

Commission has been set up. When they fix the price for cotton they look into the relative cost and price of other commodities including groundnut and food products. Then they recommend the price. I think this is the way to fix the price of all agricultural produce including the relative cost year by year.

SHRI PHOOL SINGH : Is the Government prepared to examine from that angle?

(No reply)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF
ATOMIC ENERGY AND NASA

*382. **DR. SALIG RAM :**

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :†

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in the Fortnightly "The States" dated the 10th January, 1970 referring to the criticism of the agreement between the Department of Atomic Energy and N. A. S. A. about the experimental satellite project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : Yes, Sir.

(b) The DAE-NASA agreement on the Instructional Television Satellite Experiment Project was concluded after careful and detailed consideration of all aspects of the matter. The Government do not consider that the criticism implied in the article is justified.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, the points raised in the criticism are four-fold. The first one is that the experimental project will be only for a period of one year and after that we can build up our satellites only in 1978 as at present scheduled. How are you going to accommodate this period? Will it not be that after the experimental period of one year, they will hustle us into an

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

agreement, financial and otherwise, which may be harmful to us? How have you covered that? Is it also not a fact that the Defence authorities said that it is a thin end of the wedge, and they were opposed to it? You know, in the V. O. A. deal in 1963 a criticism was made, and the Defence authorities were against it. May I know what reply they have to give about these two criticisms? Then I will ask another thing.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The first question is what would happen after one year when the agreement expires. Now, it is proposed to have a satellite which could be designed and built jointly by Indian and foreign specialists under a collaboration agreement. So there is no difficulty. After the expiry of a one-year period, preparation will be made for collaboration agreement to build a satellite in collaboration with the N. A. S. A.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Which will come off in 1974.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Regarding Defence authorities, representatives of the Defence Ministry were members of the study group which examined the question of synchronous satellite for T. V. purposes. So the question referring to the past agreement and certain difficulties about it would not arise.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have heard the reply of the hon'ble Minister. He says preparations will be made after one year. We will use that satellite for one year, and according to the present programme our satellite will be ready in 1978. Five years is the gap period. And what will happen after one year's experimentation? These N. A. S. A. people will try to hustle us into some agreement, financial or otherwise, which may be harmful to us.

The Minister said that preparation will be made for collaboration. Are you satisfied with the answer, Sir? Secondly, Sir, the agreement which has been made does not in any way cover that our Indian scientists and technologists will be associated with the space segment of the agreement, not the ground experiment. This agreement does not cover that. It is also argued, when the agreement was made, that this experiment will prove useful for practical experience. How will it happen when our

scientists and engineers are not to be associated in the experiment of the space satellite ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It is proposed, as I said, to have a satellite which could be designed and built jointly by the Indian scientists and the N. A. S. A. That means collaboration begins simultaneously with the setting up of the satellite that is proposed at the present moment. So the collaboration for technical development is there in this proposal.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Chairman, will that satellite come up in 1973 so that the whole thing can be hooked up with this thing...

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Sir, confusion is caused because the hon'ble Member has read an article which he is taking as gospel truth. In fact, that article is a misleading one. As my colleague the Minister, has said, we have planned for such a satellite to be designed and built jointly by Indian and foreign specialists through a collaboration agreement with a nation advanced in space technology... (*Interruption*) Wait a minute. This will be launched by the space agency of a friendly country immediately after this D. A. E. and the N. A. S. A. experiment is over. After that it is also planned that the second and third satellite should be fabricated in India also in the period 1972-74. At this moment all these plans are naturally, in a formative stage. While the first satellite will have to be launched in another country, the D. A. E. hopes to acquire capacity to launched a synchronous satellite from India in the early 1980s. That is where the year 1980 comes in. But there is no gap in between.

I would like to make one more point because the Hon'ble Member compared this with the V. O. A. agreement. The two are entirely different. Here we are taking the equipment from outside but the programming will be entirely Indian. In the V. O. A. the question was of another country's programme being broadcast. As far as the use of the satellite for other purposes is concerned, of course, our satellite will be used only for our purposes which are mainly educational. A great advantage is that it would give access to rural areas which, otherwise, merely because of their distance from metropolitan centre, would be deprived of any such facility. The

programming will be entirely in Indian hands. Also Indian engineers are associated with these programmes.

