

(b) if so, what is the estimated loss to the Railways in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) Yes. Three bridges have been damaged.

(b) Approximately Rs. 75,000.

GREEN INDIAN TEA FOR MOROCCO

427. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Morocco has approached India for the purchase of green tea from India ; and

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A delegation from Morocco, which visited India recently to explore the possibilities of purchasing green tea from this country, concluded an agreement with a private party for the purchase of 20 tonnes of green tea.

REGIONAL MARKET FOR SOUTH EAST ASIA

428. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during her visit to the countries of South East Asia, the Prime Minister had envisaged a regional market for these countries;

(b) whether steps have been taken by Government to ascertain the reaction of the major countries in this region;

(c) if so, what are the reactions of the different countries; and

(d) whether steps have been taken to set up the market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

FREIGHT STRUCTURE OF RAILWAYS

429. SARDAR RAM SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the study which was being conducted by a senior officer of the Railway Board about the freight structure of the Railways has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the study; and

(c) whether in view of the findings of the study any change is proposed to be made in the freight structure of the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. M. POONACHA) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

12 NOON

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IM- PORTANCE

REPORTED PATROLLING BY A SOVIET THREE-SHIP FORCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीया, हिन्द महासागर में तीन जहाजों के रूसी बल द्वारा, जिसमें एक आधुनिक क्रूजर, एक विध्वंसक और एक आइलर सम्मिलित हैं, कथित गश्त लगाये जाने की ओर में रक्षा मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : Madam, Government have seen a press report to the effect that a three-ship Soviet force is patrolling in the Indian Ocean area. It will be recalled that three ships of the USSR Navy paid a goodwill visit to Madras and Bombay in March/April, 1968 at our invitation. Subsequently, two of these ships, accompanied by an oil tanker which was on the high seas, visited the Persian Gulf area and called at a port in Iraq and at Karachi. After completing this visit they are returning to their home base through the Indian Ocean. It is customary, in the process of such visits, for the ships to pay goodwill visits to different ports by previous arrangements with the countries concerned. So far as I can see, the journey through the Indian Ocean could not be called patrolling. In any case, the high seas are open

to ships of all nations. It is within our knowledge that ships of different countries have visited this area. As far as I am aware, no particular tension has been caused by these visits and there is no situation that would require any action on our part.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, इस सदन में 13 मई को हिन्द महासागर की पालिसी के बारे में चर्चा हुई है और बार बार यह सवाल इस सदन में उठ रहा है तो मैं सरकार से स्पष्ट जानना चाहता हूँ। हिन्द महासागर में तीन प्रकार के द्वीप हैं, एक तो ऐसे द्वीप हैं जो कि हमारे अधिकार में हैं, एक ऐसे द्वीप हैं जिन पर कि हमें अधिकार करना है और एक ऐसे द्वीप हैं जिन पर अधिकार नहीं भी करना है तो सम्बन्ध अच्छे रखना है। बार बार हमने सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है कि क्या हिन्द महासागर की कोई पालिसी इस सरकार ने बनाई है और नहीं बनाई है तो क्यों नहीं बनाई है ? मुझे बड़े हैरत के साथ माननीय रक्षा मंत्री को सुनना पड़ रहा है कि इनके लिये कभी कोई टेंशन होता ही नहीं, कभी कोई टेंशन नहीं, वहाँ अमेरिका के जहाज आ जाय, वहाँ रूस के जहाज आ जाय, वह कहते हैं कि वह विजिट करते हैं, कोई पैट्रोलिंग नहीं होती। तो विजिट करते हैं, कोई पैट्रोलिंग करना इसमें जो माइन्यूट डिस्टिक्शन है...

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : With previous permission.

श्री राजनारायण : जरा सुना जाय, यह नवाब साहब बेचारे घबड़ा जाते हैं।

तो विजिटिंग और पैट्रोलिंग दो शब्द हैं, जरा सफाई के साथ सरकार को बताना चाहिये कि विजिटिंग एंड पैट्रोलिंग में यह माइन्यूट डिस्टिक्शन क्या है ? हम सड़क पर भी बहुत सी पैट्रोलिंग देखते हैं और जिस तरह से विजिट करना होता है उसको भी देखा है।

तो सरकार के पास जब से कि ब्रिटेन ने यह घोषणा कर दी है कि 1971 ई० तक हम हिन्द महासागर को खाली कर देंगे उसके बाद से हिन्द महासागर में अपने हितों की सुरक्षा के लिये

