

The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Government.

Acquisition of Land of Lakwa Tea Estate by Oil & Natural Gas Commission

2855. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission acquired about 300 acres of land of Lakwa Tea Estate in the D strict of Sibsagar, Assam some years back;

(b) if so, the amount that was paid to the owner of the said Tea Estate as compensation for the land so acquired; and

(c) whether there were serious allegations regarding the above transaction and if so, whether any inquiry has been made ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :
(a) 300 Bighas (about 100 acres) out of land belonging to Lakhwa Tea Estate were acquired by Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) Rs. 27,50,471.12 Paise (Out of this compensation for Tea Bushes was Rs. 22,67,148.00. The remaining amount represents the cost of land).

(c) Yes, Sir. An inquiry by the C.B.I. is in progress.

Corrupt Practices in the Nationalised Banks

2856. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether corrupt practices in the nationalised banks have considerably increased during recent months;

(b) whether Government propose to adopt stringent measures to curb the evil; and

(c) if so, what are the measures which Government propose to take in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) There is no evidence to suggest that corrupt practices in the nationalised banks have increased during recent months.

(b) and (c). A number of measures have been taken to check corruption in the nationalised banks. All the nationalised banks have accepted the jurisdiction of the Central Vigilance Commission and have formed Vigilance Cells. Complaints of corruption are investigated by these cells and appropriate action taken. The Central Bureau of Investigation also conducts investigations into complaints of corruption received by it directly and referred to it by the banks. Strengthening of internal audit, supervision and control is also receiving the continual attention of nationalised banks and the Reserve Bank of India.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED SUSPENSION OF ARMS SUPPLIES BY US TO INDIA

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) : I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

'The reported decision of the United States Government to suspend with immediate effect all arms supplies to India and also to cancel commitments already made.'

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Government have been informed by the U.S. Government that in view of what they regard as "the deteriorating situation in South Asia, and continued military engagements between Indian and Pakistani armed forces", they have as of December 1, 1971 decided :—

(i) to suspend the issuance of all future amunitions list licenses for India.

- (ii) not to issue any new licenses or renew existing ones, and
- (iii) to cancel several licenses, the total value of which according to their estimates is approximately \$ 2 million.

For months India had been drawing the attention of the United States and other Governments of the world to the enormous burden imposed on her by the inhuman atrocities of the Pakistan regime in Bangla Desh and suggesting that they should direct their efforts to persuade Pakistan to stop its military repression and to negotiate a political solution with the already elected representatives of Bangla Desh. Their efforts to persuade the military regime in Pakistan have not borne any fruit. The continuing presence of ten million refugees on our soil and a daily influx of over ten thousand, together with the concentration of Pakistani troops all along our border and hundreds of violations of our ground and air and continuous shelling of our territory endanger our security. We cannot be silent spectators of this serious development. We are therefore, surprised that the U.S. Government should have reacted to these developments in the manner they have done.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : Why surprise ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I will accept any modification.

SHRI PILOO MODY : For a change, Shri Banerjee is correct. 'Surprise' is a very peculiar word to use in the context of this statement. Either the Minister of External Affairs should tell us that this is reprehensible on the part of the United State or he should say that this is a failure of our propaganda offensive or he should tell us that this is a credit to our other offensive. It should be one or the other. The matter should not be left in a state of surprised animation.

Also in his statement, he has mentioned in (iii) that their estimate of the amount of licences that were cancelled is \$ 2 million. I think it is very peculiar that we should function by their estimate instead

of having our own estimates. Furthermore, I was under the impression that we were not, as far as I know, getting any military supplies from the United States. Therefore I would like to know when this practice was started, and the extent to which we have been doing this, and if we have been doing it on a commercial basis why whatever happens on our borders has affected these commercial transactions of which their estimate are \$ 2 million, and the Minister of External Affairs can show no more than surprise that this has happened ? I would like to know whether he thinks there is any justification in this. If there is none, what has he done to protest to the US Government against this unfair and one-sided treatment he ment ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Sir, about the first question he has posed; he has suggested two or three alternatives in his very elaborate and flowery English and wants me to choose one of the three alternatives that he suggests. I shall myself stick to my own modest expression rather than adopt the three alternatives posed.

