

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.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : Last evening you promised that you will send for the Defence Minister and he will be giving the information.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : They are briefing the press every day and news is flowing, but they never take the House into confidence.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East) : We expected that Government would make a statement *suo motu*.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) : The Defence Minister is away; it is true. But the Minister of State for Defence Production, Shri V. C. Shukla is here. Other Cabinet Ministers are here. After all, we want a factual statement. We are proud that another Pak aircraft has been shot, but we want to know the factual position. So many of our friends are there. I want to know whether a statement will be made by the Minister of Defence Production.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai) : The situation is becoming so serious that the Prime Minister has had to advance her visit to the eastern border. We hear every day even in the international press that the situation is becoming very serious and very grave. The international situation is also becoming a little unfavourable to us. We want to know the exact position.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह आ जायें तब देखा जाएगा ।

श्री श्यामनन्दन मिश्र : उनके जाने के पहले कुछ बातें हो जायें तो ज्यादा अच्छा है ।

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : May I draw your attention to the fact that during the 1962 confrontation with China, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, on his own volition, practically every day *suo motu* used to report to this House on the developments on the border when the hostilities were taking place. Here we have to shout, yell and plead, but nothing comes out. On the other hand, they go on briefing the press including foreign correspondents every day.

MR. SPEAKER : I quite appreciate what you say and I wish I could convey it to the Prime Minister. But as soon as she returns, I will be conveying it. The Defence Minister also is not here. He has gone and he may be aware of the position a little better when he returns. About informing the House as to what is going on day to day, we will have to settle that procedure. I will inform the House how we propose to do it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We table calling-attention notices on the basis of press reports. Yesterday, the moment the teleprinter message came, Shri P. K. Deo raised this question. It was known yesterday. We heard it on the All India Radio. There were comments also on that. The Defence Minister has gone there with the Prime Minister. That is very good. But Shri Shukla is quite capable of making a statement.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : May I assure my hon. friends on the other side that there is no attempt or desire whatsoever on our part to minimise the gravity of the situation? We certainly recognise it. Also we recognise the supreme need to keep the Leaders of the Opposition and the House informed as far as possible, consistent with the protection and safe-guarding of our security and national defence, because any information given to this House can also be of use to the other side, the enemy. Therefore, the question is how to do it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You are giving information to the press which you are not giving to the House. I charge you with that. I do not want to go into details but day before yesterday at the press briefing you said things which you have never told the House.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I would communicate the feelings of hon. Members to the Defence Minister and to the Prime Minister. But we have already evolved an institution by which the Leaders of the Opposition meet the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and other Ministers. At the earliest opportunity I will arrange a meeting with them.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Those meetings are quite a different thing. The nation comes to know through Parliament and not through meetings with the Prime Minister.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : May I assure the House that as soon as the Defence Minister returns, posted with the latest facts of the situation, he will come and take the House into confidence.....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, we leave it here. I do not want to prolong it further... (Interruption)

SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Communication lines are suspended.....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Their case, in my opinion, is very much valid. When you give information to the press outside when Parliament is sitting, it is also incumbent and very much necessary that the information should also be given to the House. The reason that anything that you say here would be made public, is lost when you go to the press.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : If Members would be satisfied with what is given to the press, there should not be much difficulty at all. But the House would certainly expect something more than that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You give us something less.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : No. But what goes to the Parliament goes to the press also.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I take it that in future all the statements will be made only by Shri Jagjivan Ram and not by Shri Shukla.

MR. SPEAKER : No; Shri Shukla is an equally good Minister of Defence. But on this issue, when the Defence Minister has gone on the spot, I advise hon. Members to let him come back.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO (Karimnagar) : There will be no session for three days.....(Interruption)

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : If a bomb had been dropped on Delhi, then they would have known.....(Interruption). Shri Dasaratha Deb comes from Taipura; my hon. friend here comes from Tripura and they are naturally agitated.....(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : Please remember that you are not at a public meeting; you are addressing Members of the House.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I know, I am in Parliament and not at a public meeting. But I am being treated very shabbily by the Ministers.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already requested and put your point of view to him.

SHRI S.M. BANERJEE : You can rebuke him.....(Interruption.)

SHRI P. K. DEO : He was about to make a statement.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Even after your observations made just now, he does not even respond. He is just sitting there like a stone. You have made certain weighty observations. He should respond to your observations at least.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Shukla, is it possible sometimes today ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : As you know, Sir, the Defence Minister has gone to certain areas. The statement can be made here. There is no difficulty about making a statement to this honourable House. Whether that statement will be of interest, of value, or not I cannot say. Because of the very tense situation on our borders, we have to be necessarily very careful in what we say and what information we give. As far as the press briefings are concerned, I would not say that the press is being taken more into confidence than this honourable House. That is not correct.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Don't provoke us. I do not want to raise things in the national interest. (Interruption)

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The matters of momentous importance and matters which are of extra-ordinary significance are brought to the House. If the hon. Members wish and you also desire that there should be a briefing of this House everyday as we brief the press, that is a different question. I do not think that is the intention.

MR. SPEAKER : My main object in saying is that on matters which are happening, the House should be kept informed. It is not essential that every time you inform the House. But the House must be kept informed on such matters.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : May I just say that a statement can be made from day to day as you have asked us to make a statement from day to-day.....

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you take it like that. I have said that on such matters, the House should be kept informed. We will have to evolve a procedure during these difficult times.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I would make a request to the House and to you that whenever any such statement is made, if questions are not asked, then it will be much better.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't go into all that.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : It would not be possible to answer all the questions. That is a valid point.

MR. SPEAKER : That you leave it to me. *(Interruptions)*

Papers to be laid.

12.34 hrs.

PAPERS TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER BENGAL FINANCE (SALES TAX) ACT, GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK ACT, ETC.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : On behalf of Shri K. R. Ganesh, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 26 of the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union Territory of Delhi:

- (i) The Delhi Sales Tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1971 Published in Notification No. F. 4 (130)/68-Fin (G) in Delhi Gazette dated the 1st September, 1971 together with corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. F. 4 (130)/68-Fin (G) in Delhi Gazette dated the 1st September, 1971.
- (ii) The Delhi Sales Tax (fifth Amendment) Rules, 1971 published in Notification No. 4 (25)/70-Fin. (G) in Delhi Gazette dated the 1st September, 1971.
- (iii) Notification No. F. 4(40)/71-Fin. (Genl.) published in Delhi Gazette dated the 1st September, 1971 containing corrigendum to Notification No. F. 4(41)/71-Fin. (Genl.) dated the 26th July, 1971. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1211/71*]

(2) A copy of the Post Office Savings Bank (Second Amendment) Rules, 1971 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1260 in Gazette of India dated the 4th September, 1971, under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1212/71*].

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 and section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—

- (i) Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Drawback (General) Sixty-eighth Amendment Rules, 1971, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1376 in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1971.
- (ii) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Drawback (Gene-