क्या पालिसी है? इस सरकार ने इसके लिये क्या किया? और इसी सदन में सवाल उठा था 30 दिसम्बर, 1966 ई० के सीक्रेट पैक्ट के बारे में, जो यू० के० और यू० एस० ए० में हुआ था, तो उसके बारे में मैं सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करूँगा। इस तरह से कभी रूस, कभी अमेरिका, ये सब हिन्द महासागर और उससे लगे बंगाल की खाड़ी में या पैसिफिक में आते रहे हैं, वे अपने हितों की सुरक्षा करते रहते हैं, अपने लिये निश्चित अड्डे बनाने की फिराक में नित्यप्रति घूमते रहे हैं। फिर भी इस सरकार के कान में जूँ नहीं रेंग रही है। क्यों, इसका साफ उत्तर हमें चाहिये।

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The hon. Member has mixed his question with his speech, which is not unusual, but I will try to answer...

श्री राजनारायण : हमारे हिन्दी के सवाल का हिन्दी में जवाब दीजिये।

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : My Hindi is very weak and, therefore, I have to make an attempt to answer the spec-Ac points that he raised. If I have understood him correctly, the first thing that worries him is the difference between a visit and a patrol. I would ask him to have a look at his Calling Attention Notice. He has used the words "patrolling the Ocean". If he had said, visiting Indian ports, certainly I would have said, "Yes they have visited". But if patrolling connotes a certain attitude of vigilance or trying to oversee things and there is a conscious act of trying to pry into the vicinity and trying to find out what is there, I have to say that these ships had been invited by us to pay a visit and they paid us a visit. And surely we cannot call a visit, which is in response to our invitation, a patrol and I hope this distinction will be kept in mind by the hon. Member.

The second question that he asked is : What is our policy with regard to the Indian Ocean? First, I would like to say that the Indian Ocean extends from our coasts down almost to the South Pole and all the countries of eastern Africa are there. Countries west of us are Iran, Pakistan and the Arab countries. To our east are Burma, Indonesia, etc. All these countries are located in the Indian Ocean. Apart from parts of Indian Ocean which touch various countries, the Indian Ocean

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

is high seas like the Pacific Ocean or the Atlantic Ocean. I think it will be too grandiose of us to talk of an Indian Ocean policy. I can understand if the question is about our essential interests of security and how we defend ourselves against any attacks, but to have a policy, as if we want to project ourselves like powers in areas which are beyond us, is something which cannot be understood by anybody—neither in our country nor even abroad. (Interruption.) Let me finish. Even a country like the UK, which at one time claimed that they ruled the waves, is withdrawing from its positions east of the Suez.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Now, they may be waiving the rules.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I know it. With Mr. Rajnarain and Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, rules are waived. That is the custom in that part of the House. Whether it is Mr. Bhupesh Gupta or Mr. Rajnarain, it is a matter of judgment between the two. What I am saying is that in the present set-up, even those countries, which at one time wanted to project themselves much beyond their own coasts—countries like the UK—are thinking of withdrawing from positions east of the Suez. For us there should be some limit even to our aspirations and we should not talk of the Indian Ocean as something over which we can hold sway or some such thing. Our interest is a limited one, viz., to safeguard our own coasts. It is, secondly, to ensure safe navigation for merchant shipping, to ensure that innocent passage is maintained and, thirdly, no areas of tension are built up. My colleague, the Minister of External Affairs, has clarified the position that we are opposed to the establishment of foreign bases in any part of the Indian Ocean, just as we are opposed to the establishment of foreign bases anywhere. That broadly...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Your answer is becoming like the Indian Ocean.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I will curtail it, but it is not for Shri Bhupesh Gupta to object.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am a good navigator. I can swim in it.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : You are a good swimmer, I say.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Navigator.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The third question which he asked was the situation which has arisen out of the withdrawal of the British Forces east of Suez. That position we have clarified more than once. We do not believe that the withdrawal will create a vacuum in any part of this region, and whatever are the difficulties that are created, they will be solved by the countries concerned according to the best interests of theirs.

