

July 30, 1970

Rajya Sabha on the Reorientation of India's Nuclear Policy

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Summary:

Transcript of questions and answers between members of Rajya Sabha and the Minister of Atomic Energy, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, on how to reorient nuclear strategy to meet the nuclear challenge from China.

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THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Government has done all within its power to secure the release of Dr. Telo Mascarenhas from imprisonment in a Portuguese jail and for his early return to India. Government is glad to state that Dr. Mascarenhas was released from jail on 29th May, 1970. He is at present in Madrid undergoing medical treatment and will according to our information be reaching India in a few days.

REORIENTATION OF NUCLEAR STRATEGY

*116. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorient the nuclear strategy to meet the nuclear challenge from China; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Government's policy regarding the development of nuclear energy has been explained to the House from time to time. Government are alive to threats to our border 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 in 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 the 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.

CONVERSION OF EXPORT LICENCES INTO IMPORT LICENCES

*117. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some export licences for brassware and

utensils have been recently converted into import licences for wool and synthetic fibre; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the value of such export licences which were converted; and

(c) the names of the parties or the licencees who have been permitted to convert these licences?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Under the import policy for Registered Exporters, a manufacturer exporter or a manufacturer nominated by a registered exporter is allowed to import against his replenishment licence the items of raw materials and components appearing in his actual User licence, even if such items are not used in the manufacture of the exported product. The flexibility has been given so that a manufacturer may be able to plan his production according to his export needs. Under this flexibility, import of raw wool and polyester fibre was also allowed against exports made up to December, 1968 for which applications for licences had been made before 1st February, 1969.

(b) and (c). This information is not readily available and the labour involved in collecting this information may not be commensurate with the results sought to be achieved.

भारत में हिन्दू-मुस्लिम दंगों के विषय में श्री झा का वक्तव्य

*118. श्री श्रीकान्त मिश्र :

श्री निरंजन वर्मा :

क्या वैदेशिक कार्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र-संघ में भारत के प्रतिनिधि श्री झा ने 21 मई, 1970 को यह कहा था कि पाकिस्तान में होने वाली साम्प्रदायिक विद्वेष की घटनायें