

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: We are annually exporting about Rs. 4 crores worth of jute goods to Cuba. I would like to know how these are being exported. Are they being exported through ships of other countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir.

*478. [Withdrawn.]

राष्ट्रमंडल के समुद्री अभ्यास

*४७९. श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : क्या प्रति-रक्षा मंत्रो यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय नौसेना राष्ट्र-मण्डल के समुद्री अभ्यासों में सम्मिलित हो रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भारतीय नौसेना के कितने जहाज और कितने कर्मचारी इन अभ्यासों में भाग ले रहे हैं ?

†[COMMONWEALTH MARITIME EXERCISES]

*479. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy is taking part in the Commonwealth Maritime Exercises; and

(b) if so, what is the number of ships and personnel of the Indian Navy, that are going to take part in these Exercises?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Seven of our Naval ships and approximately 300 officers and 3,500 sailors are participating in the Joint Commonwealth Naval Exercises.

‡[प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय में प्रतिरक्षा उपमंत्रि (श्री डी० आर० चव्हाण) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) हमारी नौसेना के ७ जहाज तथा प्रायः ३०० अफसर और ३,५०० नाविक राष्ट्रमंडल के संयुक्त नौसेना अभ्यासों में भाग ले रहे हैं ।]

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know which other countries are participating in this and whether Pakistan is one of the participating countries?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The other countries participating are Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. My information is that Pakistan is not participating.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has Government tried to find out whether Pakistan was invited to join these maritime exercises and it turned down the invitation because India happened to be a part of this team?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: We are not aware.

DIGGING OF BORDER BY CHINESE

*480. SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports appearing in the press that the Chinese have started digging extensively on the entire border of the country, are correct; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) While the Chinese military build-up all along our borders and in the areas occupied by them continues, no unusual digging activity has come to our notice.

(b) All possible steps have been taken to strengthen our borders.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: The hon. Minister has said that unusual activity has not come to their notice. May I know, Sir, what is the usual activity and whether digging of trenches is not an unusual activity?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I meant it usual in the sense that that was going on for some time, digging of trenches, etc., but not to an extent which could be called unusual.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Do Government consider that the building of stone cairns on the so-called line of actual control is unusual activity?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: This is definitely unusual activity.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: In which part is this unusual activity carried on more intensely? On which border or in which part is this unusual activity—unusual according to the hon. Minister—intensive?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Well, Sir, it is no use merely playing with the words. When I said 'unusual activity' my intention was to convey to the House that the build-up activity that the Chinese were carrying on with, they are doing also now, but there is nothing that has happened that one can call exceptional.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: May I know, Sir, whether this building up of trenches, whether this military build-up is of an aggressive character?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Well, Sir, on some occasions it can be considered to be so.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it not a fact that the Chinese build-up on the border is heavier than what it was in 1962 when China attacked our country?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I think it is of the same type and about the same

time and it poses a threat; there is no doubt about it.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: In your Address to Parliament discharging the functions of the President you said that the Chinese build-up was greater than what it was before, but the hon. Defence Minister is giving a different reply.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: No, Sir. I said that it certainly gave a threatening posture; I said that.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: I put a specific question whether the build-up was heavier than what it was in 1962, and to that there should be a categorical reply.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I have given a categorical reply that it is heavier than that.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: Has Government sent any team of experts or of officials to find out the nature of the digging and how far they have dug it within our territory?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Within our territory? I never said that it was within our territory.

*481. [The question (Shrimati Nandini Satpathy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3725-26 infra.]

*482. [The questioner (Shri Krishna Chandra) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3726 infra.]

सीमाक्षेत्रों में विमान दुर्घटनाएँ

*४८३. श्री राम सहाय : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि हाल में सीमा क्षेत्रों में विमान दुर्घटनाओं का संख्या बढ़ गई है, जिन के फलस्वरूप सेना के बहुत से अधिकारी मारे गए ; यदि हाँ, तो ऐसी घटनाएँ पुनः न होने पायें, इसके लिये क्या सावधानी बरती गई है ?