The last question was about what Mr. Rajnarain described as a secret pact between the United States and the United Kingdom for establishment of any base. I think there was no secrecy about it. If the reference is to the one staging post as they described it in the Indian Ocean north of Mauritius, that is a matter which is known to us. Both the British and the Americans have said that they want to have a staging post there. We do not approve of that, but there it is.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh) : The hon. Minister has made it clear that no military significance should be attached to the visit of three ships of the Soviet Union in the Indian Ocean area. May I ask the Minister, and I am very glad that the Minister of State of External Affairs also is here—whether it has been made clear to all powers, including the United States and the Soviet Union, that our firm policy is that we will not countenance the establishment of a military or naval presence of any great power in the Indian Ocean area, neither would we allow the United States to have such a presence nor would we allow the Soviet Union to have such a naval presence in the Indian Ocean area?

SHRI M. N. KAUL (Nominated) : We have to prevent it.

SHRI A. D. MANI : It is only our desire. I am raising this matter because I understand that this question also cropped up in the discussions which Mr. Bhagat has had with the Katzenbach Mission recently in Delhi. The Katzenbach Mission was very much worried by the possibility of the Soviet Union entering the Military vacuum created by the withdrawal of the British Forces from Singapore. May I know whether it has been made clear that we would not tolerate any big power to have any military or naval presence in the Indian Ocean area?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would say that perhaps it will not be quite commensurate with our capacity to use the expression that we will not allow the establishment of a base or what the hon. Member described as naval presence. We have made no secret of our policy, and I would reiterate that we are opposed to the establishment of foreign bases, naval or otherwise, in any part of the world because this adds to the tension. We will continue to adopt that attitude, but in the high seas there is precious little that can be done unless our own security is threatened. That is not even the international practice, and the hon. Member with his long experience in journalism is fully aware of the doctrine of freedom of the high seas to which all maritime powers are committed. When we use technical expressions, we should be quite clear about the content of what we are saying rather than be carried away by sentiment.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat) : I would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has already some twenty ships operating in this area, and whether it is with the approval or connivance or knowledge of the Government of India that the Soviet Union is increasing its naval fleet in this area which is so near and of such vital importance to India for its own defence as also for its commerce.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Government have no information that as many as twenty Soviet naval ships are patrolling this area. Even the press report on which this calling attention notice is based, which press report incidentally reports another statement which is said to have been made by an American naval Admiral in New York, even that statement does not say that there are twenty Soviet ships.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The 'admirals' here are more vigilant.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : They talk of three Soviet naval ships. I will be grateful to the hon. Member if he feels inclined and if he could give me the source of his information of the presence of twenty Soviet ships in the Indian Ocean. I have no such information.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीय मंत्रीजी ने कहा कि यह एक विजिट था और यह विजिट सरकार को सूचना देकर, उनसे पूछकर किया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ जिस विजिट की चर्चा

माननीय मंत्री जी कर रहे हैं उसके बारे में क्या संवित सरकार ने कोई बात की थी, क्या उन्होंने पूछा था कि हमारे यह यह जहाज वहाँ विजिट करने जा रहे हैं और अगर उन्होंने पूछा था तो और क्या कहा था और उसका हमारी सरकार ने क्या जवाब दिया था ?

दूसरी बात मंत्री जी ने यह कही कि कोई सीक्रेट पैक्ट के बारे में उनको जानकारी नहीं थी। तो स्पष्टतः हमने उनको बताया था कि 30 दिसम्बर, 1966 को अमरीका और ब्रिटेन के बीच एक संधि पर हस्ताक्षर हुए जो पचास साल की संधि है और इस बीच वह अपने पूरे सैनिक अड्डे बनायेगा, और मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार के पास उस संधि की पूरी रपट है, जिसको सरकार कहती है कोई सीक्रेसी नहीं है, और अगर वह रपट है तो सरकार उसको पढ़ने में क्यों गुरेज करती है ? मंत्री जी उसको पढ़ें।

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : My reply to the first question is that this visit of Soviet naval ships to Indian ports was in response to an invitation extended by us.

AN HON. MEMBER : For how many days ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : We extend these invitations to ships of all nationalities from time to time, and it is a common feature of our Indian ports that foreign ships of various nationalities, come and visit our ports; our ships also go and visit other countries.

My reply to the second question is that I have no information about a secret pact. It will not be a secret pact if I had a copy of it. He probably will not describe it as secret if I placed a copy of it on the Table of the House.

