

additional irrigation potential proposed to be created in the next year from major irrigation is about 1.3 million hectares. Will the additional irrigation potential be utilised by the farmers fully?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: So far as the first question is concerned, while replying to the debate in the House on the demands, I had mentioned that for this crop (i.e. Kharif) we are not in a position to reduce the price of fertilisers. However, we are keeping a watch on the prices. Regarding the second question, I have mentioned that about 3 million hectares of land is being brought under irrigation, small, medium and major. I shall see that maximum utilisation is made of this entire land under irrigation. Our effort is to utilise as much as possible all the existing irrigation facilities.

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं फूड मिनिस्टर से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यू० पी० में पिछली गवर्नमेंट ने रेट 3 रुपये से 15 रुपये कर दिया और उसके बाद चलते-चलते 12 रुपये किया। जो कि अब भी बहुत ज्यादा है। क्या मंत्री जी स्माल सेक्टर के अडैवलपमेंट, सिंचाई वगैरा की सुविधाएं छोटे-छोटे लोगों को बढ़ाने के लिये क्या इस रेट को कम करने की कृपा करेंगे ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : यह प्रश्न मेरी समझ नहीं आया कि किस चीज का 11, 12 रुपये किया ?

श्री शिव नारायण : विजली के रेट के बारे में कहा है।

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: That does not arise out of this question.

श्री दौलत राम सारण : कृषि सेवा केन्द्र कई जगह राज्य सरकारों द्वारा स्थापित किये गये हैं। मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करें कि क्या यह सही है कि इन कृषि सेवा केन्द्रों से मिलने वाले कृषि यंत्रों के मूल्य

प्राइवेट तौर पर बेचने वालों के मूल्यों से अधिक हैं, जिसकी वजह से यहां से यंत्र खरीदना किसान को पौसाता नहीं है। क्या यह यंत्र वहां समय पर उपलब्ध भी नहीं होते हैं?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : यह मैं पता कर लूंगा, अगर ऐसी बात है तो।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Discussion between U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. on limitation of Military activities in the Indian Ocean

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S.N.Q. 15 DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA
S. DEO:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the *Statesman* of June 29, 1977 in which it has been reported that the Governments of U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. have discussed the question of limitation of military activities in the Indian Ocean region; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAEYEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India hope that the dialogue will continue and the participants will adopt a constructive and positive approach to the problem and achieve results which would facilitate the establishment of the Zone of Peace in the Indian Ocean in accordance with the U.N. resolutions.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It is a very important question relating to Indian security. May I ask the Minister to inform the House whether the opinion of the Indian Government was sought at any level at any stage by any of these two Super Powers regarding this vital matter and if so, what steps the Government of India are taking for maintaining Indian Ocean as a zone of peace either singly or in conjunction with the littoral countries directly related with the Indian Ocean?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, it depends on the Super Powers viz., the USA and the USSR to arrive at an agreement so that Indian Ocean can be made a zone of peace. India is being consulted informally. Our views are well known and whenever the occasion arises, we have impressed upon both the Super Powers the desirability of expediting the negotiations in this regard.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Now in view of the development of the very dangerous weapons like neutron bomb and laser beam i.e., death-ray, what precautions are the Government of India taking for safeguarding the misuse of these weapons from the military bases situated in Indian Ocean?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: This hardly arises out of this question. If there is demilitarisation in the Indian Ocean and if there is an agreement between the two Super Powers on the limitation of the armaments, so far as the Indian Ocean is concerned, I hope this danger, which my hon. Friend is pointing out, will not be there.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is surprising that the Minister leaves the entire question of peace in Indian Ocean to the Super Powers viz., the USA and the USSR. It is primarily and basically a matter concerned with the littoral States especially India. Right from Ethiopia upto Australia

there are 8 military bases of the United States. There is a real threat to the littoral States from these military bases. Soviet Union, in the 31st Session of United Nations Assembly, declared that they do not have any military base in the Indian Ocean. It is for you to verify. The United States are holding 8 military bases especially very close to India like Diego Garcia where they have extended the run-way to 12000 ft. They have even threatened to use the newly developed neutron weapons. How can you leave this matter to those two States alone? In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the United States are negotiating with Bangladesh to have a naval base at St. Martin Island. Then India will be covered by two very close naval bases maintained by the United States and it is a real threat to the peace. What is the reaction of the Government of India to it? Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government of India will take continuous initiative and leadership to mobilise the forces of littoral States to see that the entire demilitarisation and the demolition of the military bases in Indian Ocean is done.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE. I entirely agree with the hon. Member that it is the littoral and hinterland countries which are vitally concerned with the question of Indian Ocean being made a zone of peace. The overwhelming majority of the littoral countries have made their views known through the United Nations... and the forum of Nonaligned nations. We would like all bases in the Indian Ocean to be dismantled and all military presence of the Super Powers eliminated. But we have to face facts as they are. It is for the Super Powers to come to some sort of agreement on this question. So far as the pressure of the littoral and hinterland countries is concerned, it is being felt. I think it is the pressure of the Non-Aligned Group and other countries which has led to the

