

**August 2, 1966**

**Rajya Sabha Q&A on Chinese Nuclear Tests and  
their Immediate Effects on the Indian Population**

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**Summary:**

Transcript of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi on the dangerous effects of the Chinese nuclear tests on the Indian population.

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the materials reached too late. That is not true. We have a teleprinter system and they reach within a few hours.

(Some hon. Members stood up.)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I may remind the House that we have taken more than 20 minutes over two questions. Question No. 181.

**SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN):** One question, Sir.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I have passed on to the next question.

#### NUCLEAR BLAST BY CHINA

\*181. **SHRI RAM SINGH:†**  
**SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:**

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to ascertain whether the third nuclear blast by China has caused any adverse effects on the population in India; and

(b) if so, the regions where the adverse effect has been felt?

**THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):** (a) The third nuclear explosion by China did not result in any significant radioactive contamination in the atmosphere over India which could constitute hazards to public health. Fallout traces analysed in the Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay reveal that fallout from the main radioactive cloud occurred over India only after it had completed a full circle of the globe, by which time it had got highly diluted.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI RAM SINGH:** May I know whether any assessment with regard to the nature and capacity of this bomb has been made so far?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** Analysis has shown the presence of Lithium-6 and this indicated that an attempt was made to explode a thermo-nuclear weapon

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ram Singh.

However, from the measurement of the amounts of fission and other products there was no evidence of Uranium 238 reaction with fast neutrons which normally occur in a hydrogen bomb containing Uranium 238. This shows that a successful thermo-nuclear reaction has not taken place. The sample also gave a very high amount of Neptunium 239 which is produced by the absorption of neutrons by Uranium 238. This provides evidence of large quantities of Uranium 238 used in the explosion. Uranium 238 is generally used as an inner casing in high yield nuclear devices.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I hope the matter is clear to you.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** But, Sir, I hope it is clear to the Prime Minister.

**श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि: इन एक्सप्लोजन्स से हमारी सीमा पर, हमारे समुद्रों पर और सीमा पर रहनेवाले निवासियों पर कुछ प्रतिकूल प्रभाव न पड़े और इन एक्सप्लोजन्स से कौन-कौन से प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ सकते हैं, इसका अनुमान लगा कर के इनको रोकने के लिए हमारे यहाँ क्या कोई व्यवस्था सोची जा रही है?

**श्रीमति इंदिरा गांधी:** जैसा मैंने कहा कि इस बम से तो कोई ऐसा असर नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन यह हो सकता है कि आगे चल कर के वे और बड़े बम बनाएं और उनको एक्सप्लोड करें तो उसका कुछ नतीजा हो सकता है। अभी तक जो एक्सप्लोजन्स हो रहे हैं वे हिन्दुस्तान से काफी दूर हो रहे हैं।

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** May I know whether in briefing the Prime Minister it was made clear that there was a difference between an explosion of a nuclear device and an explosion of a nuclear bomb and may I know in this connection whether the Prime Minister would be able to repeat what she has said again here without looking at the brief, at least a gist of it?

(Interruptions)

**SHRI M. M. DHARIA:** On a point of order, may I know how it becomes a part of a question as to whether she will

repeat it without looking at the brief? It should be expunged from the records, Sir.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Why should they expunge everything? Then you will say, expunge me, some day. Sir, you were quite right when you invited our attention to the fact that it is a complicated answer. Therefore I want to know whether the complication could be made clear for lay people like us and that is why I asked . . .

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I would suggest that you study the answer at leisure and with some scientific knowledge you will be able to understand it.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** All right; what about the first part of the question.  
(*interruptions*)

**SHRI K. K. SHAH:** If he is slow in understanding, why should he presume that others are slow in understanding?

**SHRI A. D. MANI:** May I ask the Prime Minister whether any reports have been received from Japan and from the United States about the radioactive fallout as a result of this nuclear blast because she said that the whole thing went round the globe and then reached India and may I also know whether any evidence has been found by the Atomic Energy Commission that the third nuclear blast was made with a sophisticated weapon and that it was not a dirty bomb?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** We have heard the views expressed by the scientists of the United States and they tally more or less with our own. This, I believe, can be called either a device or a bomb, since it was exploded in mid-air.

**SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE:** Sir, I wanted to suggest at that time, let the hon. Mr. Gupta repeat what he had heard and then he should request the Prime Minister to say whether he has repeated it correctly or not. That is what I wanted to say.

**SHRI K. K. SHAH:** He is slow of understanding and he wants to pass it on to somebody; it is not correct.

**SHRI B. K. P. SINHA:** May I know if science recognises only one type of ad-

verse effect from atomic blasts, that is, radioactivity and fallouts, which falls under the class of health hazard or if science recognises that there are other types of adverse effects also like the effect on weather, the effect on climate, the effect on rainfall and, if so, whether some assessment has been made whether these adverse effects have been produced or not?

**SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI:** I do not think it has been proved what effect it has on the weather but I may say with regard to what the other hon. Member said earlier that even the effects of the clean bomb are pretty dreadful.

**भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष के सम्बन्ध में अमरीका के रक्षा मन्त्री का कथन**

\*182. श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया : क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अमरीका के रक्षा मंत्री, श्री मैकनामारा ने हाल के भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष को साम्प्रदायिक युद्ध की संज्ञा दी है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो ऐसे भ्रम के क्या कारण हैं और उसे मिटाने का क्या प्रयत्न किया गया ?

†[U.S. DEFENCE SECRETARY ON INDO-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

\*182. **SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:** Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. McNamara, the United States Defence Secretary, has characterized the recent Indo-Pakistan conflict as a communal war; and

(b) if so, what are the grounds for such misapprehension and what efforts were made to remove the same ?]

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We are naturally surprised at what Mr. McNamara said and we took up the