

Dr. M. S. Aney: I beg to move:

(i) "That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced to Re. 1."

[*Inadequacy of funds provided for students from non-Hindi area for studies in Hindi (92)*].

(ii) "That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced to Re. 1."

[*Inadequacy of funds provided for research scholarships in humanities (93)*].

(iii) "That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced to Re. 1."

[*Inadequacy of funds provided for Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust (94)*].

(iv) "That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced to Re. 1."

[*Inadequacy of funds provided for scholarships for revival of Sanskrit education (95)*].

(v) "That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced to Re. 1."

[*Inadequacy of funds provided for Standing Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (96)*].

(vi) "That the demand under the head 'Education' be reduced to Re. 1."

[*Inadequacy of funds provided for development of regional languages (97)*].

Mr. Speaker: These cut motions are now before the House. We shall now take up the Calling Attention Notice.

17.47 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(ii) INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON CAMBODIA AND LAOS

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported proposals for the convening of international conferences on Cambodia and Laos and the Government of India's reaction thereto."

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): I have on various occasions kept the House informed of the developments that have been taking place in Vietnam. The situation in Vietnam is continuing to deteriorate and the cessation of hostilities there is not in sight. As the House is aware the Government of India, together with the Governments of 16 other non-aligned countries issued an appeal recently to the interested parties. The response to this appeal has been varied, but it is our hope that all concerned will give a positive response to the appeal made, in good faith, by so many non-aligned countries, with the objective of ending strife and restoring peace to this embattled land.

2. Though we have been more preoccupied with the happenings in Vietnam, the problems facing Cambodia and Laos have also continued to engage our earnest attention. As the House is aware, the Government of India have always supported the proposals made by the Government of Cambodia for the convening of an International Conference to study the steps that should be taken to ensure the neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia. The Foreign Minister of Cambodia in his message of March 15 last has again approached the two Co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference for the urgent convening

of such a Conference. It is understood that the Co-chairmen are in consultation with each other about this. It is our earnest hope and desire that it will be possible to hold a conference of the interested parties immediately. India has every sympathy towards Cambodia's aspirations and the Government of India will play its part and render every assistance in this regard.

3. The principal aim of the 1962 Agreement on Laos was to restore peace and enable harmonious working between the three Laotian factions for the effective functioning of the Government in Laos. It is unfortunate that conciliation between the Laotian factions has not been achieved and the situation continues to be disturbed. We hear however that contacts amongst the parties have been resumed and that tripartite talks in Laos are likely to commence shortly. The Government of India have in the past supported proposals for the reconvening of the 14-Nation Geneva Conference on Laos, and hope that the talks now beginning will pave the way for such a Conference.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the fact that we the Indian people including the Government are genuinely anxious for a stable and enduring peace in this embattled region—to use the hon. Minister's own words—of South-East Asia which formerly comprised the Indo-China States, are Government in a position to state definitely how many countries have so far expressed their desire or willingness to participate in these conferences to come, and is there any proposal to deftly utilise these conferences to initiate peace talks on Viet Nam?

Shri Swaran Singh: I cannot give information about the response from the countries that are likely to attend this conference. There have been approaches made, but I have not got precise information because that is not readily available to us in all the cases. But the response has been reasonably good on this Cambodian conference.

About the second part, I would suggest that this conference should be taken by itself. The Cambodians resent if a suggestion is made that this might be used for other purposes.

Shri Ravindra Varma (Thiruvella): Is it a fact that the Government of the USSR have conveyed to the Government of India some proposals which may be considered at this conference? If so, what is the attitude of the Government towards those proposals?

Shri Swaran Singh: The USSR Government have supported the convening of the conference. But they have not made any specific proposals that should be considered by the conference.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): Is it not Government's view that the basic question for this area is neutralisation of this area? If so, was this discussed with the French Premier when he was here, and how do they expect China, which is not amendable to any reason, to serve the cause of peace by attending this conference?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is a fact that neutralisation of this area or, if I may say so, neutrality of this area, is important, and the countries concerned also attach importance to this, that the countries of Indo-China should be left free from outside influences from whatever direction they may be, and should be left to work out their own future. It is a fact that this matter was discussed with the French Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister when they were here. French view in this respect is identical with the Indian view. They believe that it is possible to work out arrangements which might ensure the integrity and neutrality of the states of Indo-China. What part China is likely to play in that picture can be a matter of difference of opinion. But the French, at any rate, believe that it is possible to work out arrangements according to

[Shri Swaran Singh]

which the neutrality of the countries of Indo-China can be ensured.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (वाराणसी) :
यू० के० के समाचारपत्रों में बड़े जोरों के साथ यह कैम्पेन शुरू हुई है कि वह जो कांफरेंस हो रही है उस में वियट नाम के सवाल को भी लाया जाये और उस पर बात चीत की जाये। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पर सरकारका क्या विचार है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस का जवाब तो मंत्री महोदय ने दिया है।

Shri Swaran Singh: I have already touched on this while replying to Shri Kamath.

Shri Basumatari (Goalpara): Which are the non-aligned countries attending this conference?

Shri Swaran Singh: That has not yet been settled.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni): As things stand today, with these three countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos sandwiched between two mighty countries, one advocating communism like China and the other advocating neo-colonialism like America, to what extent will this Government be able to steer clear of these things, and to what extent will they be able to go to the help of these countries to preserve their integrity and sovereignty?

Shri Swaran Singh: The desire of these countries to work out, according to their own nationalist views,

their future is a matter of high importance. It is for those countries concerned to decide as to what form of government they want to have in those countries.

17-59 hrs.

RE: SITTING OF THE HOUSE ON
FIRST MAY

Mr. Speaker: It was represented here in the House that on the First May we might not meet. I have considered it. But now it has become difficult to agree to that because there is no other Saturday that we can have....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Except the ensuing one.

Mr. Speaker: This Saturday the Chairmen of Estimates Committees are meeting. I had fixed it very much in advance. So we will not be able to meet this Saturday. I am sorry this time at least we cannot have it.

18 hrs.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): We may close that day a little earlier, so that they may have that meeting.

Mr. Speaker: That we will try. That can be considered. But on the 1st May we will be meeting.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 22, 1965/Vaisakha 2, 1887 (Saka).