

nation that our Air Force is prepared enough to meet any emergency and that it can protect all the strategic installations in the country in case of any enemy attack?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I should say, generally yes, Sir.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: The Minister has just now said that it has been accepted in principle. I would like to know what hurdles are in the way of getting these aircraft from any country and what the reasons are that are quoted by America against the supply, immediate supply, of these aircraft under any arrangement.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: No reasons are given, or no reasons are expected to be given, I mean, the fact is that there is no agreement to give, but when we say that it is accepted in principle, it means that the need of our Air Force to have such an all-weather fighter is accepted in arguments and in discussions.

#### SOVIET UNION'S CONCERN OVER ARMS TO PAKISTAN

\*514. SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Soviet Union has expressed great concern over Pakistan being armed with new weapons and planes;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any efforts to obtain new weapons and planes from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and

(c) if so, what is the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a)  
No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to certain press reports of the Press Trust of India—to the news which comes from Moscow—that the Government of the U.S.S.R. are expressing concern over the build-up in Pakistan and, if so, whether the Government have tried to ascertain the veracity of these reports?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I have nothing more to add. I have said, "No, Sir", and that remains.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question is whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the press reports . . .

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir, our attention has been drawn to them.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: . . . and whether they took steps to ascertain the veracity of these reports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Attention has been drawn, but she has nothing to add to the reply she has given.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question is about part (b) which refers to the request to the U.S.S.R. for giving us planes, and it has just now been admitted by the Defence Minister that **we are in need** of supersonic planes. If so, I want to know whether any efforts have been made by the Government to procure the supersonic planes from the U.S.S.R.

SHRI SYED AHMED: It does not arise out of this question.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: How can you say that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to say something?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: The hon. House knows that . . .

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question was about supersonic planes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already said that.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: If so, . . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: But the question does not arise out of this question, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you think you can give further replies?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: The Defence Minister's previous replies cover this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Defence Minister's previous replies cover this. The need of supersonic aircraft has been accepted, but the steps that have to be taken will take time.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: My question made specific reference to the U.S.S.R. and no reply has been given to the specific question whether any efforts have been made by our Government to get supersonic planes from the U.S.S.R. and, if not, what is the reason.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: The hon. Member knows that on previous occasions we have pointed out that we have been obtaining weapons and planes from the U.S.S.R.—M.I.G. planes, etc.—and the Government of the Soviet Union have also agreed to put up a factory in India to manufacture the planes.

#### WEST GERMAN VICE-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON BERLIN QUESTION

\*515. SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vice-President of West Germany on his return from India recently made a statement on India's policy on the Berlin question; and

(b) if so, what is the exact statement he has made and in what context the statement was made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) and (b). Dr. Thomas Dehler, Vice-President of the Bundestag did not make a statement on his return to Germany on India's policy on the Berlin question. There were only speculative reports to this effect in the German press.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know, Sir, if the Minister for External Affairs has received the report published in one of the very famous German newspapers "Die-Welt" in its issue of September 17, 1963 in which it has been said like this:

" 'Nehru does not want to become involved' Dehler reports on Indian stand on German question."

Now further, in the concluding part of the statement issued to the press, the Vice-President, Mr. Dehler, is reported to have made observations to the following effect:

"The Vice-President of the Federal Parliament found more understanding for the German problems in Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, State Minister at the Indian Foreign Office. She had expressed disgust at the barricading measures of the zone and viewed the wall as one element in an anomalous situation, as she had done before in July in the face of the wall."

Now I would like to know what is the difference of understanding between the Prime Minister and the Minister of State.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: There is no difference of understanding at all, Sir and as I have pointed out in the answer, Dr. Thomas Dehler did not make that statement, but some people had speculated on these things and written like that, for which no-