negotiations by the Super Powers on the Indian Ocean question. I hope the talks will succeed and the Indian Ocean will eventually become a zone of peace. So far as the question of America acquiring a base in the Bay of Bengal is concerned, I am sorry I have no information at the moment.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: These negotiations are not regarding military bases. They are about keeping it as a zone of peace. How do you depend upon these negotiations?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am not depending on anything; I am only depending on the strength of my country.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: I have not made any insinuation. I am sorry I have been misunderstood. I want a clarification....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that (a) there has been a fresh rise in the US build-up in Diego Garcia, (b) there have been voyages of US fleet consisting of nuclear-powered aircraft carrier task force and P-3 task force, and (c) there has been new acquisition of bases in Masirah by USA, even after Mr. Carter's declaration about demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean? In this context, may I know whether the Government of India is considering to express firmly and unequivocally the opinion that the USA should immediately dismantle all the bases in the Indian Ocean and stop all voyages into the Indian Ocean in order to create a pre-condition for demilitarisation of the Indian Ocean and successful conclusion of the USA-USSR talks? Secondly, may I know whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to an opinion expressed by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis of our country in an article contributed by Mr. J. P. Anand and published in 1421 LS—2

the *Tribune* of 2nd February, which reads as follows:

"The Soviet Navy sends one squadron in winter months, compared to an annual average of three task forces by the US Navy. The Soviet aim, according to some western analysts, is political rather than military. The Soviet presence is basically reactive and defensive in nature."

May I know the reaction of the Government to this opinion expressed by the Institute of Defence Studies?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for all the information that he has given to me. I have also read the article in *Tribune*. So far as the question of developing facilities in Diego Garcia is concerned, the Government of India is aware that recently \$ 7 million have been allocated for the extension of Diego Garcia by the United States of America.

The hon. Member referred to Masirah. Masirah is an air base in Oman built by the United Kingdom. The U.S.A. is reported to be negotiating for using these facilities for its aircraft. So far as the question of India's position being made unequivocally and unmistakably clear, I do not think that there is any doubt in the world about India's position and I hope the hon. Member will not have any doubt in this regard.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us that in spite of the fact that the United Nations had adopted a Resolution very clearly stating that Indian Ocean should be kept as a zone of peace, the Americans are building up without any restraint in Diego Garcia and in many other places. If you get the map of the world defence, you will be able to see the military build-up that they are going through. In that context, would you kindly tell us what pressure has the Government of India

put on the United States of America to include China in the dialogue in keeping the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Sir, India would like to use persuasion instead of pressure in international affairs. So far as the question of China is concerned, India will be happy if all Big Powers and major maritime powers including China join hands in making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

The hon. Minister said that it is between the two Super Powers to come to some kind of arrangement. When it is absolutely clear from the statement made by the Soviet Union at the U.N. General Assembly when the Resolution referred to by Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu was being discussed that they have never had and have no intention of having military bases in the Indian Ocean and the only thing is that they need this highway for the European part of the USSR to have sea connection with the far-eastern part of the USSR, I would like to know how it is that the Minister said that informal discussions have taken place when in the joint Indo-Soviet communique issued during Mr. Gromyko's visit in April, 1977 there is a specific reference to the Indian Ocean, where it says:

"The two sides reaffirm their readiness to participate together with all States concerned on an equal basis and in conformity with the generally recognised rules of international law in efforts leading to the early establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. Both sides stand for the elimination of all existing military bases from the Indian Ocean and the prohibition of new ones."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would appeal to the hon. Members not to keep on giving quotations.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: It was necessary because of his saying 'informal consultations'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you start quoting in the Question Hour, it will be difficult.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN:

This has arisen out of his reference to informal consultations. Since this discussion has taken place before the issuing of this communique, what has the Indian Government done, from its side, to pursue the commitment that is there in this communique, viz. that efforts will be made in order to have a conference of the littoral States on equal footing, in order to bring about a solution? It is not only the Super Powers—as he calls them; I do not call them so—which are concerned.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE.

