

(d) The matter has been reported to the local authorities by our High Commission, and efforts are being made by them to recover the missing six films.

Exchange of Fire between Israeli and Egyptian Forces

6299. SHRI J. MOHAMMED IMAM:
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI GADILINGANA
GOWD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israeli and Egyptian forces indulged in a serious artillery exchange across the Suez Canal on the 21st March, 1968;

(b) whether the Government of India have taken a serious view of these happenings in West Asia; and

(c) whether these developments were discussed with the heads of diplomatic missions of the West Asian countries in New Delhi?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Heads of Arab Missions in New Delhi are in contact with the Ministry of External Affairs regarding developments in West Asia.

Soviet Warships visit to Indian Ports

6301. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:
SHRI N. K. SOMANI:
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:
SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN:
SHRI GADILINGANA
GOWD:
SHRI M. L. SONDHY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S.S.R. warships fitted with nuclear devices are likely to visit Indian ports;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been invited to a press report published in the "Hindustan Times" on the 22nd March, 1968 in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Three ships of the USSR Navy are on a goodwill visit to India. So far as is known none of the ships is fitted with any nuclear device.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. It is customary for Naval ships of friendly countries to pay goodwill visits and there is, therefore, nothing unusual about this visit.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ESCAPE OF MR. SHAH SYED HUSSAIN
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER OF
JORHAT TO EAST PAKISTAN

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported escaping of Mr. Shah Syed Hussain, Municipal Commissioner of Jorhat (Assam) who was involved in the 'Joint Conspiracy case' to East Pakistan."

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, On 19th March, 1968 I had made a statement in this House about the recovery of a plastic bomb, etc., at village Paninora, P. O. Titabar, in District Sibsagar of Assam and the arrest of several persons in that connection in the course of my replies to questions I had indicated that some persons wanted by the police were absconding. One such

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

person is Shah Syed Hussain, a Commissioner of Jorhat Municipality. He has not so far been arrested. The Government have seen reports in the press alleging that he has escaped to East Pakistan. The Government have no reliable information in this regard. The police are making all efforts to apprehend the persons wanted in the case.

SHRI R. BARUA: This is a very serious case; they wanted to have an independent Government in Assam and it was also said that Shah Syed Hussain was the brain behind the whole show. It is also known from the statement of the hon. Minister that the underground activities of these people were there for about a year. How is it that Shah Syed Hussain, a known person, could go away from Jorhat and, according to reliable quarters, was seen in Shillong a few days ago? I want to know what the Government is going to do; could they not assist, with an investigating cell there, with their machinery, so that the real thing is found out and such persons are caught in due time?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: As I said, I had myself expressed anxiety about the seriousness of the problem, of the case, and the Assam Government has taken the investigation very energetically and we are kept informed from time to time about it.

SHRI RANGA: (Srikakulam): A cell of your own.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I am coming to that. As far as investigations are concerned, the hon. Member may know because he is quite an experienced person in this matter; the administration ultimately will have to be undertaken by one agency; the other agencies can be of assistance to other persons can be of assistance. We are always willing to give any assistance and we are doing that.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from the disappearance and the alleged defection of

Shah Syed Hussain to Pakistan, we are also informed—of course the stock-in-trade reply of the Government will be: "these are press reports and we should not go by them," but normally 99 per cent of it prove to be right, and that is our only source of information—that the so-called C-in-C of the underground forces and also the 'Foreign Minister' are in Peking and this has all led to the disaffection of the official of the Assam Government—the Commissioner of Jorhat Municipality—(Interruption)—I am only quoting his famous term the local self-government of Assam—that was the phrase he used.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: You see the term Municipal Commissioner is likely to be misunderstood by you and I possibly. It is the equivalent of the Municipal Councillor.

SHRI NATH PAI: I mean to say I stand corrected. Now, he was an office-bearer of the local self-government in Assam. Mr. Speaker, all this shows that those elements and those forces working for the separation of Assam from India, far from being curbed by the Government, are gaining new strength every day. All these things need to be taken together. The only reply I will get is that energetic investigations are being carried on. If we see any energy, it is on the part of those anti-national, Separatist, fissiparous tendencies. Is it not a fact that this particular individual has been a member of a certain political party? Since you have directed that we should not name the parties, I am following that injunction as usual, but one need not name it; it is so clear. Is it not a fact that it has been associated with the movement in Assam for the separation, not for just a few months but for more than a year? What was the Intelligence Department of the Government of India doing: when all these elements can carry on these activities, can leave India when they

like and come back when they like? All these things have to be taken together, in their totality. Mr. Chanan is smiling, and will say, "What can I do?" we want something more by way of conviction that Government can prevent them, curb them and master them; not just say, "we are watching and observing them."

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Is it not merely that passive role of watching and supervising things. This particular case was not merely investigated. The results have been achieved on the initiative of the police authorities themselves in Assam. Unfortunately, the hon. Member was not present here when this question was discussed here.

SHRI NATH PAI: I have been following that.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I am very glad you are doing that. I have said that it was on the initiative of the police that they unearthed this plot and arrested those persons. It was not just an accident that the culprits came into their hands.

As far as the other aspect is concerned, I have myself given the information that the Naga hostiles are only in touch with China, but some of them are in China and they are trying to get weapons there. The Prime Minister has also said yesterday that it is something which is against, which is inconsistent with, our agreement with them.

This is the basic assessment. The Government have already taken steps, and we are taking steps on this.

SHRI NATH PAI: The specific question was whether this man was not associated with the separatist movement since the beginning of 1967 and also a member of a particular political party; whether the Intelligence Department knew it.

