

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO U. S. Q. NO. 6826 DATED 20-4-70 RE— EXTENSION TO COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IN HALDIA-BARAUNI PIPELINE CASE.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): While answering part(e) of the above question, I had stated that 'no expenditure was incurred on the Commission of Inquiry prior to the retirement of Shri N. S. Rau.' This is incorrect. It seems that an expenditure of Rs. 2,809-04 was also incurred on the Commission of Inquiry prior to the retirement of Shri N. S. Rau. However, the total expenditure upto 28-2-1970 remains the same.

To the extent indicated above, I crave the indulgence of the House to correct the reply previously given.

12.25 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

INDIA'S REPORTED PROTEST AGAINST U.S. VICE-PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

SHRI S. M. BANJERJEE (Kanpur): I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

India's reported protest to the U. S. A. against the U. S. Vice-Presidents' remarks that India was not taking any steps as Chairman of the International Control Commission on Cambodia due to Soviet opposition.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): The Government of India regret to note that in his television interview on 3rd May the Vice President of United States, Mr. Spiro T. Agnew, had while referring to the situation in Cambodia stated "the Indians, who are presently the Head of the International Control Commission, are reluctant to take any action without Soviet approval." This gave the impression that the Vice President

of United States was casting aspersions on the independent functioning of India as the Chairman of I. C. S. C. as well as casting reflection on India's independent policies and her sovereign status.

The matter was immediately taken up with the United States Embassy in New Delhi and with the State Department in Washington. The Foreign Secretary received the U. S. Ambassador and conveyed to him our unhappiness at the remarks made by the Vice-President. The U. S. Ambassador promised to convey our views to his Government.

Our Charge d' Affairs also called at the State Department and conveyed our feelings to the appropriate authorities. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State informed our Charge d' Affairs that the Vice President's remarks should however be read in continuity of preceding sentences in which the Vice President spoke of Russia's intention to veto any move to reconvene I. C. C. In United States view, he continued, while theoretically India could, perhaps, reconvene I. C. C. without Russian or Polish agreement, to be able to function effectively I. C. C. should be reconvened with agreement of all concerned. As regards India's sovereignty, the U. S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State said that U. S. Government recognize and appreciate that in its foreign policy India acts independently of any foreign influence or pressure. Subsequently our Charge d' Affairs was informed that the State Department had got in touch with the Vice President and that the Vice President had confirmed that no aspersion or reflection of any kind on India's sovereignty or independence of attitude or action was intended by him.

Government of India have taken note of the explanations given by the U.S. authorities.

The United States Government cannot expect India to support them in their armed intervention in Cambodia. India cannot view with favour the entry of U. S. forces in Cambodia in violation of Cambodia's sovereignty. It is Government of India's firm view that introduction of foreign forces will not lead to any solution to the problem of Cambodia as indeed of any other State of Indo-China. The only way to resolve the issues is by the withdrawal of all foreign forces from each of the states of Indo-China and by a resolve to settle the issues peace-