

12.05 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****ALLEGED PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE OF
ISLANDS IN INDIAN OCEAN BY U.K. FOR
MILITARY BASES**

जी कार्ब कर्नेलिट (बम्बई दक्षिण) :
प्रधान मंत्री, मैं प्रसिद्धिपूर्ण लोक महत्व
के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर वैदेशिक-कार्य
मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और
प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक
वक्तव्य दें —

“हिन्द महासागर में बहुत से द्वीप खरीदने
और वहाँ जंगी जहाजों और
विमानों के लिए प्रांगण
घरों की छद्म बनाने के ब्रिटिश
सरकार के निश्चय के समाचार”

The Minister of External Affairs
(Shri M. C. Chagla): Sir, this subject
was discussed in the Rajya Sabha on
November 18 and in the Lok Sabha
on November 23, 1965. The Deputy
Minister made a statement in the
Rajya Sabha while the then Foreign
Minister made a statement in the Lok
Sabha. We stand by the attitude
taken by the Government of India
on this question in those statements.

With reference to recent reports on
this question Government have made
further enquiries. According to the
British what is being done now is
nothing more than what was contem-
plated before. According to them,
there is no idea of setting up military
bases or stationing of foreign troops
on these islands. They claim that the
present proposal is no different from
their previous proposal and the idea is
to give only transit, staging and re-
fuelling facilities to British and Ame-
rican military planes going to the Far
East. They further claim that this is
necessary in view of British commit-
ments to Malaysia, Australia and Hong
Kong and American commitments in
the Far East. What the British Gov-
ernment are proposing to do now is to
negotiate the purchase of three pri-

vately owned islands, viz. Farquhar,
Desroches and Aldabra in the Seyche-
lles group and the Chagos Archipelago
which belonged to Mauritius, for the
provision of transit and refuelling-
cum-communication facilities.

Government of India's position has
been made clear in the past and there
is no change in our stand. We have
subscribed to the Bandung Declaration
of 1955. We have also signed the
Cairo Declaration of 1964 on the sub-
ject of establishment of bases in the
Indian Ocean and we stand by them.

We have also subscribed to resolu-
tion No. 1514 of 14th December, 1960
and No. 2066 of 4th January, 1966,
adopted by the United Nations Gene-
ral Assembly dealing with this subject.
Resolution No. 2066 “notes with deep
concern that any step by the adminis-
tering power to detach certain islands
from the territory of Mauritius for
the purpose of establishment of mili-
tary bases would be in contravention
of resolution No. 1514”. It further
“invites the administering power to
take no action which would dismem-
ber the territory of Mauritius and
violate its territorial integrity.”

We are opposed to the establishment
of military bases in the Indian Ocean
area as it might lead to an increase
in tensions in this region. We hope
that, in the larger interest of peace,
the British authorities will bear in
mind our feelings and the feelings of
other countries in this region and de-
sist from setting up any military bases
in this area.

जी कार्ब कर्नेलिट : प्रसन्न मैं ऐसा
लगा कि इस्तिस्नान के ही वैदेशिक मंत्री
की ओर से बयान सुनने को हमें मिल रहा
है ।

प्रधान मंत्री, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि
इस दोनों प्रकार का क्या संबंध और घरेलू की
सरकारों से हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार ने यह
द्वीप खरीदने के बारे में और वहाँ यह छद्म
बनाने के बारे में कोई निश्चय व्यक्त किया है
चूंकि यह जो बयान वहाँ पर पेश करने में