130 (a) LSD-5.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I myself have said here that they were members of the Communist Party (Marxist). And the Communist Party (Marxist) have also come out with the statement that they have expelled them from their party. Naturally we had suspicions that they were in touch with these elements from 1967 onwards. That is why we were watching them and as a result, these things could be unearthed.

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU (Chittor): Though the police knows that he has got a hand in this plot, because he is related to a Minister they are afraid to arrest him and he was allowed to go to East Pakistan. Is our Home Minister so helpless that the State Police so helpless that the State Police were not able to arrest him though they know him and they allowed him to go to Pakistan?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I think the hon. Member is making very sensational statements. I do not think he is related to any Minister. I do not think the hon. Member is right in that statement.

श्री जाजं फरनेन्डोज (बम्बई-दक्षिण) :
 जब से झखबारों में यह खबर छरी है कि शाह खैयद हुसैन पाकिस्तान गये हैं, क्या सरकार ने तब से पाकिस्तान सरकार से यह जानकारी मांगी है कि क्या वह वहां पर पहुंचे हैं ? अफसोस में नागार्मों या मिजो लोगों को बग़ावत करने के लिए पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से जो मदद पहुंचाई जा रही है, क्या भारत सरकार उस का प्रतिकार करने के लिए पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में वहां की सरकार के खिलाफ़ बग़ावत करने वाले लोगों की मदद करने के लिए कोई कदम उठायेगी ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. member wants to know whether we had asked the Pakistan Government about these people who have crossed across the border. My information is, we have no confirmation whether he has crossed across the border.

श्री जावं फरनेन्डीज : क्या प्रश्नकारों में यह खबर घाने के बाद सरकार ने पाकिस्तान सरकार से इस बारे में पूछा है ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: In this matter, you do not make enquiries of the Pakistan Government like this. Are we expecting them to say yes or no to this matter?

श्री जावं फरनेन्डीज : क्यों नहीं ?

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi): According to the Tashkent spirit.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: So far as this particular matter is concerned, there is no occasion to think about it, because we have yet no confirmation whether he has crossed across the border.

श्री जावं फरनेन्डीज : मैं ने अपने प्रश्न के दूसरे भाग में यह भी पूछा है कि जब पाकिस्तान की ओर से हमारे देश में बग़ावत करने वाले लोगों को मदद दी जाती है, तो क्या सरकार पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में वहाँ की दुक़्क़-मत्त के खिलाफ़ बग़ावत करने वाली शक्तियों की मदद करेगी ।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: It is a suggestion for action.

12.22 hrs.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE AGAINST CHAIRMAN OF THE S.T.C.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : (दिल्ली सदर) अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की आज्ञा से नियम 222 के अन्तर्गत विरोधाधिकार का प्रस्ताव इस सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ । मेरा प्रस्ताव स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कॉर्पोरेशन के अध्यक्ष, श्री बी० पी० पटेल, के विरुद्ध है । जैसा कि आप को मालूम है, इस सदन के माननीय सदस्य, श्री बाबूराव पटेल, ने स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कॉर्पोरेशन के बारे में कई घोटाले एक बार नहीं, अनेक बार, इस सदन में और बाहर भी रखे हैं । उन्होंने बताया है कि 15 करोड़ रुपये का संस्कार स्कीमल कैसे हुआ, किस तरीके से

9 लाख रुपये का फारेन एक्सचेंज बाहर यात्रा के लिए खर्च किया गया, किस तरह से 30,000 रुपये का एडवांस कमीशन किसी पार्टी को दिया गया और किस तरह से स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कॉर्पोरेशन के अध्यक्ष, श्री पटेल, कुछ लोगों के साथ मिल कर गोल-माल कर रहे हैं । माननीय सदस्य, श्री बाबूराव पटेल, एस० टी० सी० के सम्बन्ध में कई घोटाले इस सदन में और बाहर बताते रहे हैं ।

जब एस० टी० सी० के अध्यक्ष, श्री पटेल, को मालूम हुआ कि यह संसद सदस्य एस० टी० सी० के घोटालों का पर्दा-फाज करते हैं, तो उन्होंने इन माननीय सदस्य को अपरोच किया, इन को मिलने की कोशिश की । माननीय सदस्य एक बार ग्रहमदाबाद गये हुए थे । वह वहाँ पर जिस होटल में ठहरे हुए थे, श्री पटेल ने दिल्ली से उस होटल में उन को ट्रंक टेलीफोन किया और कहा कि आप एस० टी० सी० के घोटालों के बारे में जो कुछ सदन में कहते रहते हैं, कृपा कर के वह न कहिये । मैं आप से मिलना चाहता हूँ । माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि मुझ से मिलने की जरूरत नहीं है । उस के बाद श्री पटेल ने माननीय सदस्य, श्री बाबूराव पटेल, से दिल्ली और बम्बई में मिलने की कई बार कोशिश की ।

29 जनवरी, 1968 को एक बार उन की मुलाकात भी हुई । एस० टी० सी० के अध्यक्ष, श्री पटेल, ने माननीय सदस्य को कहा कि जिस प्रकार आप हमारे घोटाले निकालते हैं, वह ठीक नहीं है, मेहरबानी कर के इस को बन्द कीजिए । मैं समझता हूँ कि एक अधिकारी को किसी प्रश्न के बारे में स्पष्टीकरण करने का हक़ है और अगर कोई घलतफ़हमी है, तो किसी माननीय सदस्य के पास जाने का भी हक़ है । मैं यह भी समझता हूँ कि उन्हें यह प्रार्थना करने का भी हक़ है, कि मेहरबानी कीजिए, दया कीजिए, वह ग़लत न कीजिए, अर्थात्, अर्थिक क्षेत्र के अर्थ से उस माननीय सदस्य की अपनी नहीं है