I do not see any contradiction in my reply to Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, which was in the context of talks which were held recently between the USA and USSR. India has been kept informed informally about the talks; but the lady Member referred to the joint communique (*Interruptions*)—most hon. lady Member. For a bachelor, some ladies are more honourable than others. But all the lady Members in the House are honourable—after the visit of the Soviet Foreign Minister. On the question of Indian Ocean; our views coincide—both Soviet Russia and India agree that all foreign bases should be dismantled and foreign military presence eliminated. So far as question of calling a conference of littoral countries is concerned, I am afraid no useful purpose will be served, unless all the great powers and major maritime users agree to join such a conference. A Committee of the United Nations is working in this direction. I hope the efforts will succeed and such a conference will take place.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Is the Government aware of the statement

issued by the Australian Prime Minister Mr. Fraser recently after his meeting with the U.S. President that the military preparations being made in Diego Garcia will be continued? We know that some time after the American President had assumed office, he is on record as saying that the installations in Diego Garcia would be dismantled. But after this interview with the Australian Prime Minister, it seems he has softened his position; and he is also on record now as saying according to report that those installations will be maintained. The Moscow talks have been, not for the purpose of dismantling them in pursuance of his earlier statement, but only for maintaining the *status quo*, or perhaps for having a *modus vivendi* with other powers, to keep the *status quo*—if I can put it that way. This is not an isolated question. It has been mentioned in the declaration of the Independence of Djibouti by France that they will maintain a military force there. (*Interruptions*) There are reports from Iran that they have negotiated with the U.S. to get seven airborne radar systems. All these are connected with Diego Garcia. Also, in Pakistan it is stated that 25 nuclear processing installations are going to be set up as part of a phased programme.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Is the Government aware of the fact that the decision of the U.N. to keep the Indian Ocean a zone of peace is completely ignored by the escalation of military preparation in Diego Garcia?

SHRI ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE: I have seen the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister of Australia, to which the hon. Member made a reference. I would like to say that President Carter has never promised to dismantle Diego Garcia. All that he has promised is that there should be demilitarisation and that there should be limitation on the military

presence of big powers in the Indian Ocean.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Who will check all that?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: So far as the littoral countries are concerned, the resolution of the United Nations is there and we would welcome if all bases are dismantled.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: I want information on three aspects of the matter. The first one is whether the objective before the Working Group set up by Moscow and Washington remains complete demilitarization of the Indian Ocean zone, as declared by President Carter, or it is now limited to stabilising the *status quo*, or achieving a freeze of the balance in the Indian Ocean. The second is whether it is the Government's opinion that there is less of competition now in the Indian Ocean area. Thirdly, I want to know whether the two Super Powers have expressed any desire to hold talks, consultations, with India on this separately.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: At the beginning, President Carter in a statement on March 9, 1977, indicated that he favoured the demilitarization of the Indian Ocean and listed it among the questions to be taken up by his Secretary of State in Moscow. The talks were held between June 22 and 27 but no formal statement has been issued after the talks. However, the Soviet news agency Tass issued a statement, which brought out that the two sides discussed "limitation of armaments in the Indian Ocean" and that they "agreed to meet again".

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: So, it is down-graded?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Yes, that is what it appears. It is very difficult for me to say anything definite on the second point.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
The third question remains unanswered whether the super-powers have expressed a desire to hold separate consultations with India on this subject.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
Both Super Powers have had consultations with India separately,

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
There are two parts to my question. According to our Government's information, what is the present military strength naval base etc. of USA and USSR in the Indian Ocean? Secondly, the hon. Minister has just now stated that he will be happy if there is agreement. I cannot agree with the hon. Minister on this, because they can agree on the limitation of naval base; that is possible. So, can he assure this House that the Government will not be satisfied unless this zone is made completely a peace zone?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
May I reply to the second part of the question first by saying emphatically "Yes"? India will not be satisfied with anything less than the Indian Ocean being made a zone of peace. But so far as the details of the ships in the Indian Ocean or the relative strength of the big powers is concerned, I am sorry, I do not have the details.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Kutch Desert

*408. **PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:**
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the desert of Kutch is steadily extending southwards in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, facts thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Gujarat have prepared certain schemes and projects to arrest such

an extension of the desert and whether the proposals have been forwarded by the State Government to the Central Government for their urgent consideration, approval and financial assistance; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). On the basis of the available information and appraisal of the general terrain conditions of the desert areas of Kutch, it is felt that the desert of Kutch is not showing any perceptible indications of movement southwards in the Saurashtra region. However, there are problems of salinity ingress along the Runn Border. During the summer, winds from the desert carry dust and clay particles laden with salt and deposit the same on fertile inland agricultural tracts.

(c) The State Forest Department is implementing a programme of afforestation along the borders of Runn of Kutch. The plantations are being raised from the beginning of First Five Year Plan. An area of 28697 ha. has been planted up upto the end of IV Plan, to serve as a buffer green belt to protect marginal fields against deposition of fine salt-laden dust particles picked up from the Runn by strong winds. The Fifth Plan target is planting up of 5000 has of additional area at a cost of Rs. 41.29 lakhs. There is no afforestation scheme inside the Runn as experiments done so far have not proved successful under the conditions prevailing in the Runn.

The State Government of Gujarat have sent the following proposals:—

(i) Provision of irrigation facilities in Kutch, Saurashtra and large tracts of North Gujarat.

(ii) Close plantation of Prosopis juliflora which reduces the salinity thereby making the area suitable for raising agricultural crops.