

## RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 19th December, 1968/11th 28th  
Agrahayana, 1890 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr.  
CHAIRMAN, in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### †SCIENTIFIC POLICY RESOLUTION

\*502. SHRI R. P. SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT‡ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased  
to state :

(a) whether the Committee on Science  
and Technology has completed the study  
on the implementation of Science Policy  
Resolution; and

(b) if so, what are the conclusions  
arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (DR.  
(SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI) :  
(a) In their Report of April 1966 on the  
Ministry of Education, the Council of  
Scientific and Industrial Research and  
the National Physical Laboratory, the  
Estimates Committee recommended that  
a conference of scientists and educationists  
be convened to review the progress made  
in the implementation of the Scientific  
Policy Resolution. Following this sugges-  
tion, the Committee on Science and  
Technology, at its meeting on September  
6, 1968, decided that before such a con-  
ference could be usefully convened, the  
Committee should study the impact  
made by the Resolution during the last  
ten years. The Committee is now engaged  
in such a study.

(b) The question does not arise.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The posi-  
tion, as stated by the Government, does  
not seem to be correct. The Scientific  
Advisory Committee of the Cabinet at  
their three meetings had started studying  
this subject. This Committee on Science  
and Technology deferred the study of  
the subject so that they could take other  
subjects. May I know what are the sub-  
jects which the Committee on Science  
and Technology is taking up and what are  
the reasons that the review of the progress  
made in the implementation of the Scientific  
Policy Resolution has been deferred?

†Transferred from the 11th December,  
1968.

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

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :  
Working groups have been formed to  
initiate studies in depth in certain fields  
of study in non-ferrous metals, minerals,  
instruments, resources and study relat-  
ing to agro-chemicals. They are looking  
at the question generally, the whole  
matter, how science is helping us, what  
are the difficulties, what are the blocks.  
Apart from specific questions they are  
looking into the general questions which  
the S.A.C.C. used to do before. But now  
the machinery has been somewhat stream-  
lined.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, the  
Scientific Policy Resolution was passed in  
the Lok Sabha at the instance of Prime  
Minister Nehru exactly ten years back,  
in March 1958. Has not the time come that  
we publicly discuss and assess at a confere-  
nce, not merely of scientists but of economi-  
sts and others, the achievements, how  
far we have gone forward, how much we  
have lagged behind? Now many, 62  
per cent. of first class I.I.T. trainees are  
going abroad; they cannot stay here. Is  
it not the right time to call a conference  
after a decade of the passing of the Scientific  
Policy Resolution by Pt. Nehru? Let us  
assess and see what we have done and what  
more we have to do.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : No,  
this is the action which has already been  
taken. As I said, this matter was discussed  
in great detail at the last meeting and it  
was decided that a broad based con-  
ference may not be useful at the present  
time. This is exactly what we spoke  
last week. We felt that it was better for  
this Committee to go into this question.  
If necessary, certainly other people could  
also be associated.

SHRI A. D. MANI : The Prime Minis-  
ter read out a list of working groups which  
have been set up. But most of them are  
connected with agrarian problems of our  
country. May I ask her why no working  
group has been set up on the question of  
satellite communications in which a good  
deal of research is being done abroad.  
The Ministry of Information and Broad-  
casting wants to set up a satellite com-  
munication centre for the sake of getting  
television broadcasts. Is there any research  
being done in regard to satellite com-  
munications?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Yes,  
Sir. It has been done. I do not think  
there is any need for a working group for  
that purpose.

**SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :** May I know from the Government whether any reports have been published by the Committee on Science and Technology and, if so, whether they can be placed on the Table of the House so that Members of Parliament can form their own opinions after seeing the annual report? Secondly, may I know from the Prime Minister whether in view of the vast nature of science and technology and the necessity of this developing country to acquire more and more technological knowledge the Prime Minister is prepared to reconsider her earlier decision that there should be a science policy as such and for the implementation of that science policy some vigorous steps should be taken and a secretariat for the purpose set up to enable it to co-ordinate all the scientific knowledge developed in this country through the various organisations?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :** The hon'ble Member is obviously not aware of what has been done in the last years. All these things are being done. We are very conscious of the importance of science and it is because the last committee, the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Cabinet was not functioning as well as it might have done that the Committee was reorganised into this Committee for Science and Technology. Since this particular committee is very new, it has not yet published any reports, but the reports of various other groups are available.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :** Sir, one of the aims of the Scientific Policy Resolution here is to ensure that the creative talent of men and women is encouraged and there is full scope for it in the scientific activity of the country. I would like to know from the hon'ble Prime Minister whether men and women here, including Members of Parliament also, are being made use of. How is she making use of the scientific men among the Members of Parliament here?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :** I think there is a Committee of Parliamentarians also. I am surprised that the hon'ble Member is not aware of it. I would request the hon'ble Convener, who is also here, to take note of this and to see that all such Members are kept informed and made use of.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :** I am a member. But nothing is being done. I have been a member ever since it was formed. Nothing is being done.

**SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN :** I know the Government is aware of the importance of science in the development of our country. There should be a plan to arrange for certain priorities, establish co-ordination. Therefore, may I know from the Prime Minister, in case it is difficult for the Government to prepare a comprehensive scientific plan, whether she is prepared at least to take steps to prepare a plan for core subjects like electronics, agriculture science etc. and see that it is implemented? Will the hon'ble Prime Minister assure the House that a copy of the annual report of this Committee will be laid on the Table of the house?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :** We discussed this question last week. Sir, we find that science is so intimately connected with all other departments that it does form part of the Plan. It is not true to say that there is no plan. On the other hand, it is difficult to separate it from the other ministries. You have mentioned agriculture. Obviously, it is part of the Plan of the Agriculture Ministry to see how far science is used in agriculture strategy. Similarly, for electronics there is a Committee. It is being dealt with by the Defence Ministry. Just because science is not separated into a separate plan, does not mean that it is not being dealt with.

With regard to the annual report, as I said, C.O.S.T. is a very new body. I do not really know whether it is going to produce any annual report, or in what way it will report.

**SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** May I know, Sir, whether this Committee or any other committee has gone into the question of the best utilisation of the Indian technical know-how available in this country? Secondly, about the import substitution programme, may I know how far it has progressed, whether any assessment has been made to that effect during the last ten years?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI :** These matters were looked into by the C.S.I.R. With regard to import substitution, we have informed every Ministry that they should look at their requirements and see that nothing is imported from outside which is available within the country.

**U. K. BASES IN SINGAPORE AND NEARBY AREAS**

\*659. **SHRI ABID ALI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any information about a proposal of closing down the bases established by the Government of United Kingdom in Singapore and nearby areas, and if so, by what time they are likely to implement it; and

(b) whether Government have given any consideration for making a proposal to the Governments of Malaysia and Singapore for the formation of a joint defence, and if so, with what result?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir, by 1971 as announced by the British Government.

(b) Government have no such proposal in mind.

SHRI ABID ALI : May I know whether it is not a fact that there is a feeling both in Singapore and Malaysia that such a project is very necessary, and that any attempt made by us would have very favourable response from that side?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : What project?

SHRI ABID ALI : What I have suggested in (b).

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : If the hon. Member means joint defence, this question was not put to us. As hon. Members know, I visited Singapore and Malaysia and talked with Government leaders there. They were concerned mostly with economic co-operation between India and their countries.

SHRI ABID ALI : Has it come to the knowledge of the Government that an eminent Australian authority on political science and defence has issued a paper in which he has discussed these matters and has pointed out the danger, after the closing down of these British bases, to Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Singapore, etc.? Has this been considered by the Government of India and, if so, what is their view thereon?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : No, Sir, I have not seen this paper.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : The British will do well if and when they withdraw from this area. They have no justification to have bases in this area which is so far away from their homeland. May I know if the Government has considered the

advisability of advising the Americans also to withdraw from this area, because in this area the American Seventh Fleet is present . . .

