

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan): Sir, it has been repeatedly stated by the hon. Minister that no lethal weapons are being sold or would be sold by the Soviet Union to Pakistan. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of External Affairs and also of the hon. Minister of Defence, to this report which has appeared in the *Hindus* of the 9th February, 1967?

"REPORTED SUPPLY OF SOVIET MILITARY TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN"

It is reported that during the course of last month Pakistan is understood to have received a shipment of military trucks and other equipment from the Soviet Union, according to a report published here. Observers note that this has made Pakistan the only country in the world to receive arms aid from three of the five major Powers."

Among these major Powers, we know with the United States of America, Pakistan is associated as a member of CENTO and SEATO Pacts. And now China has also supplied about six squadrons of MIG planes and also tanks. Now the Soviet Union is also supplying things, if the latest reports are true. Further it is stated:

"It was also noticed here that a military mission had visited Moscow last year to seek arms. Further it is reported that Pakistan was receiving arms from the Soviet Union and it is coupled with the disclosure that Moscow had signed an agreement with Iran to sell the latter 100 million dollar worth anti-aircraft guns and armoured car carriers in return to natural gas from Iran."

Sir, this report has appeared in a paper like the *Hindu*. There must be other reports which the Government must have received from their own sources. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any of these reports were verified or looked into. When we say that these reports appear in newspapers we are repeatedly told that they are not

true, that there is no truth in them. But when the same thing comes from abroad, from the USA or other plans, then only we pay some attention to it. Sir, I think it is in the national interest and for the defence of the country to verify all these things that appear in the Press.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, fortunately we know many things which do not appear in the Press. I think it is a matter of good fortune for our country that everything does not find its place in the columns of newspapers because a lot of things cannot be disclosed in the public interest. Whenever we find something in the newspapers about which we have not had a report from our Mission, we immediately send cables to our Mission and ask them to check it and to either confirm or deny it after meeting the officials and others of that country so that we may know whether the Press report is a correct one or it is not.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Was this report that I just now referred to, confirmed or denied by your officials? The hon. Minister stated that they always send out cables and communications to our Missions abroad. So I ask whether this report was confirmed or denied by our Mission abroad?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The hon. lady Member had given a long catalogue of things. All these things have been dealt with from time to time in this House.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If I may supplement the statement made by my colleague, we know that Pakistan has been supplied military hardware from the United States of America and the Western countries which are members of SEATO and CENTO. We know that and we have also been saying that from time to time Pakistan has received military equipment from China. We ourselves have made such statements that they are getting commercial trucks, lorries and so on. The hon. Member has

[Sardar Swaran Singh.]

only put it in this form. There is nothing new in what has been reported or what was read out just now by her, as appearing in the *Hindu*.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, is it a fact that the Soviet Union has supplied so far a large quantity of arms to India and at the . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly wait. That hon. Member over there, wants to put a question. You have not put your question?

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI (Madhya Pradesh): No, Sir. It was Shrimati Mangladevi Talwar who put her question just now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You put your question now.

श्रीमती विद्यावती चतुर्वेदी : श्रीमन्, मैं दो तीन सवालो के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी से जानकारी चाहती हूँ। माननीय मंत्री जी ने तीन चार बार इस बात को दोहराया है कि अगर इस तरह की चीजे भेजी गई हैं तो उसे कोई युद्ध सामग्री जैसी चीज नहीं मानी जा सकती है। इसके बारे में हमारे मंत्री महोदय स्वयं ही निश्चित नहीं है कि इस तरह का सामन भेजा गया है या नहीं भेजा गया है। अगर भेजा गया है तो वह युद्ध सामग्री से संबंधित है या दीगर चीजों से, तो मंत्री जी इस बात का स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे कि यह युद्ध सामग्री है या नहीं है ?

दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जैसा कि हिन्दुस्तान और दूसरे पत्रों में निकला है कि कुछ ऐसे हथियार जो जमीन से आकाश की ओर मार करते हैं - रूस की तरफ से पाकिस्तान में आये हैं जो राजनयिकों द्वारा वस्त्रों से ढके हुए देखे गये।

तीसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि रूस ने यह आश्वासन दिया है कि वह पाकिस्तान

को युद्ध सामग्री नहीं देगा। तो क्या मंत्री जी आज भी यह विश्वास करते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के बीच में जिस तरह की स्थिति एक साल पहले थी उसको ध्यान में रख कर आज भी भारत के बारे में रूस का वही रुख है तथा पाकिस्तान के बारे में भी क्या वह आज भी अपने वचन पर कायम रहेगा ?

