

श्री सभापति : मैं आपकी सुनूंगा, पहले उन्हें खत्म तो कर लेने दीजिए।

श्री दिनश सिंह : लगभग 72 देश ऐसे हैं सभापति महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल किया था रोडेशिया के बारे में रोडेशिया का जिक्र दारुलसलाम में आया था। और उस के बारे में बातचीत हुई थी। जहाँ तक रेजोल्यूशन की बात है, यह सम्मेलन रेजोल्यूशन पास करने के लिए नहीं था। यह तो शिखर सम्मेलन का इंतजाम करने के लिए था और जहाँ तक रोडेशिया का सवाल है इस वक्त हम लोग जो संयुक्त राष्ट्र के रेजोल्यूशन्स हैं उन को पूरा करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। भारत ने जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य जानते हैं कि पूरी तरह यूनाइटेड नेशन्स के रेजोल्यूशन पर अमल किया है और उसी हिसाब से हम कोशिश करते हैं कि और देश भी उन पर अमल करें।

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, may I know if at (Colombo and Dar-es-Salaam, a number of non-aligned countries suggested that the next Summit Conference be held somewhere in India? And if that suggestion was made, what was the attitude of the Government, and why was it not accepted?

SHRI D. MESH SINGH : The Conference unanimously decided to hold the Conference in Lusaka. There was a suggestion by some delegations that the Conference might be held in India. But we did not wish to take any lead in the matter, and the Conference unanimously decided Lusaka.

MR. CH. MRMAN : Next question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He has not replied to the part of the question. What was the attitude of the Government—whether they were prepared to hold it in India, or they declined it?

MR. CH. MRMAN : He said this.

*241. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 31-33 infra.]

*242. [The questioner (Shri Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 33-34 infra.]

*243. [The questioner (Shri J. S. Tilak) was absent. For answer, vide col. 34 infra.]

TRIANGULAR POWER CONTEST IN INDIAN OCEAN

*244. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Severities would witness a triangular power contest among the USA, the Soviet Union and China in the Indian Ocean area; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of the power contest that Government envisages?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the increased sailings of foreign warships in the Indian Ocean area. This increased presence does not necessarily mean that a "triangular power contest" will ensue.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, may I ask the Minister whether, in view of the fact of intrusion of three foreign powers in the Indian Ocean area, Government would take steps to increase our aircraft carriers strength and also submarine fleet, and whether any steps are taken in this direction? I do not want him to give all the details. I want from him the defence preparedness in the Indian Ocean area.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : We have got definite plan to strengthen our Navy. Most of the islands like Laccadives, Nicobar, (islands) are being strengthened and we are continuously increasing the naval and also modernised air-craft carriers.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Ministers what steps the Government are taking in regard to the defence of the strategic islands of Andaman and Nicobar, which is more or less a preying ground for all the three foreign powers?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : I think I have already said that we have got plans and we are going ahead with our plans, and we are strengthening our naval base in the Andaman islands and Laccadives.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: May we know, what is the information of the Government about the naval presence of these countries? Which country has the largest naval presence in the Indian Ocean?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA : Sir, of late, Russia has started entering into the Indian Ocean. The American fleet was also there, and, as a matter of fact, even China is trying to enter into the Indian Ocean, and the information which we get from various countries is that they would like the Indian Ocean to be free from all tensions, but in case it is not possible, they would welcome not only one but many other powerful nations to have their naval ships in the Indian Ocean.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question was : Which is the largest fleet, according to your information ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I might add, Sir, that of late, some of the countries, especially the USSR, the USA and also Chinese ships have been seen there, and as the Minister of External Affairs and also the Defence Minister have stated on a number of occasions, this area to be free of tension and we do not want that this area should be disturbed in any way. But as the hon'ble Member knows, in the High Seas, we have no control. We can have control over only our territorial waters.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Have you got this basic information, that is a relative assessment?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question was about a relative assessment. He wants to know: Whose is the largest fleet?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : I cannot give that information at the moment.

