

April 30, 1970
**Rajya Sabha Q&A on India's Manufacture of Nuclear
Weapons Policy**

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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 current policy to manufacture nuclear weapons and how a nuclear attack would be resisted in the event of a conflict with China and Pakistan.

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(b) The fall in imports is mainly due to lower imports of foodgrains, machinery, cotton, chemicals, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, petroleum products and the fall in import licensing in 1967-68, and 1968-69.

(c) and (d) It is difficult to assess exactly to what extent the decline in imports is due to import substitution during this period as, at the same time, the requirements of certain essential raw materials, components and spares have also increased.

TRADE TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE

*112. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had talks with Mr. Hadzic, Yugoslav representative in India recently regarding the bilateral trade agreement which is going to expire in 1972 and its effect on rupee payment system, if so, the results thereof;

(b) whether the Yugoslav authorities have informed the Government that they are not prepared to accept rupee payment after the agreement ends in 1970; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK): (a) No, Sir. The purpose of the visit of the Yugoslav business delegation led by H.E. Mr. M. Hadzic, Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Trade, was to make an on the spot study of the possibilities of increasing two-way exchanges and not to prepare any ground for future payment arrangements. Further increase in the volume of trade exchanges and diversification therefore figured in the talks.

(b) and (c) During his stay in India the Yugoslav Minister is reported to have stated at a press conference that Yugoslavia wished to change-over to convertible currency arrangements after March, 1972. Existing Trade and Payments Agreement providing for settlement in rupees is valid till 31st March, 1972. Talks will be held on the eve of its expiry for evolving a mutually acceptable future pattern.

परमाणु-अस्त्रों का निर्माण

*113. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि परमाणु-अस्त्रों के निर्माण के बारे में सरकार की नीति में हाल में कोई परिवर्तन आया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और यदि नहीं, तो चीन और पाकिस्तान के साथ संघर्ष छिड़ने की स्थिति में परमाणु-अस्त्रों के साथ कोई आक्रमण होने पर उसका कैसे मुकाबला किया जायेगा ?

†[MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

*113. SHRI J. P. YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a recent change in Government's stand in regard to the manufacture of nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, how the attack with nuclear weapons will be resisted in the event of a conflict with China and Pakistan?]

प्रधान मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) : (क) और (ख) माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने अपने प्रश्न में जो चिन्ता व्यक्त की है, उसे सरकार अच्छी तरह समझती है। सरकार को देश की सीमाओं पर होने वाले खतरों की जानकारी है और वह यह भी जानती है कि ये खतरे किस तरह की शकल अख्तियार कर सकते हैं। देश की सुरक्षा को होने वाले खतरों का मुकाबला करने के लिए जिस सैनिक तैयारी की जरूरत है, उसे सुनिश्चित करने की दृष्टि से वह समुचित उपाय बरतती रही है।

सरकार का विश्वास है कि कुल मिला कर राष्ट्र के हित में नीति यह है कि हम अपनी वैज्ञानिक और तकनीकी क्षमता का विकास करके परमाणु शक्ति के शांतिपूर्ण उपयोगों के कार्यक्रमों का विस्तार करें। अभी हाल में ऐसी कोई घटना नहीं हुई है, जिसके कारण इस नीति में परिवर्तन करना पड़े। फिर भी, इस संबंध में हमारा जो अनुमान और योजनाएं हैं, उनकी निरंतर समीक्षा की जाती है और ऐसा करते

समय राष्ट्र की रक्षा और सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने पर सबसे ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जाता है।

†[THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA CANDHI) : (a) and (b) Government duly appreciate the anxiety expressed by the Hon'ble Member in his question. Government are alive to threats to our borders and also to possible forms which such threats may assume. They have been taking suitable steps to ensure our military preparedness to meet threats to the security of the country.

Government believe that the policy of developing our scientific and technological capability and expanding our programme for the peaceful uses of atomic energy is in the best overall interest of the nation. There has been no recent development warranting change in this policy. Our assessment, as well as our plans, are however, kept under constant review, the paramount consideration being given to the need for safeguarding national defence and security.]

GRANTS FROM ASIA FOUNDATION

*114. SHRI PIANAB KUMAR MOKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Institute of India has stopped taking grants from the Asia Foundation after disclosures of connections between the C.I.A. of U.S.A. and this Foundation;

(b) whether the Press Institute of India is now actively linked with the Manila-based Press Foundation of Asia;

(c) whether the Government of India have confirmed that this Manila body is not sponsored by the C.I.A. and financed through the conduct foundations; and

(d) whether the Government of India are aware that this Press Foundation of Asia used our Prime Minister's name to lure delegates from other Asian Countries in the recent 'One Asia' Conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDR PAL SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir; as from April, 1967.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to information available to the Government, Press Foundation of Asia is financed by :

†[] English translation.

(i) membership subscriptions and grants from over 250 newspapers and mass media organisations throughout Asia,

(ii) Ford Foundation grant matching the funds raised as under (i) above.

(d) Some earlier literature from the 'One Asia Assembly' had carried the names of all the invitees, including the Prime Minister of India. As acceptances and regrets came in, the lists were corrected and the final lists contained only the names of those who confirmed participation.

IMPORT OF CASHEW NUT THROUGH PUBLIC SECTOR AGENCY

*115. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :
SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government's proposal to import raw cashewnuts through a Public Sector Agency has not been accepted by the Centre; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) :

(a) and (b) It has been decided to canalise import of raw cashewnuts through a State agency. Details of the scheme are being worked out.

FOREIGN TRADE TEAM'S VISIT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*116. SHRI M. D. NARAYAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian trade teams which visited foreign countries during the last 6 months;

(b) the names of the countries visited by them;

(c) whether any trade agreement has been signed by them with those countries; and

(d) what will be India's total trade improvement with other countries during 1970?