कामा है उस में एक तो पूछताछ का विक है और दूसरे कुछ कामा व्यक्त करने में आई है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इन मामलों में पूछताछ की कामा व्यक्त करने से काम नहीं होगा निवेद्य व्यक्त करने का काम तत्काल होना चाहिये या इसलिए हम यह जानकारु चाहेंगे कि क्या इन्डिस्तान की सरकार और अमरीका की सरकार या दोनों सरकारों के पास कोई निवेद्य व्यक्त करने का काम हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार ने किया है और साथ साथ अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या इस मसले को लेकर संयुक्त-राष्ट्र संघ में, दुनिया की अदालत में, कोई भी कार्यवाही करने का सरकार का विचार है ? अगर यह दोनों सरकारें इस मामले पर हमारे खयालात को सुनने को तैयार न हों तो एशिया के मुल्कों में खास तौर पर, और दुनिया के मुल्कों में आम तौर पर, कुछ जनमत संगठित करने के बारे में क्या सरकार के सामने कोई भी कार्यवाही है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes, Sir; apart from making inquiries, we have made representations.

Shri George Fernandes: Not representations, protests.

Shri M. C. Chagla: Representations which amount to protests.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Peermade): What does that mean?

Shri M. C. Chagla: That means, we have pointed out to the High Commissioner for United Kingdom in Delhi that what they are trying to do is opposed to the United Nations resolutions. The explanation given by the High Commissioner is what we have stated, namely, that their intention is not to set up any base. Even so, we pointed out that it was opposed to the United Nations resolution because the resolution comes to this. If a country is independent, it can do what it likes with any part of its territory—it can dismember itself; it can transfer its sovereignty or a part of it to other countries—but when a country is not

independent, to dismember that country is against our stand for anti-colonialism. Today Mauritius is still not independent. Seychelles is still a British colony. Therefore, any attempt on the part of the British Government to dismember either Mauritius territory or Seychelles Islands would really amount to a violation of the United Nations resolution. We have pointed this out in unmistakable terms to the High Commissioner here and I am sure he will convey our views to his Government.

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डिस : मेरे पूरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं मिला। मैंने पूछा था कि क्या संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में इस सवाल को छेड़ने का सरकार का खयाल है और जनमत संग्रह संगठित करने का सवाल है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Certainly, we will take up this matter in the United Nations because it is the violation of the Resolution and we will do what we can to mobilise public opinion against what is happening.

Shri R. Barua (Jorhat): Recently, there was a Defence Seminar in which 18 experts from European countries participated. May I know whether the counterparts of India used this opportunity to project our feelings in regard to the security risks that the Asian countries may have as a result of this new transit base?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I am sorry I am not in a position to say whether this specific question was discussed at this Seminar.

Shri Chintamani Pasigrahi (Bhubaneswar): May I know whether the Government of India proposes to launch a joint protest against this move of the British Government with all the Asian powers concerned? The Minister said that they are not purchasing the islands for the purpose of having a foreign base. Are they purchasing these islands for cultivation then?

Shri M. C. Chagla: As I told the House, they claim that the idea is to give only transit, staging and refueling facilities. They have categorically told us that they do not intend to use them as military bases.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: Is there any joint protest by Burma and other countries and, if so, is our Government joining in that protest.

Shri M. C. Chagla: At present, we do not know it because this has just come to our light. We have taken action and, if necessary, we will work together with other countries which are interested in the Indian Ocean.

श्री मधु लिम्वे (मुंगेर) अध्यक्ष
महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो बयान पढ़ा है उम में मैंने निम्न वाक्य देखा :

"What the British Government are proposing to do now is to negotiate the purchase from some British planters of three privately-owned islands..."

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्द महासागर में कितने द्वीप ऐसे हैं जिन पर निजी मिल्कियन हैं और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून में उनकी क्या हैसियत है। क्या यह चीनी-कपड़े की तरह बिक्री के लिये है। मान लीजिये कल चीन खरीद लेना है और उस पर धनु विस्फोट करना है या प्रक्षेपणान्वय जिसको मिज़ाइल कहते हैं, का प्रहार डालना है तो उसके सम्बन्ध में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून में क्या स्थिति होगी। क्या इस मामले के बारे में सरकार ने विचार किया है गहराई में जाकर और इसके बारे में क्या कोई इलाज बुद्धा है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The position is clear. What the Government can buy is the free-hold rights. Let us take an example. If my hon. friend has got a land in Delhi which is free-hold, he cannot sell it to Pakistan but he can sell it to an individual. He cannot transfer the sovereignty of that land. That land belongs to India and it must belong to India. All that can be sold or purchased is the land tenure, free-

hold or lease-hold. But we are told by the British Government that there is already an agreement between them and the Governments of Seychelles and Mauritius by which they have agreed to pay certain compensation. This is what we are objecting to. You cannot transfer sovereignty of the colonial country by paying compensation because you are dismembering the colonial country. But as regards the private transactions that is a different matter.