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: Very good reply. That is how the Defence Ministry functions.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, the Deputy Minister mentioned about the air-craft carrier. As we know, we have only one air-craft carrier and that, is no better than a sitting duck. It is an old carrier and I don't think when the time comes, it will be able to serve our Defence Forces. So, I would like to know whether anything

is being done to strengthen the Navy from that point of view. That is number one. Number 2, Sir, the Defence Ministry has published a Report. In that Report, I have not found any assessment of the various countries and their naval strength so far as the Indian Ocean is concerned. Russia is making a determined bid to enter the Indian Ocean. Had the Suez Canal been open, Russia would have come in strength. So, what is our assessment? How do we look at the problem? The British fleet is withdrawing, the Americans are there, the Chinese are trying to make their presence felt, the Russians are coming. How do we look at the situation? I want to know from the Minister as to what their assessment is ?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : In the first place, about the air-craft carrier i.e., Vikrant, I do not think the hon'ble Member is fair. It has been modernised and it is very useful, and its striking power has been increased in the course of the last one and a half years. About the situation, as I said earlier, we feel that this area should be free of tension, but we can only express our opinion and persuade other countries—big Powers—to keep this area out of tension. The fleet of some of the big countries like the USSR, the USA and China also have been there, and we have also been expressing our opinion, but on the High Seas we cannot stop them from coming.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : May I know from the Government whether it has come to the notice of the Government of India that the Mauritius Government has leased out one of the islands in the Mauritian group to the USA to be used as a Naval base, including as a nuclear submarine base in the Indian Ocean and whether the Government of India had impressed upon Shri Ram Gulam, the Prime Minister of Mauritius when he came to India, the necessity of avoiding any such commitments of its territory to be used by the USA?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Sir, the information available with us indicates that Russia does not have any bases. They are trying to get the bases, but none of the countries entered into any agreement with Russia, and, therefore, whatever the hon'ble Member has said is not correct.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA ME- i
NON : The luestion is about the USA.

SHRI riNESH SINGH: The ,
hon'ble Member is probably referring I to
the Britis I base which is called the i British
Com munications Centre which has been
e tablished in the Indian j Ocean. We
had, in this House and elsewhere, said
categorically that Foreign base, should not
be established in the India i Ocean. In
fact, there are U.N.. Re :olutions to this
effect, but I am afraid hat the U.K.
Government, I believe, ari doing it in
collaboration with the US Government.
They have ignored the views that have
been expressed by is and by many
other countries.

SHRIMALI YASHODA REDDY:
Sir, the hi n'ble Minister was very right in
say ng that he has drawn the attention of
all the big powers, and they would lot like
to create tension. It is very ;orrect. How
can he say that he doc not have any
assessment of the naval strength of the big
powers, whether of he ' Soviet Union, or of
China or erf the USA? Under what basis
has hi given his protest or his reactions to
these big powers? How can he say t lat he
does not know? The question fro n the
leader of our party was which ation's fleet
is the largest. I want to k iow how the
Minister says he has lodged a protest, how
he says they do not want tension to be
created. On what b; sis does he say that?

MR. CH URMAN : That question has
come. Y"ou please sit down. I will get the
answer.

SHRIMA I YASHODA REDDY:
When the l onourable Deputy Minister
answered the first question somehow he
gave us an impression that the Soviet Unio
i has increased its presence much more
than the U.S.A. I want to know wf 3ther it
is a fact or not and whether ou impression
is correct or not.

SHRI L N. MISHRA : As I said earlier,
it a not possible for me to give the po ition
of the relative strength of their flh et. But
we have got an assessment if the situation.
I have not ?ot that in ormation at the
moment with me. But we have got an
assessment of i! | situation and that is why
the Minister of External Affairs and also
the Di fence Minister gave vent to

our feelings on a number of occasions in both
the Houses. Earlier all those ships were not
there. For some time past the Soviet ships
have also been there. We cannot take any
objection to that on high seas.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Nobody bothers about
your objection.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Mr. Chairman, I
want to put a question. I have got a very
important question to put.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got a number of
honourable Members on the list. But how
long can we take on this? Please sit down.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: But it has
not taken ten minutes yet.