SHRI ABID ALI : No.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : It is, Mr. Abid Ali does not know that. But it is very much there. May I know if the Government—of course, it knows more than Mr. Abid Ali—has considered the advisability of advising the Americans also to withdraw from this area and let this area live in peace?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Sir, Government's views on foreign military bases any where are well known. I do not think that we need to give advice to anybody. We think that the existence of foreign military bases increases tension and creates difficulties.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Sir, with the closing down of the British bases, it is certain that a vacuum is being created. Unless some sort of joint defence scheme is formulated, how will it be possible, or what is the alternative measure, for the Government to prevent any other power or power block rushing in to fill this vacuum?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : That can only be done by the strengthening of the countries in that area. Now, some people may have thought that when the British left India, there would be a vacuum here, But obviously that has not been so. It is our sincere hope that these countries, by strengthening themselves economically and so on, will be able to meet the situation.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : May I know if it is a fact that while closing down their military bases in Singapore, the British are leaving behind in Singapore a lot of non-military equipment for use of the Singapore Government? If the answer is "Yes", may I know whether the Government, if requested, is prepared to extend assistance to the Singapore Government in the maintenance or productive use of the non-military equipment that is left behind?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, it is not possible for us to say clearly as to how much equipment has been left behind. There is a proposal under consideration to convert this base into a commercial dock-yard and in that connection,

we understand that the Singapore Government have entered into an agreement with a consortium of Japanese and British firms to convert this base into a commercial dock-yard.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट तो वहाँ से जा रही है और हम अकेले या दूसरे राष्ट्र जो उसके अगलबगल में पड़ते हैं मिल कर कुछ करना नहीं चाहते हैं, तो क्या सरकार ने इस आधारभूत सिद्धांत पर विचार किया है कि कहीं कोई हमारा अनफ्रेंडली नेशन उसके इर्दगिर्द में अपना अड्डा न बना ले जो हमारे भविष्य के लिये खतरनाक सिद्ध हो।

श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी : जाहिर सी बात है कि हम चाहते नहीं हैं कि कोई बाहर का अपना अड्डा लगाये चाहे वह फ्रेंडली हो या अनफ्रेंडली हो। अगर कोई अनफ्रेंडली हो तो वह ज्यादा खतरनाक होगा ये सब बातें हमेशा ध्यान में रहती हैं।

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Prime Minister whether she is not aware of the fact that the Indian Ocean area was being used by the Indonesian fleet when Indonesia was collaborating with China and that quite recently, apart from the Seventh Fleet, the Russian fleet also has intruded into the Indian Ocean area? Reports to this effect have appeared in the press. May I also ask her whether, in view of the fact that this field is a very fertile field for probing the military strength and weaknesses, the Government would itself make a proposal to Malaysia? Even though they may not have made it, we may in our joint interest make that proposal to Malaysia. What is the difficulty that is standing in the way of Government in taking the initiative in the matter?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Because we do not think that it will serve any useful purpose.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Sir, I would like to know whether it is not a fact, in the opinion of the hon. Prime Minister, that after the withdrawal of the British fleet from this area, there will be a vacuum in this area? And if that vacuum is proposed to be filled up by some of the super-powers or any power, are we to sit silently without doing anything? Or is there any step that we are

going to take to effectively prevent the filling up of this vacuum by other powers?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Sir, whatever happens in our neighbourhood is obviously of very deep concern to us and we have to shape our policies to meet any situation which might arise. I have already said that we do not consider it good for any country to have foreign military bases. It is only when these bases go that the countries can make an effort to strengthen themselves. There is no doubt that when these troops are withdrawn, the situation will change and certain difficulties will be created. But I do not do think that the difficulties are avoided to-day by these troops remaining there, which again creates other kinds of difficulties. It is a question of facing one type of problem or another. Whatever situation arises, Government will certainly be fully alive to it and take whatever measures are necessary.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI : As the Prime Minister said in her reply, fundamentally it is true that every nation has to look after its own defences and strengthen itself. But do we believe in joint defence pacts or not? Certainly our policy of non-alignment should not debar us from joining any defence pact.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : We do not believe in joint defence pacts. It is not a question merely of principle, but whether such a pact can be useful, how it will function and so on. Each question has to be seen on its merits, apart from the principle behind it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

पाकिस्तान और चीन की संयुक्त सैन्य शक्ति

\* 660. श्री पीताम्बर दासा :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर :

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :

सरदार नरेन्द्र सिंह ब्रार :

क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

सभा में प्रश्न श्री० पीतांबरदास द्वारा पूछा गया।