श्री राजनारायण : माननीया, यह समझ में नहीं आया। मैं स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूँ। सीक्रेट शब्द निकाल लें। जो 30 दिसम्बर, 1966 को संधि हुई, अगर उसकी एक कापी सरकार के पास है तो यहाँ भेज दें।

मंत्री जी के जवाब से एक और वैलिड प्रश्न निकला है कि जो उन्होंने कहा विजिट करना,

[श्री राजनारायण]

तो क्या अगर इस सरकार ने रूस को आमंत्रित किया कि आप विजिट करो तो उसमें विध्वंसक जहाज के लाने की क्या आवश्यकता थी, क्रूजर के आने की क्या आवश्यकता थी, आइलर के आने की क्या आवश्यकता थी ? मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जब यह विभिन्न मुल्कों को हिन्द महासागर विजिट करने के लिये आमंत्रित करते हो तो क्या यह कहते हो कि तुम विध्वंसक लेकर आओ, तुम क्रूजर लेकर आओ, तुम आइलर लेकर आओ...

SAROAR SWARAN SINGH : About this thing, it is customary for naval ships, when they go abroad, to make their own provisioning arrangements. We also send out an oil tanker, so that if our ships require oil in the high seas, we could supply oil to them. There is nothing unusual in that. Then he says, "why did you invite destroyers or naval ships?"

श्री राजनारायण : यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ । मैं यह कह रहा हूँ आपने आइलर के लिये तो कह दिया, मैं तो यह कह रहा हूँ विध्वंसक की क्या जरूरत थी, क्रूजर की क्या जरूरत थी?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Probably, if he had waited he could have got the reply.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I think it is better to let the Minister finish.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : All naval ships will fall into one of these categories. Either they will be a destroyer or a frigate or something. It is not a merchant naval fleet, it is the regular fighting navy and it is one or the other of the fighting units.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It may be like the house boats in the Dal lake.

SHRI ABID ALI (Maharashtra) : Will the hon. Minister tell us, during the last eight months how many times the visits have taken place, how many ships were there of what kind, for what period each visit was, what was the period for which the invitation was sent and how long did they stay?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I cannot give the details of the various foreign naval ships that visited us. I have not got that information at all.

SHRI ABID ALI : Soviet ships.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : You said, how many ships? I said, three naval ships.

SHRI ABID ALI : Only once?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Once only, one ...

SHRI ABID ALI : For what period ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I will give you; I think they were in Madras from the 28th to 31st March and in Bombay from the 3rd to 6th April.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPEYEN (Maharashtra) : I am satisfied with the clarifications that have been given by the hon. Minister, but questions like these indicate that there is some sort of anxiety among the people of India about the Soviet policy. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any move on the part of Soviet Russia to reassure India that there is no shift in her policy towards us and in pursuance of that talks with the Defence Minister would be held and, if so, when will the talks be held ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do not think this arises out of this and I personally would not like to go to every country and ask every day or every week as to whether its policy towards India has changed or has not changed. Unless they notify any change, I take it that their policy continues. And I would strongly depreciate any tendency on our part always to go on asking others "Are you in the same position?" If they are not, we will take the world as it is. Why should there be nervousness? I would appeal to hon. Members that we should not think in those terms. These are the visits of naval ships of one country and I have got a whole list of naval ships of other countries also, the United Kingdom, the USA, ships from Burma, France, Ethiopia, Belgium and Malaysia. Naval ships from all countries visit us.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ (Mysore) : I want to know from the Government whether there is any precedent that the Russian ships have visited the Indian Ocean previously and, if so, on how many occasions.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I could not say anything about their visit to the Indian Ocean as such because about 20 or 25 countries are involved in this.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : My question is, whether there is any precedent previously for Russia...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He does not have the information.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : About their previous visit to the Indian Ocean which they have visited now, I am putting the question. The hon. Minister. . .

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have not been able to give the answer because as many as 25 countries are concerned in this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That information he has not got.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : My question is...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has not got the answer with him.

SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : My second question is ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No second question. Mr. Pande.

SHRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh): The Minister has explained that the Russian Fleet was invited here for a friendly visit. But it seems that when they came to India, they also visited the Persian Gulf. It is well known that they have got certain commitments in the Gulf of Persia at the invitation of the Arab World and there is a possibility of their having a base in the Gulf of Persia. In that context, when that visit takes place and as visiting guests they continue to move about from Burma to the Persian Gulf and then on to Ceylon for some length of time, not for seven or ten days, but for months together, it creates a sort of suspicion about their intention to have a more perpetual base.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : There should not be any such suspicion; there is no basis for that. All that I can say is that it is quite customary for ships, when they go abroad, even to a particular country that they take the opportunity of visiting the other neighbouring countries. And if I may give this information, our own naval ships went to a certain country. When they did it, the naval craft had their visit to 10 to 14 different countries.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA (Nominated): We had very fierce land battles in 1965 with Pakistan. Then again, we had very fierce air battles in 1965. Sooner or later

perhaps we shall taste blood on the Indian Ocean itself. I want to know what is the Ministry of Defence doing in this matter in conjunction with the Ministry of External Affairs, especially when three doors to the Indian Ocean are open to secure mastery over India. India can be conquered through any one of the three doors to the Indian Ocean, along with the extensive and total area of the Indian Ocean which is 27 million square miles plus the Bay of Bengal being half of the size of Europe. In view of all these, in view of the changed circumstances because of the Soviet policy of military aid to Pakistan and in view of there being an imbalance, we have got to have a dynamic programme in regard to this area in consultation with the South East Asian powers and also Iran, because this affects our security very much.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please put a question.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : For seven to eight centuries following the rise of the Mauryan Empire, we had great and tremendous oceanic activities in the Indian Ocean.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Madam, part of it, I understand it to be a suggestion for action. I have noted it very carefully. And if I have understood the Member correctly, he has highlighted the importance of building up adequate naval defences. And I would like to assure him that within our resources we are doing our best to strengthen our Navy.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I think it will be conceded that the Russian ships are not expected to return to their country— Mr. Rajnarain will admit—via UP and the Himalayas. Now, they have got Tibet on the way, they have stopped. They always do !

My hon friend, Mr. Alva, has given a kind of theoretical picture of India being surrounded on all sides by the ocean. Forget that. Why should the Government be on the defensive in stating its policy in simpler terms that we would not like aggressive manoeuvres or aggressive wrong actions of any countries on the high seas because it threatens the security and world peace or the peace of the region whereas we are not opposed to the high seas being used for other purposes which are not warlike or aggressive purposes? That should be done. As he has rightly

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta] said, we have an international law which gives freedom to all Powers. We can send any ship we can to the Indian Ocean. The position should be categorically and clearly stated. Tension does arise by giving a Calling Attention Notice, and it lasts for an hour or so in this House.

SHRI B.K. P. SINHA (Bihar) : I want one clarification from the hon. Member. He has propounded a new theory. But why did some of the hon. Members develop a sort of tantrum when the American Navy innocently moved in the Indian Ocean?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am grateful to the hon. Member, I am very grateful. It is because the American Fleet engaged it self in aggressive action. They conquered countries. They like fire. They go to various countries and send troops. Don't you know that ?

डा० भाई महावीर (दिल्ली) : जिस विषय के बारे में कॉलिंग अटेंशन नोटिस दिया गया था, उस पर मंत्री जी ने अपना दृष्टिकोण स्पष्ट किया है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि जहाँ तक रूस के जहाजों के आने का सवाल है उसमें उन्होंने जो स्पष्टीकरण दिया, उस स्पष्टीकरण में उन्होंने दो बातें कहीं जिनका स्पष्टीकरण मुझे नहीं मिला। एक बात उन्होंने यह कही कि हिन्द महासागर के बारे में हमारी कोई नीति का होना यह एक ग्रेन्डियोज की बात है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस ग्रेन्डियोज की बात के बारे में मंत्री जी ने कहा, क्या भारत सरकार ने सभी मामलों में ग्रेन्डियोज की बात करना छोड़ दिया है या केवल सुरक्षा के प्रश्न के बारे में ही यह लागू होती है ?

जहाँ तक सुरक्षा का प्रश्न है, मैं समझता हूँ कि क्या रक्षा मंत्री जी कम से कम बतला सकेंगे कि वे भारत की रक्षा की सीमाओं को कहाँ समझते हैं ? क्या जब कोई देश हमारी सीमाओं के अन्दर आ जाता है, तब रक्षा मंत्री उसके बारे में चिन्ता करते हैं या जब देश को खतरा पैदा होता है, तब हमारा ध्यान जाने लगता है ? यह प्रश्न इस लिये है कि जब चीन ने आक्रमण किया था तो उस समय सरकार के एक प्रवक्ता ने यह भी कहा था कि चीनी आगे बढ़ रहे हैं,