MR.. CHAIRMAN : First please sit down.
It is in your interest and in the public interest
that I am anxious to see that as many
questions as possible are put.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: But I must
put one question, an important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not said 'no' to
you. I will call you.

SHRI BIPINPAL DAS: May I
know what would be the attitude of the
Government of India towards the triangular
contest, if any, taking place there? Secondly,
what steps are the Government of India taking
to see that the Indian Ocean remains free
from any such conflict among foreign
powers?

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: I have already said
that we want this territory to be free of
tension. So far as the High Seas are
concerned, we cannot take any objection or
steps for stopping them from coming there.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: The House will recall
that for the last two or three years they have
been coming there and the Defence Minister
knows it; for a long time there was no Russian
presence in the Indian Ocean. I want to know
from the Minister how these ships have been
coming. Have they been coming for courtesy
calls or for what? He said there have been
some ships coming and going. Now it is a
confirmed fact that Russia has established a
large presence of its

fleet in the Indian Ocean. What steps is the Government of India taking in this regard? We did make certain protests against Great Britain and the USA. But we have done nothing to check the Russian presence or the Chinese presence. May I know what steps the Government of India is taking to check their presence? There is an impression among our people that their presence here is dangerous; particularly, when the Russian presence is barred in Karachi, its squadron of submarines has come here. What steps is the Government of India taking to counteract this danger?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not dilate on it.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: What steps is the Government of India taking to counteract this danger to our country from Pakistan and Russia?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, the honourable Member will appreciate that there are certain international conventions which govern the ships on the High Seas and it is in conformity with these that foreign ships, foreign naval ships, are present in the Indian Ocean. The presence of foreign ships even across our territorial waters in such large numbers does constitute a situation in which we have to express our concern. We have got to take precautions. We have got to take defensive actions. And my colleague, the Minister of Defence Production has already said that we are aware of it. We are conscious of our responsibilities to safeguard our interests. But beyond that we cannot interfere in the presence of ships of foreign countries if they conform to the international laws. Our ships also go beyond the Indian Ocean. They go into the Pacific Ocean. They go to other parts of the world and, therefore, we cannot object to the movement of their ships if they are in conformity with the international law. Our objection, to which I had referred, was to the creation of bases which is somewhat different from the presence of ships although the matter is very much related.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : How is it that we are ignorant of the number of ships of the foreign navies in the Indian Ocean especially when we have to

provide information to the U.S. Government of the strength of our armed forces—is this done by a written law or by unwritten law? I want to get an answer for that. Secondly, do we enjoy three miles sovereignty within our waters—or twelve miles, whatever it is—as we claim? Have any of the foreign navies asked us for refuelling facilities or have we ever denied them when they asked? Have they asked us and have we said 'no'? Lastly, you may remember Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's statement made at the height of the Chinese aggression or a little later that I heard it myself. I would like to quote his words exactly but I do not remember them all. He did not seem to mind the presence of the U.S. ships around us. The Chinese were then prowling around us. What was our reaction

SHRI L. N. MISHRA: So far as our territorial water is concerned, it is twelve miles. So far as refuelling facilities, etc. are concerned, those ships can come to us with our permission. They can come to our ports to pay courtesy visits. But they can come only with our permission.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I thought that the Government of India does not have any assessment of the situation on the Indian Ocean. The real assessment is that the Indian Ocean has got the fleet of all the countries except the Indian fleet. If it is so, may I know from the Government what it is going to do especially in respect of the triangular contest before it becomes a square? The Indian fleet of ample number and quality is not there to meet the situation.

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : It is very unfair to the Indian Navy to say like that. I might say that the Indian ships regularly patrol the Indian Ocean besides making frequent visits to the Andaman, Nicobar, etc., islands. The Indian naval ships pay goodwill and official visits regularly to all the ports in the Indian Ocean. Such visits are made to Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and the Persian Gulf. Therefore, it is not correct to say that there is no Indian fleet on the Indian Ocean. We have got an assessment. But I have no idea of the relative strength of the different countries.