श्री मधु लिम्वे : मेरे प्रश्न की सफाई नहीं हुई। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि प्राइवेटली प्रोन्ड प्राइवेट्स का क्या मतलब है। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून और सार्वभौमिकता को ले कर इसकी क्या हैसियत होती है।

श्री म० क० चागला : हैसियत यह है कि इन्टरनेशनल ला में मावरेन्टी किसी एक व्यक्ति की नहीं रहती। प्राइवेट की होल्ड हो सकता है लेकिन सावरेन्टी तो एक कन्ट्री की ही हो सकती है।

श्री मधु लिम्वे : क्या वह इनको बेच सकते हैं ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: They can only sell the free-hold rights under the international law, as I have understood. They cannot possibly sell the sovereignty.

डॉ० राम मनोहर लोहिया (कन्नौज)

अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज फिर कल के जैसा हुआ। अब मैं समझ गया हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय कभी भी तकलीफ में आने पर द्वीप को समुद्र बना सकते हैं और समुद्र को द्वीप, जिस तरह से अभी उन्होंने बेस को कह दिया ट्राइट क्रिसिलिटीड, क्स्पुलिंग क्रिसिलिटीड बगैरह बगैरह। बाहिर को बात तो उन्होंने अपने मुंह से साफ कह दी है कि कोई भी सही और सच्चा उत्तर पाना उन से असम्भव है। फिर भी मैं अपना कर्तव्य निभाता हूँ और पूछता हूँ कि हिन्द महासागर में ऐसे द्वीप जिनके ऊपर किसी की मिल्कियत है उनके

जवाब से साफ नहीं हुआ, सेवेन्थ या किसी शक्ति का,—जो भी मुंह में आया कह देना कुछ भी—उन द्वीपों में जो कुछ भी बेच रहे हैं चीजें यह ट्रांजिट केसिलिटीज, फ्युएलिंग केसिलिटीज वगैरह उनके बारे में भारत सरकार क्यों भविष्य के लिये अपनी आज की स्थिति साफ नहीं करती। मैं माने लेता हूँ कि आज भारत सरकार के पास वम नहीं है कि वह कोई भी सच्चा विरोध कर सके लेकिन आगे चल करके सचमुच सक्रिय विरोध के लिये एक ताकतवर विरोध आज सब जगह हो जाना चाहिये कि यह द्वीप किसी भी हालत में भारत महासागर के बाहर की किसी शक्ति को दिये नहीं जा सकते। किसी शक्ति को भी। अमरीका वाले सेवेन्थ फ्लीट न जाने कहा कहा भेजा करते हैं चीन वाले भेजने पर लगे हुए हैं। नतीजा हो रहा है कि हमारा पूरा सार्वभौमिकत्व खरम होता जा रहा है। यह बिल्कुल साफ आना चाहिये कि किसी भी तरह की कोई चीज भारत महासागर के बाहर नहीं जा सकती ट्रांजिट केसिलिटीज, फ्युएलिंग केसिलिटीज कोई चीज।

मैं आपसे कह रहा हूँ। उन से जबरत पड़ जाती है बोलने की, लेकिन ऐसे आदमी से बोलने का अब दिल नहीं करता है।

Shri M. C. Chagla: I did not say that we have agreed to the measures taken by the British. I was only giving information to the House as to what the British attitude is. I am not saying that we have accepted this attitude. Our position is clear and I have stated it. I do not know why my hon. friend must always start his question with a certain vituperative expression. What is it I have said which is not correct?

