

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: In view of the fact that there are close racial and cultural and other ties between India and Ceylon and in view of the fact that the Sinhalese people are really descendants of the Indian people, may I ask whether the Government is in a position to assure us that they will not allow this issue of a small uninhabited island which is supposed to be the nest of smugglers, to embitter the political relations between these two countries, and that it will make every effort to settle it in an extremely cordial and peaceful manner?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: As I said at the beginning, we shall settle this matter in a friendly manner. I agree with the hon. Member that we have very friendly relations with Ceylon and we are happy about it and we shall try to strengthen those relations. I cannot say that this island is a nest of smugglers. Just now it is not inhabited at all.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Who are the people who go there and what is their language?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Fishermen go there mostly from this country. It is not inhabited, as I have mentioned earlier.

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY: It is not as if Kachchativu is the only island there. There are various other islands, some ten of them and they all did belong to the Raja of Ramnad before the abolition of zamindaris. And the records have been transferred to the Government of Madras. Cannot the Government of India now seek the assistance of the Legal Department of the Government of Madras pertaining to the sovereignty that not only this one island but the other ten islands also once belonged to the Raja of Ramnad?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Zamindari right does not confer sovereignty. The position is that the zamindari right of the Raja of Ramnad has never been disputed. In fact, there was a meeting in 1921 in which there was the representative from the Government of

Madras and they had agreed that while the zamindari rights of the Raja of Ramnad would continue, the island belonged to Ceylon. This fact was not accepted by the Secretary of State for India and since then this dispute has been going on.

SEAT IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

*287. **SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to contest one of the seats which will fall vacant in the Security Council of the United Nations in the near future; and

(b) if so, what further steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, India has decided to stand for election to the Security Council at the 21st Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

(b) As is customary, India's candidature has been announced in New York and Indian Representatives abroad have sought the support of the Governments to which they are accredited.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: May I know whether Pakistan is a contender for this seat and whether the permanent members of the Security Council, particularly the USA, the USSR and England have been approached and, if so, what is their reaction?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Pakistan also has announced her candidature. We have sounded the three countries which have been mentioned by the hon. Member. We have sounded several other countries also. The reply generally in all these cases is that they will indicate their position a little nearer the time of the election.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: May I know whether the Afro-Asian nations, particularly the UAR, have been approached and whether some of those nations are also supporting us?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. Other countries have already indicated that they would support us. Several other countries are still non-committal and some of them have also mentioned that they have commitments with other candidates.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: What about the UAR? I particularly asked about the United Arab Republic.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir. No definite reply has yet been given by the UAR.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Now that the Security Council is expanded and when China is admitted to the Security Council it will create more difficulties for India, how is it that India did not fight for a permanent seat on the Security Council?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Because it is not in the Charter, Sir.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: In that case India should take the initiative to amend the Charter. There is nothing sacrosanct about the Charter.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No doubt it may be said that there is nothing sacrosanct about the Charter. But the Charter itself can be revised only if all the permanent members agree and the hon. Member can well imagine it is not easy to persuade, particularly the permanent members who have got the power of veto, to agree to the revision of the Charter. Some informal soundings have been made during the last two or three years because not only India but it was at one time suggested that one important country from Latin America, one important country from Africa and one second country from Asia—maybe India—should be there and the Charter should be suitably amended to give permanent seats to these three. The matter has not yet reached such a stage that I may say that any definite progress has been made towards this realisation.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Is it not a fact that the question of amending the Constitution of the United Nations Organisation has been pending for nearly ten years now because some common formula agreeable to the permanent members has not been formed and notwithstanding India's efforts, no amendment of this Constitution of the U.N. has been made?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I would remind the hon. Member and the House that there has been a revision of the Charter inasmuch as the strength of the Security Council and the strength of the Economic and Social Council have been expanded and on that there has been agreement among the principal powers and also approval has been granted by the General Assembly. It is in this expanded Security Council and expanded Economic and Social Council that the new elections are to take place.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any information that in the ensuing contest for a seat on the Security Council, the contest is not likely to be confined to India and Pakistan? My information is—and I hope the hon. Minister will check it up—one of the Arab States, in violation of a gentleman's agreement between India and the Asian countries and the Arab countries, is trying to get this seat on the Security Council, though according to that gentleman's agreement—a private agreement—it should not be a candidate this time and this seat should go to some Asian country.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I agree with the opening remark of the hon. Member that Pakistan is not likely to be the only contender. There are likely to be others also, and we have information that a country from Western Asia may also contest. I do not want to enter into this discussion about the gentleman's agreement at this stage.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: I just wanted to know when the Charter was amended to increase the strength of the Security Council what prevented the amendment of the Charter in such

a way that India was included, as a Great Asian Power, as a permanent member of the Security Council?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Unwillingness of the principal Powers; that came in the way.

SPACE STATION

*288. **SHRI M. C. SHAH:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have placed an order with a Japanese firm to build a space station for India; and

(b) if so, the main details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):

(a) and (b): The Hon. Member is apparently referring to the Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station which is being set up by the Department of Atomic Energy in Ahmedabad. The United Nations Special Fund has agreed to contribute the cost of the main equipment required for the Station. The International Telecommunications Union, which is the Executing Agency for the Fund, has awarded the contract for the main equipment to Messrs. Nippon Electric Company of Japan which will also supervise the installation of the equipment at the Station, and will afford facilities to Indian engineers to witness the manufacture of the equipment at its works. The rest of the work in connection with the Station, including the construction of buildings, is being undertaken by the Department of Atomic Energy.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether this Japanese firm has exported similar satellite communication equipment to other countries before this or is this the first of its kind?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I do not know about this.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know what will be the cost to be incurred for establishing this station in India and what will be the foreign component part of it and how it is proposed to be met?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The United Nations Special Fund allocation for the project is 625,000 dollars including 480,000 dollars for equipment. The Government of India's contribution will total 44.88 lakhs. Apart from financing the cost of the equipment the United Nations Special Fund is paying for the services of a few experts and fellowships for the training of Indian engineers. The rest of the cost of the station including land, building, additional equipment, etc. is being met by the Government.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether it is laid down as one of the conditions that Indian technologists will be duly trained in space communications in this station?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I think due attention will be paid to this, Sir.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ask the hon. Prime Minister if this space station will be useful for transmission of TV and also if the installation of this station will considerably bring down the present maintenance cost of communication lines?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I do not think we have looked into the matter of its utility for TV yet but I should think that perhaps it would be.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: What is the time by which it is expected to be completed?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The technical buildings have been designed and are expected to be ready during 1966. The station is expected to become operational early next year.

*289. [The questioner (Shri A. D. Mani) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1695 infra.]