

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No final decision has yet been taken.

STATEMENT BY INDIA'S CONSUL-GENERAL IN SAIGON ON U.S. BOMBING

*348. SHRI OM MEHTA :
SHRI CHITTA BASU .
SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK :
SHRI B. K. MAHANTI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Consul-General in Saigon justified the United States bombing on North Vietnam in a statement which appeared in a Honi; Kong Journal; and

(b) if so, what is the text of the statement and what action Government propose to take in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE in THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) The Consul-General of India in Saigon, who was on leave in Hong Kong, was reported to have said in a Press interview that American strikes against the peripheries of Hanoi and Haiphong could possibly bring about an end to the fighting in Vietnam.

(b) A copy of the report as it appeared in the *South China Morning Post* of Hong Kong is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix LVII, Annexure No. 27] The views reported to have been expressed by this officer are contrary to Government of India's policy. He has been called back and further action if necessary will be taken after he has had a chance to explain the position.

MANUFACTURING CAPACITY OF CARTRIDGES AT KIRKEE ORDNANCE FACTORY

♦349. SHRI SHIVA NAND RAMAUL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 679 in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd March, 1966 and state whether the capacity to manufacture 12-bore shot cartridges at the Kirkee Ordnance Factory has since been augmented and some quotp

allotted to the dealers in the country for sale to the public ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS) . The capacity to manufacture 12-bore shot cartridges has been augmented. No special quota of 12 bore cartridges exists for the dealers in the country; bulk of the issues are made to them.

MINISTERS' VISITS ABROAD

*350. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD PAHADIA : SHRI SHANTILAL KOTHARI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state how many Ministers went abroad after devaluation of rupee was announced ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : Nine, Sir.

CHINESE IN INDIAN TERRITORY

"351. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK : SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the Chinese have intruded into the Indian territory during the last three months;

(b) whether they are still in our territory; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) In the last three months there have been three instances of fresh intrusions by Chinese troops. In all three cases they have either gone back to Tibet or behind the line of actual control in Ladakh. Details are given in a note which I was sent to the Chinese Government on the 21st July and later released to press. A copy is placed on the Table of the House.

Note given by the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi to the Embassy of China in India, the 21st July, 1966. No. C/11/66