डा० राज मनोहर लोहिया : इसलिए कि आप सब बोलना भूल गये हैं। और कोई सबब नहीं है।

Shri M. C. Chagla: I think the hon. Member has forgotten to be courteous and polite.

डा० राज मनोहर लोहिया : मैं ऐसे झूठे आदमी के साथ किसी भी तरह की सच्चाता नहीं रख सकता।

Shri M. C. Chagla: I object, Sir. It is most unparliamentary. I would request you to expunge these remarks. Is this a parliamentary expression?

Mr. Speaker: Which one?

Shri M. C. Chagla: झूठे आदमी।

डा० राज मनोहर लोहिया : जाने दो बहुत बातें सुनी हैं पार्लियामेन्टरी एटिकेट की बातें। हमेशा प्रमत्त बोलने रहे हैं

Mr. Speaker: Whether it is parliamentary or not, I wish to say that an hon. Member should not use such a language against another hon. Member. It is not proper. After all, we have to respect

डा० राज मनोहर लोहिया : और वह बार बार मेरे लिये डिस्कटेंसी कहते रहेंगे ?

Mr. Speaker: After all, we have to honour and respect each other.

डा० राज मनोहर लोहिया : डिस्कटेंसी वह बार बार कहते रहते हैं। राजनीति में कल के आये हुए लोग हम को बता रहे हैं।

Mr. Speaker: It is not proper to use such a language against another hon. Member. I regret very much. I hope the members will not use such a language. Whether parliamentary or unparliamentary, they should certainly not use such a language against another hon. Member.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North East): What about certain things in regard to the Minister to which he took objection and which happen to

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

be on record? Are you going to permit those things to be on record?

Mr. Speaker: My point is this. Even presuming that it is not unparliamentary, we should not use such a language. That is what I have said. It is not a question of going into the technicalities—legal, technical and all that. We should avoid using such a language.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Certain words were used which should not have been used. It was said that the hon. Minister always tells an untruth. If that is on the record, the record should be corrected.

Mr. Speaker: His protest and my remarks will also be on record.

डा० र.न. मनीहर लं.हिवा . मिनिस्टर
साहब का डिस्कटैसी कहना बिटूपरेटिव
कहना भी रिकार्ड पर होगा न ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर):
ये जो द्वीप खरीद करने जा रहे हैं इन में से
कुछ मारिशस के हिस्से में हैं । मारिशस
अभी तक स्वाधीन नहीं है । ब्रिटिश सरकार
मारिशस की स्वाधीनता की निर्धारित तिथि
माने बढ़ाती जा रही है । मैं यह जानना
चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार इस मामले
को कामनवैल्व की मीटिंग में उठायेगी,
कामनवैल्व की बैठक में उठायेगी ? साथ ही
साथ हिन्द महासागर में जो देश जुड़े हुए हैं
उदाहरण के लिए लंका है, बर्मा है, इंडोनेशिया
है, क्या इन देशों से भी इस मामले के बारे में
सरकार ने राय की है और क्या मिल कर
ब्रिटिश सरकार के सामने कोई बात कही
जायेगी ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: With regard to
the Independence of Mauritius, the
position is this. The British Govern-
ment have agreed that independence
would be granted six months after
the elections are held. The date of
election has been postponed from time
to time. But as far as I know elec-

tion is going to be held this year
some time in June or July, and six
months after that, the United King-
dom is committed to grant independ-
ence to Mauritius. As regards the
Seychelles, it is still a colony of the
United Kingdom, and no further pro-
gress has been made.