चौथी बात यह है कि क्या आप इस बात से पूर्णतया सहमत हैं कि रूस आज भी कोई युद्ध सामग्री पाकिस्तान के लिए सप्लाई नहीं करेगा और क्या आपने इसकी जानकारी अपने विश्वस्त सूत्रों से प्राप्त कर ली है अथवा नहीं ? अगर नहीं की है तो क्या वह सारी जानकारी प्राप्त करके सदन में रखने की कृपा करेंगे।

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, I am very reluctant not to answer any question put by a lady Member. But I think I have already answered this question in one form or another and so the hon. lady Member will forgive me if I do not repeat what I have said already.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is it a fact that over a number of years the Soviet Union has supplied large quantities of lethal weapons to India of a variety of types and quantities? And later on India has got the so-called arms aid from the USA. During that time no non-lethal weapons were supplied to Pakistan. Is this a fact? Pakistan was being considered to be America's stooge, being a member of CENTO and SEATO. But recently, during the last two or three years, Pakistan has got out of this way of her and has gone counter to America by disagreeing with America on certain vital points, on matters of policy and so on. As a result of that change, a change has come about in the Soviet Union's policy towards that country and I want to know whether it is being reflected in this fact that the Soviet Union is supplying lethal arms to India and non-lethal arms to Pakistan?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I think the hon. Member wants to say that China is supplying large quantities of lethal weapons to Pakistan and probably this is bothering him and in his attempt to justify the action of China he is putting these indirect questions.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: No, no, the hon. Minister should answer my question. I am seeking a clarification. I want to know the clear position and that is why I asked certain definite questions.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): He has replied that you are worried about China's giving military aid to Pakistan.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Let the hon. Minister give me the answer.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) (Madras): Sir, the hon. Minister just now said that these planes are only for food supplies and for civilian use. May I know from him whether it is a fact that these helicopters have the capacity for lifting tanks, trucks and what not, that are necessary for military equipment? May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that these are to be used for war purposes? The Defence Minister said just now that anything can be used for war purposes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether anything can be used for war purposes unless it has the capacity to be used for war purposes. Secondly when we were discussing about West German aid of Sabre jets to Pakistan through Iran the Minister of External Affairs said that the German Chancellor had given an assurance that even private parties would not be given licence to export these things. I would like to know whether these countries under the pretext of private business are exporting such equipment to Pakistan.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Let us not confuse the question. We discussed the other day about the supply of

arms by West Germany to Iran or to Pakistan and there we were dealing with Sabre jet planes and tanks which by no stretch of imagination could be used for civilian purposes. In this area as I have pointed out so often, this is a commercial transaction. The Soviet Union is supplying these on a commercial basis to any country in the world. This is a commercial transaction between Pakistan and the Soviet Union. I do not know what the size of the helicopters is. I shall try and find out the details if I can as to what is the capacity, how many persons it can carry and so on. We have not got confirmation from Moscow that these have been sold. If they have been sold we shall try to find out all the particulars.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN): Will the hon. Minister collect the information regarding these helicopters whether they are capable of lifting trucks and other things, etc. and give me the information?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: As I told the hon. lady Member, I shall try and find out from Moscow what helicopters have been sold if they have been sold, what is their nature, what is their size, capacity, what is their tonnage and so on. I shall try and get all the information I can.

COL. B. H. ZAIDI: Why do we insist on underestimating the cleverness of our enemies or expect too much from our friends? I see that efforts are being made to explain away things. It is said that the report has not been confirmed; the supply is non-lethal; it is a commercial deal and it is not a Government to Government deal. We know that everything from the U.S.S.R. is official; there is nothing private there. Why are we going out of our way to live under the illusion that we are still in the fifties? Sir, we are now in the sixties of the century and things are changing. Why are we non-aligned? Why can't the U.S.S.R.

[Col. B. H. Zaidi.]

be non-aligned? We are not wedded to any one country; why should Russia be wedded to us? What I would respectfully like to point out to the hon. Minister is that our policy of non-alignment has been trumped by Pakistan's policy of all-alignment. They are aligned with the U.S.A., the U.K. They are members of the SEATO and CENTO. They are allies of China and now Russia is being forced to take notice of Pakistan. They cannot afford to see Pakistan sitting in the lap completely of China. The relations between China and the U.S.S.R. are very strained and Russia cannot afford to neglect Pakistan. Our policy may be very clever but Pakistan's policy, I submit, is cleverer. We talk of non-alignment as if it is part of our gospel. Whatever subserves our national interests should be our gospel. Whatever subserves our national interests should be our principle and personally I feel that the sooner we realise that there is a change in the policy of the U.S.S.R. the better for us. Let us not go on deceiving ourselves; there is nothing so bad as self-deception.

