

**July 30, 1970**  
**Rajya Sabha Q&A on the Financial Cost of the  
Nuclear Program**

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**Summary:**

Transcript of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Prime Minister of Atomic Energy, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, on whether to create a committee to carry out a study on the financial cost of India's nuclear program.

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(c) the result of the efforts made by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India have been maintaining contacts with all the parties concerned in the conflict including U.S., U.S.S.R., U.K., and France, with a view to assisting in bringing about a restoration of peace in Indo-China.

(c) It is not customary to divulge the substance of these consultations, as they are confidential. At present, the possibility of convening a Geneva type conference appears remote.

TECHNICAL STUDY OF THE COST OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

\*111. SHRI GODEY MURAHARI:  
SHRI SUNDAR SINGH  
BHANDARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a high power committee on science and technology to study the technological and cost aspect of India going nuclear in the matter of weapon;

(b) whether the committee has since submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, the salient features thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

RECOGNITION OF PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

\*112. SHRI ARJUN ARORA:  
SHRI KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision about recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam; and

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

\*113. [Transferred to the 4th August, 1970].

CIRCULAR REGARDING HOLDING CONFERENCES OF STATE MINISTERS

\*114. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:  
SHRI RAJNARAIN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet Secretary has recently issued a circular to the effect that no Ministry of the Union Government will be competent to call any conference of the State Ministers or senior officials without the prior permission of the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the circumstances which led to the issuing of such a circular; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Ministries to the circular?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c) In a circular letter recently, the Cabinet Secretary has reiterated the existing instructions on the subject which were issued in 1956. The genesis of these instructions was the complaint of some Chief Ministers that frequent conferences in Delhi requiring the presence of State Ministers and their senior officers affected their work in the States.

RETURN OF DR. MASCARENHAS TO INDIA

\*115. SHRI S. KUMARAN:  
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE:  
SHRI RAM SAHAI:  
SHRI B. N. MANDAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the efforts that have been made by the Government of India to secure the return to India of Dr. Telo Mascarenhas the Goa freedom fighter who has recently been released from Jail in Portugal?