

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, May 5, 1959/Vaisakha 15,
1881 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[Mr SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conventions on the Law of the Sea

*2215. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1087 on the 16th December, 1958 and state at what stage is the question of finalising conventions on the Law of the Sea framed at the Conference at Geneva?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Out of the four Conventions adopted at Geneva in 1958, three are complete and the Government are studying in detail their implications. Meanwhile, the General Assembly of the United Nations has called another conference at Geneva in March or April 1960 to consider the width of the territorial sea and other closely related problems. The Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone could not be completed in 1958 for lack of agreement on this question.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know what are the details of these four conventions which are under consideration?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: These four conventions are convention on

the territorial sea and contiguous zone, convention on the high seas, convention on fishing and the conservation of the living resources on the high seas and the convention on the continental shelf.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know what has been the opinion of the delegation with regard to the width of the territorial waters?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There is disagreement on that. That is one of the subjects which will be discussed at the next conference.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What was the attitude of the Government of India with regard to the fishing rights in territorial waters and also on the high seas?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have asked for six miles for the territorial waters and six miles extra for fishing rights.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Deputy Minister referred to the fishing rights. May I know whether it was brought to the attention of the authorities that Japanese fishing vessels are operating in the Wadge Bank within the distance mentioned by her? The Japanese sailing vessels are operating in the Wadge Bank area which we have not exploited.

Mr Speaker: What distance?

Shri V. P. Nayar: It will be anything from 10 miles from the shore in certain regions.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is because of these various interpretations of these laws relating to the high seas that a conference was held to get some uniform basis for it. About the these conventions which

have been agreed to and with which broadly we agree also, in fact, some of them were discussed at our initiative and they presumably will be acted upon. The fourth one is a much more ticklish one, the distance,—not the fishing, but I mean the territorial sea—where there is great difference. We hope there will be some kind of agreement next time.

As for the hon. Member's question, it is true that the Japanese vessels on the Arabian Sea and elsewhere go; they are entitled to go outside the limits prescribed for them. Whether they go within those limits or not, it is a matter for enquiry and investigation.

Shri Tangamani: Of the three conventions which have been finalised, may we know whether those conventions are now ratified by our Government?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir. In fact we have not even signed any of those conventions.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether Government are aware that fishing vessels of the Pakistan Government are coming all the way to the Orissa coast and fishing there and whether such violations have come to the notice of the Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a matter on which I would like to have notice.

Handloom Products

*2216. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that greater exports of Handloom products are possible if the materials are properly calendered and pre-shrunk?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): Yes, Sir. I would say, larger exports could be anticipated.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the representatives of the trade who visited Europe recently have reported to the Government that there

is great potentiality for the development of markets for these products if the handloom cloths are calendered and pre-shrunk?

Shri Kanungo: The reports are that calendering and finishing would help in the larger intake. About pre-shrinking, it is not, what you call, important.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know if Government are aware that all along in Europe today, the demand for cotton is more when it is pre-shrunk than when it is not so treated?

Shri Kanungo: According to my information, the volume of cotton not pre-shrunk is much larger.

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is true, but what about the handloom cloth?

- श्री राम सिंह चाई वर्मा : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने को छुपा करेंगे कि मौजूदा हैंडलूम के उत्पादन में कैनेडरिंग और फिनिशिंग करने का क्या प्रबन्ध किया गया है ?

श्री कानूनगो . १९५७-५८ में फिनिशिंग प्लान्ट लगाने के लिए नौ लाख रुपये से ज्यादा मन्जूर किया गया है ।

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have any scheme to get the handloom cloth pre-shrunk as is done in the case of mill cloth and whether Government have any scheme to render assistance for the smaller units which manufacture handloom cloth?

Shri Kanungo: The Handloom Board has a scheme for all this finishing work, etc. Uptill now there has been no proposal for a pre-shrunk plant.

Shri Nagi Reddy: May I know whether in taking steps for calendering and finishing, the handloom cloth which is not produced by the co-operatives also will be given a chance?