

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Calling Attention Notice on a similar question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : They have a right to put it in addition to the Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I only wish that that question should not be asked here. You mean, there is a Calling Attention Notice?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Calling Attention Notice is different. It refers to Turkey. This refers to Italy.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All NATO countries come in. . .

U.S. TANKS TO PAKISTAN

*95. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :**

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN† :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 94 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 1968 and state :

(a) whether Government have got any further information about the supply of American tanks to Pakistan after July, 1968 and

(b) If, so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) Further enquiries through diplomatic channel reveal that no agreement has yet been signed between Italy and Pakistan for the supply of Patton tanks to Pakistan. Our views on such arms supply to Pakistan have been made clear to all the friendly countries concerned, and were recently conveyed among others, to the Italian Ambassador in India.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Sir, about the deal in regard to arms with Pakistan, we understand from newspapers that Turkey has been fixed as the third country. Now we understand that Turkey denied the deal itself. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Is there any other country or

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Thillai Villalan.

are there any other countries on the same line as Turkey which are helping Pakistan in this deal? If so, what are the steps taken by this Government to stop this since we all know that prevention is better than cure?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, in the last few months a number of other countries like Belgium, Italy, even West Germany and Turkey. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why 'even'?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Well, I delete it. Cut it out. I agree—West Germany and Turkey. These were the four countries that were mentioned in this and we pursued this matter with them as well as with Washington, and we impressed upon them the undesirability of any such induction of arms into this region which is a region of tension or, which can cause conflict.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमान्, क्या मंत्री ी यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि बहुत दिनों से पाकिस्तान इधर उधर से टैंक लेने का यत्न कर रहा है तो क्या आपके पास कोई निश्चित ऐसा सोर्स है जिम् के द्वारा आप को यह मालूम पड़ा कि नये किस्म के टैंक पाकिस्तान दुनिया के कौन कौन से देशों से खरीदने का सौदा कर रहा है और कौन कौन से देशों से टैंक खरीद चुका है ।

श्री बी० झार० भगत : यह कोशिश तो हम हमेशा जारी रखते हैं । जैसे इन चार देशों से पाकिस्तान द्वारा एम 47 टैंक लेने की खबरें आती हैं, उनसे हमने बातचीत की और अभी जो आखिरी रिपोर्ट टर्की की है उसको लेकर यह निश्चित रूप से नहीं कहा जा सकता कि पाकिस्तान े टैंक देने का एग््रीमेंट साइन हो गया है ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Now, Sir, I concede that this Government does not want the US tanks to come to Pakistan. It is not in dispute. But let us see how we should tackle it. Now, Sir, according to the present arrangements, is the Government aware . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, kindly put a question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is the Government aware that no member of the NATO or no ally of the USA in that context is in a position to sell or otherwise supply any American weapon, Patton Tanks and so on, to a third country without the prior sanction of the United States of America? In view of this, I should like to know from the Government why it is not firmly taking up this matter with the US Government to have a clear and categorical assurance that they shall never give any such sanction to any member of the NATO or any other ally of the United States of America to supply Patton Tanks and similar other military hardware to Pakistan? Why beating about the bush is going on when it is essential for the Government to tackle this matter at the diplomatic level, namely, ask the United States of America for a clear commitment on this?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : There is no beating about the bush about this matter. We have taken it up very firmly with the U.S. Government that any supply of tanks to Pakistan in the present context will complicate matters, will increase tension, will make Pakistan more intransigent and will not serve the interests of peace in the sub-continent. We have firmly told them the implications of this.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : May I know why this Parliament and this Government get jittery when they receive news that armaments are being passed on to Pakistan or to China or to this country or that country? Does this Government realise that most of these nations are free, sovereign nations and they are acting in their own interests and it is no use getting jittery? We build up our own strength. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. We are not getting jittery. But they are providing a lever to Pakistan.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Should we not conduct our diplomacy in such a way that every nation shall be extremely cautious in dealing with a country which is not friendly with us? Instead of doing that, it is no use getting jittery every time when Patton Tanks or some rejected NATO material is passed from some country to another country.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I may say that we are not jittery at all nor is Parliament jittery. The only thing is that the Government or Parliament is expressing anxiety or concern about such an arms deal because of the implications to our security and to the peace in the sub-continent.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We expressed our protest when Mr. McNamara was there.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report published in the *Indian Express* dated 18-11-68 stating that there was an arrangement under which Turkey was selling 100 M-47 tanks to Pakistan? Is what is contained in that report true? May I also know whether Pakistan continues to be a member of the NATO alliance and, if so, whether the terms of the NATO alliance cover such sale of tanks?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : SEATO.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : This question relates to the Calling Attention Notice. I think the hon. Member will get the answer when the Calling Attention Notice comes.

TITO'S PROPOSALS FOR NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

*96. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI CHITTA BASU : †

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether President Tito's proposals for a non-aligned summit have been received by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c) At the initiative of President Tito early this year, there is a proposal to hold a conference of non-aligned

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chitta Basu.