

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: They have specialised in retreating.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: About the current year's cost, as the Deputy Minister has mentioned, it will not be proper to say that it far exceeded the expenditure incurred last year.

Sir, on the question of illumination of buildings the expenditure incurred is not very large. This was resumed in 1968. It was not there in earlier years because it was given up after the Indo-China conflict. But later on it was resumed.

Now the other question has been asked as to why this illumination continues for a number of days. I think a part of it is a sort of check-up when the connections are given and the bulbs are actually fixed they have to be tried and checked. The main expenditure is on installations and fixing the connections rather than on the electricity that is actually consumed. And having made all the arrangements, if it continues for a day more or less it does not really make much difference. There are millions of people in Delhi who come from outside and abroad and who greatly appreciate all this.

There is one other question. There are no repeat performances and the like. One is rehearsal of it and then the actual celebration. The number of people who are wanting to witness is so large that all of them cannot be accommodated in one day. So it is spread over two days so that a larger number of people might be able to witness.

SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON : May I know, Sir, if the Government's attention has been drawn to a lot of inconvenience suffered by the folk dancers who come from all parts of the country, for instance, from distant places like Kerala. These girls and boys are made to stand in the cold January morning from 6 o'clock for a long time. Some of it may be necessary. I also understand that no proper arrangements are made to take them in

trucks or other vehicles to their places of residence afterwards. They are put to difficulty. During these four or five hours they have to stand. There are girls for whom there is no facility of urinals and they are not provided trucks to go back. May I request the Government to see that at least in future avoidable inconvenience will not be caused to these people who brought from different parts of the country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I agree no one should be put to inconvenience. At any rate, those who come from long distances and who are not even accustomed to the cold weather of Delhi, they suffer any inconvenience.

KASHMIR CHIEF MINISTER'S ACCUSATION OF PAK HIGH COMMISSIONER

*64. SHRI SYED HUSSAIN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has accused the Pak. High Commissioner in India of meddling in affairs of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Speaking to newsmen on January 11, the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir made an accusation in communications between the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and certain persons in Kashmir especially on the issue of Mirwaiz Yusuf Shah's death.

(c) While there are no restrictions on the meeting of foreign diplomats with Indian citizens, they are expected to exercise necessary judgment and discretion in the matter. This has been conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know, Sir, from the Government whether they are aware that the Pakistan High Commissioner is taking liberties, and though the Government has conveyed their displeasure it is very necessary that the officials of the High Commission should not interference in the internal affairs of our country, and for that purpose whether any specific measures are evolved so that there will be guidelines available to diplomatic Counsellors in this city ? And may I know whether the Government is aware (hat Mr. Bhutto recently uttered a warning and threatened India that they would settle the Kashmir question without the U.N.O. and without the assistance of other countries, directly involving military threat ? May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware of this and what steps the Government propose to take in this connection ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, as I mentioned, it is expected of the foreign missions in India not only not to interfere in the internal affairs of the country but also use their discretion so that there is no feeling that they are doing so. And this, as I mentioned, has been conveyed to the Pakistan High Commissioner. So far as the second part regarding a statement by Mr. Bhutto is concerned, my colleague, the Defence Minister has on a number of occasions stated that we are fully conscious of our responsibility to defend the country...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to know whether you are trying to meet it diplomatically. The military threat I can understand.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : This has appeared in to-day's paper and we shall certainly see what requires to be done.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know whether, besides what the Chief Minister of Kashmir has said, they have got any information that the Pakistan High Commissioner is helping or is trying to help some subversive acti-

vities in Kashmir by giving financial assistance to those people who want to work for them ? If they have received such information, what are they doing to stop such things ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Sir, it is very difficult for me to say what one has to say in this connection because sometimes we receive certain information the divulgence of which makes it rather difficult. But we are conscious of the fact that some countries may be interested in some measures which the hon. Member has mentioned, and when it comes to our notice, we take appropriate action. We have in the past, as the House is aware, whenever we felt that some people were indulging in activities which were prejudicial to our interest, suggested that they go out of the country.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, is the Government aware, as they have repeated often on the floor of this House, that Kashmir is in a special situation and the Kashmir situation is not quite normal? If so, when we say that foreign diplomats are expected to exercise their discretion and judgment, will this apply to all areas including Kashmir where Pakistan has been engineering and carrying on sabotage and infiltration activities all the time? Does not the Government think that the charge made by the Kashmir Chief Minister is a serious matter where it should not be left to the discretion of the Pakistan High Commission alone? When there have been charges that officials of the Pakistan High Commission are indulging in sabotaging activities not only in Kashmir but in other areas also, is the hon. Minister satisfied by just assuring the House (hat they have been asked to exercise their discretion ? What happens if they exercise their discretion in a wrong way favouring themselves at the cost of our national interest?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Then we take action, I mentioned, in the past, when we felt necessary we went to the extent of sending some people out of the country.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Kashmir constitutes an important element in the overall relations between India and Pakistan. Now the Government of India suggested at a certain time the constitution of a joint machinery for the settlement of disputes between India and Pakistan. May I know from the hon. Minister what the official communication from the side of Pakistan has been on that suggestion made by the Government of India and also whether the Government of India proposes to take some follow-up measures in that direction?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, I think there is a separate question on the subject. We can discuss it when we come to that question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

CHINESE MISSILE AND NAVAL BASES IN ALBANIA

*65. SHRI R. P. KHAJTAN :

SHRI A. D. MANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that China is building missile and naval bases in Albania; and

(b) If so, what is the reaction of the Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) There have been speculations in the world Press that Albania has offered China missile and naval bases but no reliable information is yet available to confirm these reports.

(b) The Government of India's opposition to the setting up of military bases abroad by any country is well known.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, this item of news has been published all over the world and has so far not been contradicted by the Peking Government or

•(■)The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. D. Mani.

by Peking Radio. May I ask the Minister whether, in view of the fact that China is trying to interfere in the affairs of Europe by having military bases in Albania the Government will make representations to the Security Council so that a fact-finding enquiry commission could be appointed by it...

AN HON. MEMBER : China is not in the U.N.

SHRI A. D. MANI: China may not be in the U.N., but there is the example of Cuba. Wherever China may interfere, the Security Council has jurisdiction for maintenance of peace all over the world.

(No reply.)

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India have accepted the protection of any umbrella against Chinese missiles, or will the hon. Minister reveal to this House what steps they have taken in an umbrella form to prevent Chinese missiles from operating against India.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Is there any umbrella at all?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : This question relates to a news item about the Chinese setting up bases in Albania. This does not refer to our umbrella, Sir.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, Mr. Mani seemed to advocate that the Government of India should try to repeat the performance of America in the case of Cuba, and the Minister's reply to it seems to betray his inability to understand the motives of Mr. Mani. May I know whether, even if China installs missiles in Albania, the Government of India will not think of intervention—it is not capable of intervention—but try to respect the sovereignty and independence of Albania which is a small country.

H. SINGH : Sir, we sovereignty of all countries.