With regard to the latter part of
my hon. friend's question, we shall
certainly try to mobilise public opi-
nion of like-minded countries to see
that these islands do not in any way
prejudice the security of the coun-
tries bordering on the Indian Ocean or
even lead to friction or tension in the
Indian Ocean which we do not want.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): In
view of the continued Chinese atomic
blackmail against India and in view
of the fact that no progress is being
made in the Disarmament Committee
regarding non-proliferation of nuclear
weapons, especially so far as the
mutual obligations between the
nuclear and non-nuclear countries
are concerned, and in view of our
stand that we are not going in for the
manufacture of nuclear weapons, is it
not proper that the Government of
India and the Government of the
United Kingdom and the Mauritius
sit together and try to find out a
common atomic shield against this
country whose security is being con-
stantly threatened by the Chinese
blackmail?

Shri M. C. Chagla: This is a ques-
tion regarding policy. I have already
placed before the House a statement
on our nuclear policy. I do not
think that I can usefully add anything
more to what our policy is with re-
gard to proliferation of nuclear
weapons.

Shri P. K. Deo: All the three could
sit together and try to find out a
common defence arrangement.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has
already said that he cannot add to
what he has already stated.

Shri M. C. Chagla: We shall take all steps to see that our security is safeguarded against China. This is a suggestion for action and we shall certainly consider it.

Shri M. R. Masani (Rajkot): Thank you.

Shri Swell (Autonomous Districts): In his book, Gandhiji's Emissary, the late Mr. Sudhir Ghosh reiterated what he had stated on the floor of the other House, namely that during the most agonising phase of the Chinese aggression on our territory, the late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru wrote to President Kennedy and requested for 16 squadrons of fighter bombers. As far as I know, Government have not denied this assertion of the late Mr. Sudhir Ghosh. In view of this, what we were led to do during the mortal hour of our nation, in view of the growing detente between the USA and Russia and in view of the continuing aggressiveness of China which now possesses nuclear weaponry, I would like to know what good it does to our national interest to raise this hullabaloo about these bases in the high oceans about which we cannot do anything in any case, and whether it would not serve our interests better to keep silent about it and get the assurance of protection of our country against nuclear blackmail by China.

Mr. Speaker: Shri P. K. Deo also asked the same question. The Minister has replied to it.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: An irrelevant question.

Shri M. R. Masani: A relevant question.

Shri M. C. Chagla: India has not been in the habit in the past, it is not in the habit now and it will, I hope, never be in the habit in future, of not raising its protest when injustice is done or something is done which is opposed to our policy. Our policy is the policy of non-alignment; our

policy has been the policy of anti-colonialism. What is being done today affects our policy of anti-colonialism. This, according to us, is a perpetuation of colonialism. Since the days of Bandung, we have subscribed to certain principles. We must stand by them and if somebody violates those principles, it is the bounden duty of India to raise a protest.

Shri Swell: My question is not about the policy. I asked: what good does it do to the national interest to raise this protest? He has evaded that question.

Mr. Speaker: Exactly the same question was asked by Shri Deo. The Minister has given the same answer.

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्लवाय (उज्जैन) :
यह जो द्वीपों को खरीदने की बात है इसके सम्बन्ध में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को अग्नेयों की कचनी और करनी में जो अन्तर रहा है, उसका अनुभव है और यदि है तो उन बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार कोई कार्रवाई करेगी ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The purchase is not by America; it is by Britain. America does not come in. All that the British say is that they will give facilities both to their planes and also to American planes. In the past we have had experience of this that British professions have not come up to their performance. All that we can do for the time being is to accept their statement that they do not propose to use these islands as military bases.

Shri Hanumanthaiya (Bangalore): Does the hon. Minister . .

Mr. Speaker: No, only those who have given notice can ask questions.

