

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. SUBRAMANIA
MENON 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 main-
tained in such matters.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON
Sir, the news item which reported this
extraordinary action 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 Govern-
ment 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 repre-
sents. 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. SUBRAMANIA MENON

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 in-
form 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 Govern-
ment 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 hon. House that the Government is
very vigilant about all these things and
activities and if any mission or any in-
dividual 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 MUKHOP-
ADHYAY 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 more details about these
things. All I can say is that the Govern-
ment 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 CIA...

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 KUMAR-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 intricate. 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