(No reply)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: His question was disapproval of the policy of the Government.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) :

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि रूस ने हमें यह एश्योरेम दे रखा है कि वह पाकिस्तान को लेथल वेपन्स नहीं देगा, क्या हम इसी एश्योरेम को मान कर बैठे रहे और जब रूस की तरफ से ही ऐसा असर्जन आये कि अब हमने लेथल वेपन्स भी पाकिस्तान को दे दिये हैं, उसी दिन हम अपनी नींद से जागें, अभी तक जो रिपोर्ट्स आई हैं वे कन्फर्म नहीं हुई हैं। इस कम्पनी ने केवल हेलीकाप्टर्स दिये या मिमाइल्स भी दिये हैं, विदेश मंत्रालय को इसका पता नहीं है, एम्बेसेडर की तरफ से कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं है, हम अपनी तरफ से केवल उस गारंटी के

आधार पर कि रूस ने हमको कह रखा है कि वह पाकिस्तान को नानलेथल वेपन्स ही देगा, इसी पर हम सारा केस बिल्ड अप कर रहे हैं। क्या मंत्रालय इस मामले में, क्योंकि उसके पास पूरी रिपोर्ट्स नहीं है और जब एक खतरा प्रगट किया जा रहा है चांगों तरफ से कि वहाँ मिलिट्री इन्वीपमेंट भी जाने की संभावना है, केवल रूस की एश्योरेम पर टाइट हो कर के बैठा रहेगा या अपनी तरफ से इस बात को देखने की कोशिश करेगा कि रूस अपनी उस एश्योरेम का मान रहा है या उसका उल्लंघन कर रहा है।

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: My hon. friend is not right. We are not relying merely on the assurance given to us by the U.S.S.R. and doing nothing else in the matter. We are constantly being informed by our Ambassador, by the Military Attache we have got there as to what is happening.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: At least on missiles we have no information.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Why is my hon. friend believing that this is true because the newspaper publishes it.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: How are we to say that it is absolutely wrong?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: We have made enquiries from our Ambassador. He has got to make investigations but so far we have received no news from him. I assume that if such a transaction had gone through we would have been informed of it by our Ambassador or by the Military Attache. The very fact that we have had no information from them is the basis for my belief that there is no basis for this. Had there been any basis for this we will certainly have been informed about it. I want to assure my hon. friend that we are not merely relying on the assurances which we believe in but we make our

own enquiries, our own investigations, and information is sent to us from time to time.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Would you kindly make a statement after you have received the information?

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala): Does it not fall in line with the Tashkent spirit that the Soviet Union should have greater trade relations with Pakistan so that the tension in this area is reduced and is not the all-alignment of Pakistan the first step for its non-alignment?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, I do not follow but there is a trade agreement recently entered into between Pakistan and the U.S.S.R. and as I said there is more trade between Pakistan and the U.S.S.R. than it was some time before and it certainly is the policy of the U.S.S.R. that the tension in this area should be reduced.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE (Maharashtra): The hon. Minister is not in a position to answer all these questions today and to give us information. It seems the Intelligence of this country is not working properly. They cannot keep ahead of time and get all the information about our adversary countries so that we can defend our country effectively. Now it has been pointed out by the hon. Minister that this is a sort of a commercial deal. What I would like to know from the hon. Minister is whether efforts were made by Pakistan to get military equipment from whatever source they are available and whether it is not a fact that the Foreign Minister of Pakistan had been to Russia two or three months back to get military equipment from Russia. And now we are getting this information about this deal. I want to know whether the hon. Minister has any information that Pakistan is in need of a large number of helicopters for civilian purposes. If we are sure that Pakistan is in need of such helicopters for civilian purposes then we need not

have any apprehension about this deal but from the Press reports it appears that Pakistan is not at all in need of such helicopters for civilian purposes. If she is not in need of such helicopters for civilian purposes the only conclusion that we can draw is that Pakistan wants to utilise these helicopters for military purposes and this must be the understanding given to Russia also. In view of these circumstances would it not be proper to draw the conclusion that Pakistan wants these helicopters for military purposes and that Russia knew that fact? And therefore would it not be proper on our part to draw the attention of the U.S.S.R. Government to this fact? In future, at least instead of depending on the assurances given by Russia, we must pursue a very effective policy to persuade Russia so that she should not give any such kind of help to Pakistan.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Sir, the question is based on various assumptions for which there is no justification. The first assumption is that this transaction has gone through. The second assumption is that Pakistan does not require helicopters for civilian purposes and these are only intended for military purposes. The third assumption is that the USSR knew it and yet supplied these helicopters.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF THE PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 16TH NOVEMBER,
TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1966.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): Sir, on behalf of Shri K. K. Shah, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 18 of the Press Council Act 1965, a copy of the Report of the Press Council of India for the period from 16th November to 31st December, 1966. [Placed in Libray, See No. LT-1348/67].