

oceanographic survey of the Indian Ocean and preparing maps. May I know if there is any co-ordination between that establishment and this one proposed?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Defence Ministry is co-operating with us in various ways. If there is an establishment of the Defence Ministry at Dehra Dun, obviously it is included.

Shri P. C. Borooah: How many Indian ships, if any, will be taking part in the programme?

Shri Humayun Kabir: The Indian ships ear-marked till now are: INS *Kistna*, which is a frigate of the Indian Navy, *Varuna* of the Indo-Norwegian Project, Kerala, a fisheries vessel called *Bangada* and the Kerala University Research vessel called *Conch*.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Minister has been pleased to give the names of the countries which will participate in this project. With so many countries including the USSR and the USA participating in this project, is there any apprehension or possibility of the waters of the Indian Ocean being contaminated by the cold war?

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. C. Samanta.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No answer to my question?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Humayun Kabir: My hon. friend is so prophylactic that we do not have any such fears.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister has said that for oceanographic studies, a meteorological centre will be set up at Bombay. May I know whether the meteorological centre of the Transport and Communications Ministry which is there at present will be utilised?

Shri Humayun Kabir: They are co-operating fully in the programme.

Watch Smuggling

*1368. **Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiries into the watch smuggling racket involving foreign nationals have been completed; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat):

(a) and (b). Government has no information about a smuggling racket involving foreign nationals.

Shri Ram Ratan Gupta: Has any prosecution been launched so far or not?

Mr. Speaker: They have no information about a smuggling racket. He wants to know if there is any individual case of prosecution.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: This was a general question. But there has been over the past years quite a number of cases in which we have seized watches. In these cases, we have not only seized the watches but have prosecuted the people concerned. If the hon. Member wants to know about any specific case, he may table a separate question, and I will reply.

Shri Ram Ratan Gupta: A smuggling racket was discovered at Palam Airport in which, according to my information, some of the staff members of the Chilean Embassy were involved. I am referring to that.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: He should table a specific question about any particular case and I shall answer it.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: Towards the end of the Second Lok Sabha, in reply to a question it was stated by Government in this House that they are aware that smuggling of watches is going on. Now the Minister says that Government are not aware of any such smuggling. How are the two statements reconciled?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The two statements are not contradictory. This question refers to a smuggling racket involving foreign nationals. We are not aware of any smuggling racket involving foreign nationals in a general way. But when we come across any such cases involving smuggling of watches, there are some foreign nationals also involved. From that we cannot draw the conclusion that the Government has full particulars about any smuggling racket involving foreign nationals.

Shri Nambiar: I will put it like this. May I know whether there was a concrete case of watch smuggling by a particular section of the foreign Embassy in Palam airport, whether it was caught, and whether the Government are aware of it?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I want separate notice of that question.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: May I know how many such rackets have been traced during the last one year?

Mr. Speaker: He is not aware of any.

Shri Nambiar: The racket may not be there, but this is a specific case which Government must know.

Mr. Speaker: If he says he has no information at the moment, can we force him?

Shri Nambiar: But the facts must be known to Government.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Patel:

Shri P. R. Patel: I want to know whether any foreigners were involved in any smuggling of watches in this year—I talk of this year only—and whether anybody was arrested.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I want notice of that question.

Application of the Constitution to Jammu and Kashmir

*1369. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Constitution by repealing Article 370, with a view to applying the Constitution *in toto* to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, so as to put it on par with other States of the Indian Union; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). The question will be considered at the appropriate time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the fact that according to the Constitution, this article 370 is a temporary and transitional provision, is it going to be indefinitely temporary and transitional, or has the Government set a date for its abrogation or is considering or thinking of setting a date for its abrogation?

Shri Datar: No such date has been fixed, but may I point out to the hon. Member that after 1950 on four or five occasions changes or modifications have been made so far as the relations with Jammu and Kashmir State are concerned, and the President has, with the concurrence of the State Government, issued orders in that respect.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Exactly, Sir. Clause 3 of article 370 of the Constitution says that the President may by public notification declare that this article shall cease to be operative etc., provided the recommendation in this regard, and if it Jammu and Kashmir has been obtained. May I know whether the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly has *suo motu*, made any specific recommendation in this regard, and if it has not done so, does the Government propose to consult the State Assembly with regard to this, whether the abrogation or modification of this provision can be made in the very near future?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The Jammu and Kashmir Government have not