श्री वसन्तलाल सिंह (देहरादून) : सरकार ने इस बात का अह्व कर लिया है कि गलती पर गलती करती जावे । ज्ञान किन्ती को

[श्री यश पाल सिंह]

कान्फ्रेंस में लेने को तैयार नहीं हूँ। जब आप वान-इसाइनमेंट की पालिसी को मानते हैं तो फिर आपका साथ कौन देगा। आप ने न्यूट्रल लक्ष्य ऐसा निकाला है कि बीस साल में कदम कदम पर आपकी पिटाई हुई है, कदम कदम पर सरकार को पराजय का मुह देना पड़ा है। आज तक आप ने यू० ए० आर० और सीनोन को कान्फ्रेंस में लेने की कोशिश नहीं की है। न्यूट्रल के क्या माने हैं। न्यूट्रल बीच फेब्रुल टू नन। जब आप किसी के फेब्रुल नहीं हैं तो दूसरे आप के क्यों फेब्रुल होंगे। क्या आप ने सोचा है कि भारत किसी को अपने कान्फ्रेंस में ले और अपनी रक्षा के उपाय करे ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I strongly repudiate this suggestion that we are neutral. We are not neutral; we are non-aligned, and there is all the difference in the world between being neutral and being non-aligned. I hope my hon. friend will realise the distinction.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister has just conveyed some information that he received from the British Government as far as the nature of the military bases they wish to establish in these islands is concerned. I should like to know whether he has some independent information about the type of military bases they are going to establish in these islands, and if so, what is that?

Mr. Speaker: I think he explained in answer to the first question itself. Anyway, he may repeat it.

Shri M. C. Chagla: Our information so far is no different from what has been conveyed to us by the High Commission here, that they propose to use these islands for the purpose of transit facilities. They are giving a categorical assurance that they do not want to convert these islands into military bases.

Shri Indrajit Gupta rose—

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): Yesterday in the Punjab Assembly....

Mr. Speaker: We are on the call attention notice now.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: The Punjab Assembly has been adjourned sine die...

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore): He is an old member. I do not know what is the matter with him.

Mr. Speaker: He did not know that we are on the call attention notice. He may ask his question.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: The statement refers to British commitments in Malaysia, Australia and Hong Kong and American commitments in the Far East. I think this is only a polite way of saying SEATO commitments. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in the course of these diplomatic exchanges with the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom, it was pointed out by our side that if transit staging and refuelling facilities to planes are to be given on these islands, it will obviously necessitate the setting up of air fields, because servicing facilities cannot be given without air fields being constructed? Was it pointed out that once these air fields are constructed, they can at any time be utilised as full-fledged air bases? Also, did they ask how it is that, apart from violating the United Nations resolutions, this matter was never communicated or discussed with that happy family known as the Commonwealth of Nations, of which we are such an enthusiastic member?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We have pointed out that even the uses to which they want to put these islands would violate and infringe the resolution of the United Nations. The British Government did communicate to us their decision as a member of the Commonwealth and as soon as the decision was

communicated to us, we protested; we said that even these limited facilities might lead to something more, and even as it is it constitutes a violation. They have no right, we have pointed out to them, to purchase islands and try to dismember Mauritius and Seychelles which are still not independent countries.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I asked a specific question. He can say yes or no. Was it pointed out that providing these facilities to the United Kingdom and United States planes would require construction of military air fields, which can be employed as air bases at any time. Was this pointed out? What reply did they give?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I do not know whether this specific thing was pointed out, but we did point out that it may ultimately lead to something more.

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaladai): The area in which three islands exist that U.K. proposes to purchase, is known as the British Indian Ocean Territory. That is an anachronism, and that shows how the Indian Ocean has been membered. Whatever that might be, may I know, except raising this issue of the purchase of these islands in the United Nations organisation platform, what else our Government can do? We raise this in the United Nations because it threatens peace. Besides that, what can the Government do, because it is their own territory, Britain's own territory, and they are purchasing these islands from their own people?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I wish my hon. friend will tell me what we can do. I agree we can raise it in the United Nations.

