

Shri Jashvant Mehta: In the light of experience of profiteering by traders including co-operatives and there being a big gap between the prices of gur producing areas and gur deficit areas, is Government considering the removal of inter-state ban on gur movement?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a policy matter.

Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar: Is the hon. Minister aware that according to by-laws and co-operative enactments they are not permitted to indulge in such profiteering and if so is there any action contemplated against that society by the Registrar or other authorities?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it already.

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is a larger question. The question here is whether they have committed any criminal offence. With regard to other things, it is a matter to be enquired into by the co-operative department.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Nath Pai; Calling Attention Notice.

Shri Kapur Singh: Sir, I want to put a question. My name was also there.

Mr. Speaker: There were many more whom I have not called. I am sorry.

16.52 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT-
ANCE.

U.S. SEVENTH FLEET EXTENDING ITS
OPERATION INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): 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 U.S. 7th Fleet extending its operation into the Indian Ocean

and Government of India's re-
actions thereto.

The Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There have been newspaper reports to suggest that the United States Government was extending operational sphere of its Seventh Fleet from the China Seas to the Indian Ocean area. We had no information on this subject and we had at no stage been consulted by the U.S. Government in the matter. When General Maxwell Taylor called on me on 17th December, among other matters mentioned, he told me that they were considering the advisability of some units of their Seventh Fleet cruising these areas with the object of getting acquainted with the Seas in this region, but no decision had been taken in the matter. Some Naval vessels of the Seventh Fleet might be used for such cruises. If the U.S. Government decides to do this, all that we need say, today, is that outside the territorial waters of India, the ocean is, naturally, open to them, as to the Naval vessels of any other country.

Shri Nath Pai: Taking note of the statement made by the Prime Minister in the other place, and also by the Foreign Minister of Indonesia that by itself this move does not compromise in anyway the non-alignment policies, may I know what were, according to the assessment of the Government of India, the reasons and motives behind this move, and what are the likely political implications and impact of this move on the politics of South-East Asia?

Mr. Speaker: That is too wide a question.

Shri Nath Pai: It does arise.

Mr. Speaker: In a Calling Attention Notice, the whole political implications and things that might arise subsequently cannot be allowed.

[श्री यशपाल सिंह]

लेता है, तो फिर भारत सरकार का सैन्य फ्लीट के बारे में क्या रुख रहेगा ? (*Interruptions*) मैं दूसरा सवाल पूछ लेता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब माननीय सदस्य बैठ जायें ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is stated in the papers that it is not one or two occasional ships that will be coming, as has been stated by the Prime Minister, but that it is a task force of the 7th Fleet, with their escort vessels, and that there will be nuclear warheads and aircraft carriers. I would like to know whether it is not part of the policy of interdependence, of military defence, for the whole of South-East Asia, and what is the Government's attitude towards it? Is it only that it is sight-seeing cruise or, is it part of the military strategy and the extension of the influence of the United States in waters which are strategically important to us?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know how far that report in the papers about nuclear warheads is correct or not. Maybe. I understand from the statement made by Gen. Taylor, on his going away from India today, that an aircraft carrier, with some destroyers, if they decide so, would probably be coming to the Indian Ocean in a month or two's time. I suppose the obvious inference is that they are doing this to let it be known that they are there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It is quite obvious.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes; quite so.

Shri Swell (Assam—Autonomous Districts): On the 18th April this year, the Defence Minister stated on the floor of the House in response to a Calling Attention Notice that a foreign ship bearing the name

Chung Hsuing appeared in our Andhra coast and when being challenged by our merchantship Jalapushpa, sped away along with three auxiliary ships, and we could do nothing to intercept it. He also stated that during the last . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the question: It should not be too long.

Shri Swell: I am coming to this question. It is also stated that during the last Chinese aggression, we allowed the United States—

Mr. Speaker: He is making a speech. I cannot allow it.

17 hrs.

Shri Swell: In this context, may I know from the Prime Minister whether he does not consider that the presence of the U.S. 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean area will not help in containing Chinese military adventurism and expansionism?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not see the connection between the two.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether the Government thinks that the voyage of the 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean will only help to increase the tension in the area and cause concern in the minds of the independent countries in the area and if Government think so, may I know whether they are going to convey this feeling of this country to the U.S. Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think that any particular concern need be cause to the countries here. If the hon. Member takes the countries one by one, most of the countries in South-east Asia are more or less allied to the United States Government.

Shri Daji (Indore): The Ceylon Prime Minister has expressed grave concern.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I did not hear what the hon. Member said. I

do not say all, but most of them are and some of them are not. It is possible that some people may feel a little nervous about it.

