that certain people from the US Embassy went there to influence elections and to finance certain people in the election campaign ? If so, what steps has the Government taken in this regard ? Finally Sir . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Absolutely finally, Sir. Has his attention been drawn to Jack Anderson's disclosure where he said that a US official had told the CIB that India was thinking of taking West Pakistan? That official had access to the Cabinet.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : May I once again assure the hon. Members that no espionage activities on the part of any foreign agencies will be allowed in our country ? It is our business to see that this kind of thing does not take place here. About the PL-480 funds, as far as my information goes, they are not being utilized for the purpose stated by the hon. Member...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : How do you know ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I can not allow you to interrupt like this. You can't put questions like this. Let him answer the question.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As regards reference made by the hon. Member to some American Embassy officials going to Madhya Pradesh, we have not got full information on this subject, All I can say is that the normal functions of an Embassy are to promote cultural, economic and other

activities, and not to indulge or take part in any political activity in our country. It is illegal and we will never permit it. After getting the full facts, we will certainly look into it.

DR. V. B. SINGH : Is the Government aware that being conscious of unpopularity, the CIA and the FBI are using West German experts, specially in University and academic institutions ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Could you make your question more clear ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You kindly put your question. Do not make a version or a statement.

DR. V. B. SINGH : I am putting the question. The Minister wants that I should make it more clear. My question is : Is the Government aware that being conscious of its increasing unpopularity in the country, the FBI and its sister organizations are now using West German experts, especially in Universities and academic institutions, for their nefarious activities ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : We have no such information.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : You did not allow me to put question...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your turn has gone.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : But what about my question ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. Next question.

DELAY IN COMMISSIONING OF THE BOKARO STEEL PLANT

*587. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated delay in the commissioning of the Bokaro Steel Plant is likely to be further delayed;

(b) if so, how many times its completion schedule was revised;

(c) what was the target fixed for its completion according to last revised schedule; and

(d) the reasons for further delay in its commissioning, and the additional expenditure, if any, likely to be incurred as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARA-MANGALAM) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Original commissioning schedule for the 1st stage of Bokaro Steel Plant has been revised three times, due to reasons beyond the control of Bokaro Steel Limited.

(c) According to the present schedule, the erection of the 1st stage of the plant is to be completed by March, 1973, and the commissioning will take another 3-6 months. However the First Blast Furnace complex is to be commissioned from 3 to 6 months after the completion of erection by the end of December, 1971.

(d) does not arise.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, the answer to part (d) of my question is really indicating. Three times the completion schedule has been revised and now the latest date fixed for commissioning of the first stage of the project is March, 1973 and 3 to 6 months thereafter. It will be commissioned. Even then the hon. Minister says that the question of reasons for further delay in its commissioning does not arise.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is for further delays.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Sir, it has already been delayed three times. The reasons for the latest delays should be known to the House. I would like to ask the hon. Minister specifically whether it is not a fact that the latest delay in completion of this project is due to non-receipt or non supply of minor equipment. If so, what is the reason that the Government did not institute any action against the suppliers for delay in the supply of this equipment, particularly in view of the fact that an amount of Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores has already been