About the estimate, it is a fact that they have said that the licences that they are cancelling are of the total value of two million dollars. They have not given any further details and we will find out whether this amount is correct or not. But we are proceeding on this, that this may be correct

SHRI PILOO MODY : What is our estimate?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Our estimate can be formed only after we know the details as to which particular licence they are cancelling. That information, they have not supplied. (*Interruption*) About the details of military equipment, I would not like to reply to any question, because it is not in our public interest to discuss details of supplies from any country.

SHRI PILOO MODY : When did you start ? To one question he has not replied : when they have started. If he wants to say it let him say it. He does not want to say it.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We have been purchasing small quantities of mili-

[Shri Swaran Singh]

tary equipment on a commercial basis from time to time. I am not prepared to give any further information.

SHRI PILOO MODY : In conclusion, I may say I am also surprised.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : You will always agree but after some noise.

श्री मूलबन्ध डाया (पाली) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अमरीका का रबैया एक लम्बे अरसे से पाकिस्तान को मदद देने का रहा है। अमरीका के पाकिस्तान को बराबर आर्थिक मदद मिल रही है और फौजी मदद भी मिल रही है और बंगला देश के मामले में अमरीका आज भी पाकिस्तान को मदद कर रहा है। उनकी फौजें भी आस-पास बियतनाम के हिस्से में है। तो पाकिस्तान की जो नीति है उसके प्रति सरकार इस बात को जानते हुये कि अमरीका और चीन दोनों का रबैया हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ है और हमने वर्ल्ड कम्युनिटी का ध्यान अपने प्रचार से या किसी और तरह से अपनी ओर आकर्षित नहीं किया, क्या कदम उठाना चाहती है ?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : मैं किसी लम्बी चौड़ी बहस में पड़ना नहीं चाहता। यह सवाल तो यह था कि दो मिलियन डालर्स के जो लाइसेन्सेज थे उनको अमरीका ने रोका है। अब जो दूसरी पोलिटिकल बातें हैं वह रोज होती हैं, कोई और डिस्कशन होगा तो कर लीजिएगा।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अमरीका के वयान में जो आश्चर्य की बात कही गई है उससे स्वयं मुझे आश्चर्य हुआ कि इन्होंने इस तरह से दुःख प्रकट करने की कोशिश की। सब लोग जानते हैं कि अमरीकी सरकार की नीति प्रारम्भ से ही यह रही है कि जो देश उसकी हाँ में हाँ मिलाते रहे हैं, उसके पब्लिशों पर चलते रहे हैं, उनके साम्राज्यवादी बंधनों का विरोध नहीं करते रहे हैं। उनको ही उसने मदद देने की कोशिश की है। अब भी किसी देश ने अजाद नीति पर चलने

की कोशिश की अपनी आजाद वैदेशिक नीति अपनाने की कोशिश की, साम्राज्यवाद का विरोध करने की कोशिश की, विभिन्न देशों में आजादी के लिए लड़ने वाली जनता का समर्थन करने की कोशिश की और दुनियाँ में शांति स्थापित हो इस बात के लिए सही अर्थ में आवाज बुलन्द की तो उन देशों के खिलाफ अमरीका ने अपनी नीति अपनाई और इसी नीति पर वह आज भी चल रहा है। आज भी उसकी नीति यही है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब अमरीकी सरकार की यह नीति रही है और उसके द्वारा भारत को आर्म्स सप्लाई बन्द कर दी गई है तो उस पर मन्त्री महोदय इस तरह से दुःख क्यों प्रकट कर रहे हैं ? इससे तो हमें यह सबक लेना चाहिए कि हम उन देशों से जो हमारे मित्र देश हैं ज्यादा से ज्यादा सम्बन्ध स्थापित करें और अपने देश को घातमनिभर बनाने के लिए स्वयं अपने देश के अन्दर ज्यादा से ज्यादा हथियार आदि तैयार करें ताकि हमें अपने पांवों पर खड़े होने में आसानी हो और अमरीकी साम्राज्यवाद का हमें मुंह न जोहना पड़े और उसके लिए आश्चर्य व दुःख न प्रकट करना पड़े।

