

(e) when the work is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) Phase II of the Project was taken up in January, 1960, Phase I having been carried out during the year 1959-60.

(b) The original estimated cost was Rs. 79.2 lakhs.

(c) The revised estimated cost has not yet been worked out.

(d) The progress of resectioning and regarding the Nullah is approximately 75 per cent. The work of construction of two railway bridges has been completed and the progress on four out of five road bridges is 40 per cent.

(e) The whole of the work is likely to be completed by the end of 1964

Palai Central Bank in Liquidation

124. Shri Kappen: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by way of advocates fee, Commission etc. in connection with the liquidation of the Palai Central Bank; and

(b) how long it will take to complete the liquidation?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) The total expenditure on account of law charges upto the end of 31st December 1962 amounted to Rs. 74,939. Liquidation expenses other than law charges (including the cost of the liquidator's establishment) amounted to Rs. 11,69,932 upto that date.

(b) It is not possible to indicate at this stage the further time which may be required to complete the liquidation proceedings, but every effort is being made to expedite payments to the depositors and the progress of liquidation in general.

12 hours

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

VISIT OF JOINT UNITED STATES-COMMONWEALTH AIR MISSION TO INDIA

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Ja'ore): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The visit of a Joint United States-Commonwealth Air Mission to India to discuss the proposal of an ‘Air Umbrella’ over India.”.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Very briefly, the answer to this, or at least part of it, is that the United States--Commonwealth Air Mission came here at our invitation. But I should like to say something more about the background of it, and if you will permit me, I shall read out the statement.

Since the Chinese massive attack last October, the Government of India have been in close touch with various friendly governments in connection with the measures to be taken to build up an effective defence against the Chinese attack. Prompt and generous help has come from various friendly countries, more specially from the United States and the United Kingdom, and for this we are grateful.

Apart from the reorientation, reorganisation and strengthening of the Indian Army and the obtaining of suitable equipment, there was also the question of building up an effective air defence both to meet the emergency like the one created by the Chinese advance into NEFA in November last and to meet the long-term threat posed by China. Both these have to be kept in view; in either event the strengthening of the Indian Air Force has to be tackled immediately. In the event of sudden emergency arising, the Government will have to deal with it in the light of developments with support from

friendly countries, which may become suddenly necessary and be available.

These matters were discussed by the Government with the friendly governments of the United States and the United Kingdom during November and December last, and a visit of the US-Commonwealth Air Force was suggested, so that the problem of strengthening India's air defence could be studied by them with the Indian technical air staff and prompt action taken to implement the decisions taken. The Government of India issued a press release on the 23rd January, 1963, on the visit of this Air Team, which was coming at the invitation of the Government of India.

The US-Commonwealth Air Team has been in India for about three weeks and will be completing their study and discussions soon. These discussions between the US-Commonwealth Air Team and the Indian Air Force experts have led to speculations in the press about the establishment of foreign bases and foreign planes as an 'air Umbrella' in India. These reports are incorrect and greatly exaggerated.

The US-Commonwealth Air Team, in their discussions with the Indian Air Force experts have been dealing with the assessment of the Chinese air threat and the extent to which the Indian Air Force requires strengthening in order to meet it. The preliminary action that is considered necessary is the extension of the existing air-strips, improvement in ground control and communication system etc. to be taken in connection with air defence arrangements. These steps will make it possible for the Indian Air Force to function more effectively and, should a sudden emergency arise, with help from friendly countries.

There is no question of the stationing of foreign air force or the establishment of any foreign air bases in India. As a matter of fact, none of the friendly countries have made any such suggestions. India has to be de-

fended by its own forces. We welcome the help of the friendly countries in procuring the necessary equipment and materials, but the air defence of the country is too vital a matter to be left to improvisation and delays inherent in any project like that of the "Air Umbrella" suggested in press reports.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: While we fully appreciate that the Mission is here at our own invitation and they have not of their own accord made any particular proposals which will deflect us from our non-alignment policy, may we know what, if the reports are incorrect and exaggerated, is the correct position regarding strengthening of the Air Force, apart from making certain improvements in the air fields?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can hardly go into that in detail. Broadly, there are two or three things I have mentioned: firstly, improvement of the air strips to be able to use modern aircraft which may be needed; secondly, communication, radar etc., are important. Apart from all this, we have to obtain the aircraft. Then of course, we are laying stress on some training, for the use of modern aircraft.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): While the Government's firm resolve to strengthen the striking power of our Air Force is welcome, it is going to be a long-range plan, and so is the Prime Minister in a position to categorically state that in the event—God forbid—of a surprise attack by China, as happened last year, the striking power of the Indian Air Force will be adequate for the purpose that the financial, the technical, the pilot and equipment resources of the country—of the Air Force—will be adequate by themselves, or that a sort of air shield, without air bases, will be necessary in the event of grave emergency arising within the next two or three months.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can hardly enter into these matters in any detail. It is obvious that we should try to be as fully prepared as we can, both for the short-term and for a longer term—the longer term varies from a few months to a year or two years—but certainly for the short-term. What exactly the developments might be, it is very difficult for me to say. But in so far as we can, we should be prepared for them. That is all I can say.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : इस प्रोजेक्ट से हमारा ऐयर फोर्स की डेफेंसिबिलिटी किस हद तक मेकअप हो जायेगी और इस में कितना खर्चा यू० एस० ए० का खर्च होगा और कितना हमारा खर्च होगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह क्या क्वेश्चन है ।

श्री बड़े (खारखोन) : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जो अमरकन एक्स्पर्ट्स यहाँ आये हैं वे कितने आये हैं और वे कितने दिन तक हमारा ऐयरफोर्स को ट्रेनिंग देंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस को जानने से माननीय सदस्य को क्या फायदा होगा ।

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I submit that I had tabled a question on this?

Mr. Speaker: That would be taken up when it comes.

Shri Hem Barua: May I be allowed to put a question?

Mr. Speaker: No.

12.03½ hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (GENERAL), 1962-63

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to present a Statement showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 1962-63.

12.09 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
SIXTH REPORT

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on Finance Accounts (Revenue Receipts)—Chapter VII of Audit Report (Civil), 1962.

12.09½ hrs.

PETITION RE: DEFENCE OF INDIA
(AMENDMENT) RULES RELATING
TO GOLD CONTROL

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Barrampur): I beg to present a petition signed by ten petitioners regarding the Defence of India (Amendment) Rules, 1963, relating to Gold Control.

12.10 hrs.

GOVERNMENT OF UNION TERRITORIES BILL*

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for Legislative Assemblies and Councils of Ministers for certain Union territories and for certain other matters.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for Legislative Assemblies and Councils of Ministers for certain Union territories and for certain other matters.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): We want a little clarification. You have left out Delhi State altogether. What has happened?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Yes, I have left it out.

I introduce† the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 21-2-63.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.