

SHRI K. M. KOUSHIK :
 SHRI D. AMAT :
 SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :
 SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN :
 SHRI R. V. NAIK :
 SHRI J. SUNDER LAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article in the Christian Science Monitor that U. S. S. R. is trying to take on rent the Singapore Base to be vacated by the British :

(b) whether any inquiries have been made by Government from the Singapore Government or the U.S.S.R. Government on this subject ; and

(c) whether Government propose to move in the United Nations Assembly that foreign powers enter the vacuum created by the exit of the British from the Indian Ocean ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However, our High Commissioner in Singapore is ceased of the matter.

(c) United Nations has passed several resolutions asking the administering powers not to set up military bases in their colonies in the Indian Ocean. It is the view of the Government that no vacuum will be created by the exit of the British from the Indian Ocean ; the Indian Ocean should remain an area of peace and free from the importation of tensions through the activities of the major powers.

Brigadier Dalvi's Book "The Himalayan Blunder"

*71. SHRI RANJEET SINGH :
 SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
 SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :
 SHRI R. K. BIRLA :
 SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the causes of NEFA reverses as mentioned in Brigadier J. P. Dalvi's book

"The Himalayan Blunder" published recently ;

(b) if so, the main causes of the NEFA reverses as mentioned in the aforesaid book and the reaction of Government thereto ;

(c) whether Brigadier Dalvi had taken prior permission from Government for the publication of the book and whether he was accorded any permission to have an access to the official records ; and

(d) whether any material reproduced in his book was found to be prejudicial to the country's interests ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A summary of the author's conclusion's in this regard is placed on the Table of the House. The House will recall that the main conclusions of the Henderson Brooks Report on the conduct of military operations in NEFA were summarised in the Defence Minister's statements in the House on 2nd September 1963. The aspects mentioned by the author have already been dealt within his statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) *Prima facie* the contents of the book do not appear to be prejudicial to the country's interest. This aspect is, however, being examined in detail.

Statement

Summary of the main causes of the NEFA reverses as mentioned in Brigadier J. P. Dalvi's book "HIMALAYAN BLUNDER"

It is difficult to summarise in short space Brig. Dalvi's book which runs into 488 pages. Different interpretations are possible on the various statements made in the book, but the main causes for the 1962 failure given by him appear to be as under :

- (a) The Government did not have overall political objectives and did not prepare the nation for war against a first class land power ;
- (b) The higher military command took on a task given by the Government knowing full well that they were militarily unprepared for it. In this context he particularly finds faults with General Thapar, Lt. Gen. Kaul and other senior military officers in the Eastern

Command ;

(c) The shortage of equipments, ammunition, and logistic cover in the areas of operations ;

(d) Development of troops who were not acclimatised to fight in the terrain and high altitude ;

(e) The pressure of Opposition, public opinion and the press which had driven the Government to a position which did not take into account the harsh military realities ;

(f) Inadequate intelligence of the Chinese military strength and development.

The author himself has summarised the main causes of the NEFA reverses in the preface of his book in the following words :

“1962 was a National Failure of which every Indian is guilty. It was a Failure in the Higher Direction of War, Failure of the Opposition, a failure of the General Staff (myself included) ; it was a Failure of Responsible Public Opinion and Press.”

Tibetan Refugees coming to India

*72. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that quite a number of Tibetan refugees have crossed over to India with the expulsion of Dalai Lama's Chief Representative from Nepal;

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue of Tibetan refugees with the Nepalese Government; and

(c) if so, with what result ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) We have not had any such reports.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The question does not arise.

Development of Atomic Power

*73. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, expressed concern at the go slow policy of the Government in the development of atomic power, when he met the Press in Bombay on the 22nd May, 1969 ;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto ; and

(c) whether the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission conveyed his views to Government before he chose to meet the Press, the specific proposals he made and the decisions of Government on each of the proposals ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) to (c). The Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission has expressed the view that there should be no break in the programme of undertaking Atomic Power Stations in appropriate places and sizes, in regular succession. It is in this context that he had expressed his misgivings about the Planning Commission's view that the operation of atomic power stations now under construction, their economics and other factors would be studied before any further programmes are taken up.

Within the available allocation of Rs. 120 crores for nuclear power generation in the Draft Fourth Plan, it has not so far been possible to take up new power projects. However, this question will be considered in the course of periodical review of the plan, in the light of available resources, competing projects and all other relevant factors.

Survey of India-Burma Border

* 74. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF : SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Conference of the joint boundary survey officials of India and Burma was held recently ;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held ; and

(c) the decisions arrived at in the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Joint India-Burma Boundary Commission approved the demarcation made in the last field season, and decided that the southernmost portion of 240 miles