1965 में जब पाकिस्तान ने भारत पर हमले के परिणामस्वरूप भारत-पाक लड़ाई हुई थी उसके बाद से बार बार भारत सरकार ने इसी संदन में ऐलान किया था कि अमरीका ने भारत को हथियार देना बन्द कर दिया है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1965 से लेकर अब तक भारत को कुल कितने हथियार दिये गए हैं और उनका क्या मूल्य है ? दूसरे जो आउटस्टैंडिंग लाइसेन्सेज हैं उनका क्या मूल्य है ? तीसरे मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीकी सरकार ने जो अपने फ़ैसले में कहा है :

"Not to issue fresh licences or renew the existing ones."

यह बात केवल हमारे देश के लिए लागू है या अन्य देशों के लिए भी लागू है, अगर अन्य देशों के लिए भी लागू है तब तो मैं इसे समझ सकता हूँ और यह एक अच्छी बात हो सकती है। अभी

तक तो अमरीकी हथियार बियतनाम, कम्बोडिया और लाओस में तथा बंगला देश में जनता के स्वाधीनता आन्दोलन को, उनके मुक्ति संघर्ष को दबाने में इस्तेमाल किए जाते रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आर्म्स की सप्लाई अमरीका केवल भारत को ही बन्द कर रहा है या अन्य देशों को भी वह यह सप्लाई बन्द कर रहा है ?

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे मन्त्री महोदय के लिए इस पर अफसोस प्रकट करने की कोई बात नहीं है बल्कि इससे अमरीकी साम्राज्यवाद का चेहरा बिल्कुल बेनकाब होकर साफ सबके सामने आ गया है। अमरीका आजादी की नीति पर चलने वाले मुल्कों की मदद नहीं कर सकता है और चूँकि हिन्दुस्तान एक आजाद नीति पर चल रहा है और अपनी स्वतन्त्र वैदेशिक नीति धरना रहा है व साम्राज्यवाद का विरोध कर रहा है, अमरीका प्रजातंत्र और स्वातंत्र्य आंदोलनों का विरोध कर रहा है। इसलिए भारत सरकार को अमरीकी सरकार की शत्रुतापूर्ण नीति के बावजूद वगैर किसी भी संकोच या हिचकिचाहट के अपनी बंगला देश सम्बन्धी नीति पर आगे बढ़ने जाना चाहिए, बंगला देश के लिए भारत सरकार ने अच्छा काम किया है और मैं चाहूँगा कि उस दिशा में और भी मजबूती से काम किया जाय ताकि बंगला देश शीघ्र आजाद हो सके।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने कई दफे कहा है कि माननीय सदस्य भाषण न देकर केवल सवाल पूछा करें।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैंने दो, तीन सवाल पूछे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जी भाषण के साथ साथ वह भी मिल गए हैं। क्लर्क आफ प्रीसीज्योर में सिर्फ एक क्वेश्चन पूछने के लिए कहा गया है लेकिन माननीय सदस्य ने एक सवाल के तीन हिस्से बना दिये हैं।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मेरे क्वेश्चन के ए, बी और सी पार्ट्स हैं।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : About the question relating to the items or their value of purchase, it is a matter which we have never given on the floor of the House and we have no intention to give any details about our purchases abroad, quantities or the amounts involved, whatever may be the source from which we purchase. This reply covers all his questions.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : A specific question has been asked. Why should there be so much allergy ?