We shall draw them into the plains and then fight them. यानी हमारी रक्षा सीमा पर नहीं होगी, पहाड़ों पर नहीं होगी, हम उनको मैदानों में ला कर उनसे लड़ेंगे।

फ्रीडम आफ हाई सीज की बात कही गई है। मैं रक्षा मंत्री से जानना चाहूँगा कि जिस वक्त रशिया के क्यूबा में मिसाइल बेसिस बन रहे थे तो फ्रीडम आफ हाई सीज के होते हुये भी अमरीका ने हाई सीज पर रशियन जहाज को रोका था। क्या वह फ्रीडम आफ हाई सीज की नीति को नहीं जानता था इसलिये रोका ? यहाँ इस नीति के पीछे किस की शक्ति कैसी है, इसपर निर्भर होता है। इस लिये रक्षा मंत्री इस सारे विषय को भारत की सामर्थ्य बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से देखें और केवल इतना कह कर संतुष्ट न हो जायें कि हम छोटे से देश हैं, हम अगर रक्षा भी कर लें तो भी काफी है, हम क्या नीति बनायें।

SARPAR SWARAN SINGH : Again Madam, I have some difficulty because I have heard a speech but no pointed questions were put. But I will try to answer very briefly some of the points. Firstly, I would like to say that we have our own defence problems because we are an important country on the Indian Ocean and to that extent we have to safeguard our interests and also we are wedded to the policy of ensuring that the Indian Ocean remains an area of peace rather than an area of tension. This is a very clear policy and in pursuance of that various steps have been taken from time to time to see that foreign bases are not established, as best as we can; and we carry this policy by every possible means to impress upon other Powers not to introduce elements of tension in this region. This is a very clear policy, and I think, that is a policy in our interests and also in that the interests of peace. Now on the second question I am not quite sure as to what he meant. I am aware of the high-sounding claims of many countries when they talk of their frontiers lying at a place which is twenty countries away from them. Yet those are big countries, global Powers, and we should not have any such pretensions. We should be clear in what we say and we should not say things which unnecessarily create suspicion in the minds

of some of our smaller neighbours. I may appeal to the hon. Members, when they talk of this matter, to show a certain restraint and try to understand the geopolitical situation and we should not appear to arrogate to ourselves functions which are not ours. We have got a certain approach to the problem of the Indian Ocean which I have clarified. Now the analogy of the United States and the Soviet Union on Cuba is a much bigger issue in which two big super-Powers are involved and they can do anything that they like these days. We should not try to imitate them or to draw an analogy from that; and even the analogy that he has drawn is not a very happy analogy. But I do not know what he wants me to do. Does he want me to follow the Soviet example of so-called introducing 'tension' or does he want me to follow the United States' example of taking some counter-action against the Soviet attempt to introduce missiles, etc. I do not see where the analogy arises.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN (Nominated) : Madam, without sharing any of the nervousness or undue anxiety in regard to the matter and in view of the fact that you have said that all these ships that come from innumerable countries are fighting units passing through our water, have you any method by which your Naval Military Intelligence keeps a watch over their movements and keeps you informed from time to time about any developments which you might consider unwholesome? Take, for example, our airports. You prohibit anybody from taking photographs, etc. These ships are passing through our waters, entering our harbours. Is there any method by which your Naval Military Intelligence will keep you informed about something happening which you would consider unwholesome?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would say "yes", Madam, because our Naval Military Intelligence is there to watch anything that might be objectionable from our point of view.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

FINANCE ACCOUNTS (1966-67) OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, under clause (1)

of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy of the Finance Accounts of the Central government for the year 1966-67. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1487/68.]

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1966-67) OF THE HEAVY ENGINEERING CORPORATION LIMITED, RANCHI AND RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BHANU PRAKASH SINGH) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each of the following papers :—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1966-67 together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1506/68 for (i) and (ii)]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE EXPORT (QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION) ACT 1963

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963, a copy each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Commerce :—

(i) Notification S. O. No. 1617, dated the 7th May, 1968 (in Hindi).

(ii) Notification S. O. No. 2062-dated the 5th June, 1968 (English and Hindi).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1359/68 for (i) and (ii)]

MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METAL (DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND METALS) RESOLUTION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Department of Mines and Metals) Resolution No. C2-8(7)/67-Pt., dated the 25th June, 1968, extending