Shri Hem Barua: He is bringing this to the United Nations where there will be endless talk only, and nothing fruitful will emerge out of it. The United Nations is a platform for endless talks, and the hon. Minister has

become a specialist now in evasive answers.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): After these bases are established and we have taken note of it, I want to know whether any correspondence has been addressed to them by the Government of U.K.?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes, Sir. We have received a note, I said so, telling us that they are purchasing these islands and they have told us the purpose for which they are purchasing.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha (Barh): Is this kind of agreement to allow the freehold of these islands to the British Government, on the plea that these settlements were made before India achieved full sovereignty, compatible with the position of India and Indian interests? If it conflicts with the national interests of India, is there any *via media* by which it can be resolved?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I think the hon. Member is under some misapprehension. This proposal to purchase these islands was entered into after India became independent. The position is that Mauritius and Seychelles are not independent. We are independent, and our attitude is that unless a country is independent and deliberately wants to dismember itself, it should not be done. If we want to give a part of our country to somebody, it is our business. Our attitude is that Mauritius is not independent, Seychelles is not independent; it cannot exercise a right—which it does not possess—of dismembering itself. That is why we are objecting and we are saying you cannot purchase these islands.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) :
मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वह इस मामले को संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में ले जाएंगे, लेकिन उन को क्या होना चाहिए कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र

[श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा]

सब एक ऐसी रही की टोकरी है, जिस में कागज जाने के बाद उस की कोई परवाह नहीं की जाती है, जैसे हमारे काश्मीर के केस को इतने सालों के बाद भी सुलझाया नहीं गया है। इसी प्रकार कई अन्य केस भी रही की टोकरी में पड़े हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस सम्बन्ध में कोई लिमिट रखी जायेगी कि हम इतने टाइम में इस केस को सुलझा सकेंगे, वना हम कोई सीधी कार्यवाही कर के उन के झुठों को तोड़-फोड़ देंगे।

Shri M. C. Chagla: Well, Sir, we will certainly press upon the U.N. to take strong action. U.K. is a member of the U.N. and I am sure that the U.K. will listen to any directive given by the U.N.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : कब तक हस्तक्षेप करेंगे ? क्या झगले चुनाव तक ?

श्री शारदानन्द (सीतापुर) : क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि क्या वह इस मामले को उन टापुओं के झुरीने से पहले या बाद में संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में ले जायेंगे ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: According to the note, already agreement has been entered into and compensation has been fixed. One is already held as freehold by the Crown; with regard to two they are still negotiating. We will send the necessary note to the U.N. and point this out and if something can be done we will do it.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : रकम कितनी मजबूर की है ?

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour): I want to know whether the Government is inclined to grant facilities for recruiting Gurkhas for the British Army. Are there not many recruiting camps and transit camps in and around India?.... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: We are discussing about the islands in Indian Ocean but you are talking about Gurkhas. If the Minister can reply he may but this is not relevant.

Shri M. C. Chagla: If the hon. Member puts down a separate question, I will answer it. I have not the figures now, apart from the fact that it does not arise out of this question.

12.38 hrs.

RE. SITUATION IN PUNJAB

Mr. Speaker: Papers laid.

श्री रमबीर सिंह (रोहतक) : अध्यक्ष महोदय हम सरकार से यह जानना चाहते हैं कि आज पंजाब में गवर्नमेंट किस कामून के तहत चल रही है, जब कि वहाँ पर आपोधी-वान ने गवर्नमेंट को डिफ़ीट कर दिया है। उस गवर्नमेंट को डिसमिस किया जाये। हम लोग इस मामले पर डिस्कशन चाहते हैं।

Mr. Speaker: You cannot raise any question like this. Please give notice and I will consider it.

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta (Hissar): The Assembly has been adjourned sine die this morning.

Mr. Speaker: Every day you will have dozens of questions raised like this I am telling you this. It is dangerous. I do not want to allow it now.

Shri Triguna Sen.

Shri Ram Kishan Gupta: Sir, a situation has arisen in Punjab where the Assembly has adjourned sine die.

Shri Bata Singh (Rupar): There is no government in Punjab.

Several hon. Members rose—

Shri Bata Singh: The constitutional machinery has failed in Punjab.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. What is this indiscipline? I do not allow this.