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of allergy. I think it is not the proper time to ask for such information. He has given reasons for that already and I agree with them.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is a pertinent question. If you rule it out, it is a different matter. What is the value of outstanding licences. Is it not pertinent ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब बंगला देश का मामला निवट जाय तब यह पूछ लीजिएगा।

श्री फूलचन्द बर्मा (उज्जैन) : यह तमाम आर्म्स की सप्लाई केवल हमारे भारत देश के लिए अमरीकी सरकार द्वारा बंद की गई है या अन्य देशों के लिए भी बन्द किया गया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब हमारी सप्लाई बन्द कर दी गई है यही हमारे लिए काफी है औरों से हमें क्या करना है ?

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : हमें ख़ुशी होनी चाहिए अफसोस नहीं होना चाहिए।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैंने बड़ा रैलैबेंट सवाल पूछा है और मन्त्री महोदय से इसका जवाब आना चाहिए कि यह अमरीकी आर्म्स की सप्लाई और देशों के लिए भी बन्द हुई है या केवल हमारे लिए ही बन्द की गई है ?

एक माननीय सदस्य : अमरीका ने पाकिस्तान को भी हथियार देने बन्द किये हैं या नहीं ?

श्री कुलचन्द बर्मा : अमरीका ने पाकिस्तान को भी हथियार देना बन्द किया है या नहीं इसका जवाब जाना चाहिए ।

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : He asked whether there was any discrimination in the action of the US Government. Does the Government know about it or does not know about it ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सब पाकिस्तान के लिए छाना चाहते हैं वह और बात है । आप किन्ही अन्य देशों के बारे में पूछें ।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : It is a perfectly legitimate question whether this cancellation of supplies or licences applies only to India or to other countries also. If he does not know, he should say so.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is quite obvious that if they have stopped issuing licences in favour of India, that does not mean that they have stopped the supply of arms to other countries. They have got NATO arrangements and other friendly countries, to which they are admittedly openly supplying-arms. It is part of their budget. They say openly that they are giving military aid to other countries.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : I am surprised that the Government lacks the boldness to call this attitude of the United States as unfriendly to India. Uptill now we have stood behind the Prime Minister so far as the Bangladesh problem is concerned; the entire nation stands as one man. We want a solution of the problem and a situation to be created in Bangladesh so that the refugees can go back. The matter is being delayed and complicated. Since 1965, any arms supply from the United States has been stopped. I do not know why we took recourse to placing orders with the American Government for supply of arms, if we are not self-sufficient in our own arms. Secondly, I want to know whether it is going to affect our defence so far as radar and other equipment are concerned. If it is not available from United States, are efforts being made to procure them from other friendly countries ? May I know whether any indication was given of this hostile attitude of America, when the Prime Mini-

ster visited that country, of which so much publicity was made in this country ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Our general attitude in the matter of augmenting whatever may be the deficiencies in our defence equipment has been to try to get our requirements from whatever sources they are available. Therefore, we have tried to diversify the source of supply. This is part of that effort. About the question whether this will have any effect on our defence, obviously if we have placed an order and that order does not fructify, it will have some impact upon the availability of that equipment. I am sure our armed forces will take matching action to see that our vital defence potential is not affected thereby. About the future, what will be the effect on other types of equipment, etc., that is a separated question altogether.

SHRI P. K. DEO : We care too hoots for American supply.....

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I am glad at this new-found boldness of the honourable maharaja. (Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : महाराजा साहब आप ने तो आज कमाल कर दिया ।

SHRI P. K. DEO : My third question has not been answered, whether any indication was given to the Prime Minister of this attitude during her last visit.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Not to my knowledge.

MR. SPEAKER : Papers to be laid.

12.20 hrs.

RE : CALL ATTENTION NOTICE
(QUERY)

SHRI BIREN DUTTA (Tripura West) : What about my calling attention ? For 36 hours, Agartala has been shelled.

MR. SPEAKER : Both the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister are not here. I think we will leave it to them. There may be a certain situation there. Let them come and they will be in a better position to say.