

**CHINA'S REPORTED MISSILE TESTING IN THE
BAY OF BENGAL**

730. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD :
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the normal procedure for a country planning to test fire a rocket or missile into the high seas is to give adequate warning to international shipping to steer clear of the area;

(b) if so, whether China has issued any such warning regarding the possibility of its testing an IRBM in the Bay of Bengal; and

(c) whether the Indian defence experts have also ascertained this fact, and if so, the reaction of the Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are not aware of any such warning having been issued.

(c) While Government have seen Press reports regarding the possibility of China testing an IRBM in the Bay of Bengal, there is no authentic information about this.

**SURVEY OF MINERALS WITH
FOREIGN COLLABORATION
BY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA**

731. SHRI KALYAN ROY :
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the serious criticism in the press regarding the reported decision of the Geological Survey of India to conduct prospecting for mineral with foreign collaboration and foreign technicians; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take immediate steps to utilise the services of a large number of unemployed Indian technicians who are looking for jobs in the GSI for survey work; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITTIRAJ SINGH CHOUDHARY) :
(a) Foreign collaboration for mineral prospecting 2—64 R. S./70

has been secured with regard to Airborne Mineral Surveys and for development of rock phosphate resources in Mussorie area. There has been some criticism in the Press in regard to the usefulness of the airborne surveys with foreign collaboration.

(b) The Geological Survey of India propose to fill 1,105 gazetted and 6,135 non-gazetted posts of scientists, engineers and technicians during the Fourth Plan period.

**EXPENDITURES ON NAVAL
SHIPS**

732. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN:
Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be
pleased to state :

(a) what is the total expenditure incurred by the Indian Navy on naval ships during the last three years; and

(b) what is the expenditure on the I.N.S. Vikrant during the last three years; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the expenditure on INS Vikrant is out of all proportion to its use and that this type of aircraft-carrier is already out-moded and will not be of any use in an emergency in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The total expenditure incurred against the Naval Estimates during 1967-68, 1968-69 and 1969-70 was Rs. 181.46 crores. It is not feasible to determine the actual expenditure which had been incurred specifically on Naval Ships.

(b) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the information.

(c) INS VIKRANT carries fighter bomber aircraft and some helicopters. The former have a strike role. The latter are primarily intended for reconnaissance action against submarines and for sea air rescue. The helicopters are all modern. The fighter bomber aircraft are still effective despite their age. None of them is obsolete. The Aircraft Carrier, is therefore, capable of use in an emergency in the future.