Shri Warior (Trichur): May I know whether there is any truth in the report that Gen. Taylor offered the new aircraft carrier coming along with the 7th Fleet here in the Indian Ocean as that will be giving sufficient protection to us as an air umbrella and said that all other things in the minds of the Defence Ministry here may be left over, and the Defence Ministry has almost agreed to that proposal?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There has been no offer and no proposal of this kind or of any other kind. He merely referred to this matter. As it has been mentioned in the newspapers here, he has been it and, therefore, he referred to it. He said, it has not been decided yet finally, but when he left America, he was being told that it was being considered whether a part of the 7th Fleet, that is, as I said, about three or four destroyers and an aircraft carrier will probably come here, tour about, may be go to Africa and go back. That is all he referred to.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) :
मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्रजीडेंट कैनेडी की मृत्यु पर न जा कर जो भूल हुई थी, क्या उसका प्रायश्चित्त इसके द्वारा किया गया है ?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That has nothing to do with this.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Bhagalpur): Since the American and British newspapers are featuring almost authoritative news of some sort of continuing presence of USA's 7th Fleet in the Indian Ocean, will Government ask for a clarification from the USA in this regard?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite understand. Should I ask them, according to the hon. Member, what

their future intentions are and whether they intend sending these ships to the Indian Ocean repeatedly? Is that the question?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: All the British and American Press are full of authoritative news that it is now a question of one or two ships coming for some sort of thing, but it is almost a permanent presence of USA's fleet in the Indian Ocean. I want to know whether the Government will ask for any clarification in this regard?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; we have not asked. They told us that they were coming just once here. I do not know what they will do in future.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): True it is that the United States' extension of....

श्री राम सेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) :
ग्रहचारों में एसा छपा है कि प्रधान मंत्री ने राज्य सभा में कहा था . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : राज्य सभा का कोई जिक्र न करें ।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : ग्रहचारों की बात कर रहा हूँ । ग्रहचारों में छपा है प्रधान मंत्री के बयान के बारे में . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उसका जिक्र न करें ।

श्री राम सेवक यादव : प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा है कि अमरीकी सातवां बेड़ा आ सकता है । फिर कहा था कि दो चार जहाज ही आ सकते हैं । यह दोनों बातें परस्पर विरोधी हैं । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वस्तुस्थिति क्या है और प्रधान मंत्री इस प्रकार के अनिश्चित बयान क्यों देते हैं और अगर कोई बात है तो पक्की बात इस सदन को वह बतायें ।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मुझे मालूम नहीं कौन सी बात इस में माननीय सदस्य को

[श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू]

एसी मालूम हुई जिस के आपस में दो माने हों। मैंने वहां यही कहा था कि उनके जहाजों में से कुछ तीन चार आयेंगे शायद। ठीक मालूम नहीं था मुझे। मेरा खयाल था। लेकिन आज जनरल मैक्सवेल ने कहा है यहां से जाते जाते, यह छपा भी है अखबारों में, टेलीप्रिटर में मैंने देखा है, कि उनका इरादा है, अगर भेजें तो एक ट्रांसपोर्ट एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर और उसके साथ चार पांच डैस्टायर और एक आयल टैंकर, भेजें।

Shri Hem Barua: True it is that the United States' extension of 7th Fleet operations into the Indian Ocean is not dependent on our permission. But may I enquire from our Prime Minister whether this extension, if it is a *fait accompli*, of course, would not or might not mean an invitation to other powers, particularly antagonistic to us to do a similar thing, thus jeopardising our security?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion. It is not any information he is asking for.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That should be answered.

Mr. Speaker: He is asking whether Government does not think like that.

Shri Hem Barua: I want to know from the Prime Minister whether this might not be an invitation to other powers, particularly antagonistic to us, to do a similar thing thus jeopardising our security.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I doubt very much if that would be such an invitation. I doubt very much if there is any other power which is capable of sending a considerable number of ships roundabout here.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): May I know whether it is the policy of the Government of India not to protest when naval forces of another country decide to cruise in a big way in the vicinity of our territorial waters in the garb of protecting India and

itself, several thousands of miles away from its shores, without our asking for such a protection?

Mr. Speaker: All these presumptions are not correct.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Several thousand miles away?

Shri Nambiar: From the American shores.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No; it is not the policy of ours at all. We see; if the thing is obviously to our detriment, we protest; if it is not, we do not.

Shri P. C. Borooah (Sibsagar): May I know whether this can be construed that with a view to contain China, the USA has taken the opportunity to...

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member also is entitled to construe in any manner he likes. Papers to be laid on the Table.

17.06½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
ANNUAL REPORTS OF ASHOKA HOTELS LIMITED AND HINDUSTAN HOUSING FACTORY AND REVIEW BY GOVERNMENT THEREON.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Ashoka Hotels Limited, New Delhi, for the year ended the 31st March, 1963, along with the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon, under subsection (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956.
- (b) Review by the Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library, see. No. LT-2177/63].