

Minister's responsibility in the Bird Company fine reduction case has been ascertained in the new enquiry that is being conducted by the Government?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Since appointments to Ambassadorial posts are made on grounds of suitability for a diplomatic assignment, there is no specific policy about appointing defeated Ministers to such posts.

(b) Such a proposal was considered and has since been dropped.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

HF-24 Jets

*144. Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri F. K. Deo:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri Dhirendranath:
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:
Shri S. S. Kothari:
Shri N. S. Sharma:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri Brij Shushan Lal:
Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
Shri F. Ramamurti:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Dr. Ranen Sen:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the first tests of an Egyptian-made supersonic jet engine fitted to the Indian-made HF-24 airframe have proved successful in the recent trial runs;

(b) if so, whether this project is now going to be taken up as a full-fledged manufacturing venture; and

(c) the prospects of Indo-UAR collaboration in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) to (c). The HF-24 aircraft with E-300 engine had its first flight on 29-3-1967. Further development flights are in progress. The question of collaboration in the manufacture of the supersonic aircraft will arise

only after the flight tests have been successfully completed.

Violation of Colombo Proposals by China

*145. Shri Hem Barna:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China, of late, has indulged in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Colombo proposals, not only in Ladakh but also in NEFA;

(b) if so, whether Government still abide by the Colombo proposals which have ceased to be of any significance by now due to the Chinese intransigence; and

(c) the stage at which the Colombo proposals lie at present?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India's stand remains that they are willing to talk to China on the basis of the Colombo Proposals.

(c) In spite of their violation of the provisions of the Colombo Proposals, the Chinese have still not formally repudiated them. We, on our part, stand by our initial acceptance. The six Afro-Asian countries who originally formulated the proposals have also not taken any action collectively or severally to amend or withdraw them. The proposals therefore continue to be valid.

Explosion of Nuclear Bomb by Pakistan

*146. Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Hem Barna:
Shri Gwell:
Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that besides China being an active member of the nuclear club, Pakistan is about