

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 11th February, 1964/ the 22nd Magha, 1885 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): Madam, I have great pleasure in introducing to you and to the House Mr. D. Sanjivayya, Minister of Labour and Employment.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

VISIT OF CHINESE SUBMARINES TO NICOBAR ISLANDS

f SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY

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SHRI A. D. MANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese submarines have left some signs of their visit to the Nicobar Islands; and

(b) whether a naval station is proposed to be commissioned in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Government is not aware of any Chinese submarine having visited Nicobar Islands.

(b) Yes, Madam. A Naval Establishment at Port Blair is being commissioned shortly.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy.
1047 RS—1.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the American 7th Fleet, during the course of its visit to the Indian Ocean, will call at our naval base at the Andamans?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: There is no relation between the two, Madam.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know if the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that some time back—I cannot say exactly when—the newspapers in India announced that there were definite signs of the Chinese submarines having visited the Nicobar Islands, whether the attention of the hon. Minister was drawn to this news or not. If it was drawn, why was it not contradicted in the press?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Madam, we cannot contradict anything and everything that appears in the press. But I have answered this question, as far as the Chinese submarine is concerned.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if the hon. Minister can give an assurance to this House that he has made adequate arrangements to deal with such visits, if and when they take place, in the country?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The answer gives that. Part (b) clarifies that.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: In view of the fact that the entry of Chinese submarines in the Indian Ocean is not ruled out, may I know whether there is any proposal to acquire some submarines for the Indian Navy?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I have said that this matter is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Madam. I should like to ask the Defence Minister whether the Government have received information from friendly countries that Chinese submarines are operating