SHRI BIREN ROY : In view of the fact that a synchronous satellite will have to be placed after launching it at a height of at least 23,000 miles from the earth, are the Indian scientists yet, even after they are having the Thumba rocket range, in a position even by this collaboration project, space study project, by 1974 to place a satellite from our sources at that height, because there is no country in the world except the U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R. who have yet been able to place only three to four satellites at that range? That is number one.

Secondly, we may be utilising this satellite only for T. V. purposes in the rural areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everywhere, including rural areas.

SHRI BIREN ROY : Are we in a position to spread so much of T.V. stations and T.V. receivers even in the rural areas when the programme is not from our side but from other countries? At what cost? Who will be benefited? So are we not to wait for some time till our scientists, after collaboration, are in a position even in 1975 or 1976 to have their own satellites, and in the meantime have our T.V. programmes, and T.V. set production properly carried out in India so that we can produce our own receivers and everything and then launch it?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Sir, I have already made it clear that we will be in a position to do this in 1980. In the meantime, we will have these collaboration arrangements. But unless our people start training from now in all these spheres, we shall not be able to do anything even in 1980. Therefore, the matter has to be given importance now. The Hon. Member knows that once such a satellite is launched, programmes will go everywhere, wherever there is a T.V. centre. Naturally the urban areas cannot be excluded. I mentioned the rural areas, because the urban areas can get this advantage even otherwise but we cannot extend it to the rural areas. And, as I said, the programming will be the exclusive responsibility of Indians and for that also, training must begin immediately.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, may I join the select band of scientific experts in this House by addressing the following questions to the Prime Minister? First, what is the nature of the collaboration between the Indian and foreign scientists? Will the Indian scientists go to the United States or will they come here? This is a very important point. Secondly, what will be the total cost of the project? And thirdly, at what height will the satellite be orbiting?

SHRI BIREN ROY : 23,000 miles.

SHRI A. D. MANI : You are giving this answer; she has not given that answer. At what height will it be orbiting and why is it only for a period of one year? Does it mean that we do not want the satellite to stay for long, or we do not have the know-how to put a satellite which will be there for a much longer period than one year? I hope the hon. Prime Minister will give scientific answers to these questions.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Sir, the first satellite is entirely produced outside and our engineers will have to go to the U. S. A. to be trained for this programme. We hope that through the years with their training, we will be in a position in 1980 to do this ourselves. I do not have the figures of the total cost of the system. One of our scientists has already been there and I am told he has just returned to India for further consultations.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister why we entered into a collaboration experiment of this type at all. Is it not a fact that in our Atomic Energy Establishment, which has done its work with its own scientists, very remarkable successes have been achieved and production of cheaper and better equipment has been made possible? If that is so, why do we not proceed on the assumption that our scientists will be able to solve their problems and achieve further successes? Probably the presumption is that it is a short-cut to enter into collaboration, import some equipment and get training for our scientists in the U. S. A. This leads to a continuous leaning on borrowed crutches. Does our Government not feel that it is necessary to give a chance to our scientists to make mistake, because by making mistakes they learn and by learning, they make achieve-

ments? Why do we unnecessarily create dependence when the Government is thinking of reducing dependence elsewhere?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : The hon. Member is right in saying that we want to reduce dependence. But surely we should take advantage of the knowledge that some people have gained. Everybody cannot start from the beginning all over again. To-day, as my hon. friend sitting behind has pointed out, this knowledge is available only in two countries. It is important that our scientists should not be deprived of the opportunity of gaining this knowledge, especially when by entering into such a collaboration agreement now, in ten years we will be in a position to do this work by ourselves. If we must begin right from the beginning ourselves, I do not know whether we would be able to do it or how long it would take. The hon. Member is taking for granted that some decision has been taken over the heads of the scientists. This whole programme has been gone into and initiated by the Department of Atomic Energy in consultation with the various Ministries and many other people concerned. And it was the considered opinion of the scientists themselves that it would be of great value to us to avail of this opportunity to acquire the knowledge which is available in the U.S.A. which would naturally help their own experimentation.

*383. [*The questioner (Shri S. K. Vaishampayan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 31-32 infra.*]

†CURB ON CHEAP AMERICAN POCKET-BOOKS

*223. **SHRI KALYAN ROY :** ‡
SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to curb and control the flooding of markets in the country by cheap American pocket-books on sex, murder and crime?

†Transferred from the 4th March, 1970.

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalyan Roy.