

# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY CHINA TO PAKISTAN TO PURCHASE ARMS

\*282. { SHRI CHITTA BASU :†  
SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA :  
SHRI U. S. DUGAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that China has offered 100 million dollars to Pakistan to purchase arms in the world market;

(b) if so, the names of the countries likely to sell arms to Pakistan; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to counteract this move of China ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Government have seen reports of a new Chinese credit of 100 million dollars to Pakistan for the purchase of arms. We have no information whether this credit is for purchase from China or from the world market.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Government are taking all possible steps.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know, Sir, whether Turkey and Portugal have agreed to supply arms to Pakistan with this money from the market ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would not be surprised, Sir. They are not friendly to us.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know, Sir, whether the arms received by Turkey as a power of N.A.T.O. are being sold to Pakistan by Turkey ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Turkey has been denying that. They have been saying that they have been selling certain ammunitions and small arms which are manufactured in Turkey. But they have been denying that they have sold N.A.T.O. arms to Pakistan.

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

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Has the Government ascertained whether Turkey is selling arms to Pakistan or not ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Yes, Sir. That was the result of our ascertaining from the Turkish Government.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The replies given by the hon. Minister to parts (b) and (c) of the question appear to be somewhat contradictory. In reply to (b) he said that he has no information whether China has offered funds to Pakistan to purchase arms, and in reply to (c) he said that all steps necessary to counteract this move of China are being taken. If they have no information, if there is no fact, what are they counteracting ? I could not understand that.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I do not understand the meaning of this cross-examination. Nobody enters into arms deals after sending for the Indian representative, but we make all possible enquiries. In fact, making enquiries in itself is a step which is directed towards ascertaining the possible seller and then taking it up with that country to see if we could prevent it although it is not in our power to prevent the sale of arms by several countries.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : In replying to a supplementary to this question, the hon. Minister said that the countries mentioned, Portugal and Turkey, are not very friendly to us. I hope it was a slip of the tongue. What the hon. Minister probably meant was not Turkey. I would like a clarification.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I am grateful to the hon. Member. I am surprised even about Portugal he should have entertained that fear. About Turkey, Sir, you may use any word. But it is a fact that during the Indo-Pakistan conflict, Turkey gave all possible diplomatic support to Pakistan. It is also a fact that Turkey supplied ammunition and small arms to Pakistan on a fairly large scale. I do not use any adjective. You can coin one for yourself.

**SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY :** May I know, Sir, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Pakistan has replenished her war losses and today it is much stronger than what it was before the Indo-Pakistan conflict began in September 1965 ?

**SARDAR SWARAN SINGH :** It is a fact that Pakistan has been making frantic efforts to acquire arms from all possible sources, although it is very difficult to say categorically as to whether they are stronger as compared to the time when they started the last conflict.

#### CHINESE FORCES CONCENTRATION IN TIBET

\*283. { **DIWAN CHAMAN LALL:**  
**SHRI CHITTA BASU:†**  
**SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA:**  
**SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:**

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report appearing in the London "Observer" dated the 17th April, 1966 to the effect that (i) the Chinese are holding massive military exercises in South Tibet, (ii) that movement of a considerable number of troops has been made under cover of darkness, (iii) that apart from reservists, the Chinese have 18 to 20 divisions facing India and finally (iv) that it will not take the Chinese more than 4 days to move their troops against the Indian border; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS):** (a) While Government are aware about the concentration of Chinese troops and their offensive posture on our northern borders, no report regarding large scale movement of

Chinese troops or holding of massive military exercises by them in South Tibet has recently come to their notice.

(b) Government are keeping careful watch over the situation and will take such measures to protect our security as may be called for.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the Chinese are mobilising forces in Gilgit and Ladakh areas ?

**SHRI A. M. THOMAS:** Sir, these matters have been referred to previously also and my senior colleague has already answered these questions.

**SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR:** There are alarming reports in the newspapers that the Chinese have improved their logistic position and there is apprehension in the public mind that China may attack India any time, maybe before the monsoon. The Government has always replied that it is aware of this and it is taking all possible steps. May I know whether the Government intends appointing a Committee of Members of Parliament and take them into confidence so that they can satisfy themselves that there is preparedness to meet the Chinese menace ?

**SHRI A. M. THOMAS :** There is no doubt that their offensive preparedness has improved both in the matter of the Army as well as in the matter of communications. But, Sir, the proposal made by the hon. Member cannot be accepted. I do not think the House would expect the Government to constitute such a committee to go into this. With regard to the size and concentration of troops, in fact, some two or three days back the Defence Minister did give some idea about the size of the Chinese Army in the Tibet area. They have also troops in Sinkiang, Chinghai and Szechwan from where they can deploy in the border areas within a few days. The Government of India is watching this development and is taking all the necessary steps.

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