

August 18, 1972

Rajya Sabha Q&A on American Reports of the Indian Nuclear Program

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Summary:

Transcript of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Surenda Pal Singh, on accusations in the American media that the Indian nuclear program does not comply with IAEA regulations.

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MINES SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN:)

(a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

†RETRENCHMENT OF WORKERS FROM
CALCUTTA PORT

644. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 850 workers in the Ore handling sector of Calcutta Port were served with notices of retrenchment from 1st April, 1972; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Notices were served on about 850 workers.

(b) This was due to the reduction in the quantities of iron ore exported through the Calcutta Port.

‡B. B. C. TELEVISION BROADCAST

687. SHRI M.K. MOHTA :

SHRI K.C. PANDA:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL:

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGAR-

LAMUDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a report published in the Hindustan Times dated the 14th June, 1972, stating that the British Broadcasting Corporation in a television broadcast has projected the most alarming and gloomy picture of Bangla Desh and its relations with India; and

(b) if so, whether Government of India have procured a copy of the B.B.C. special film and assessed its implications?

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

(a) Yes, Sir. The film, shown over the B.B.C. on June 12, was specially devoted to Bangladesh and its problems. It reviewed the economic and social problems facing Bangla Desh after six months of independence. A considerable part of the programme was devoted to the plight of the non-Bengalis Muslims. Reference to Indo-Bangla Desh relations were very few and only in passing. There was an acknowledgment that India's food aid at the beginning probably saved Bangla Desh twice from death.

(b) We do not normally buy copies of films from televisions companies unless they are of publicity value to us. No copy of this film has been purchased though a tape of the programme has been made.

‡भारतीय नाभिकीय रिएक्टर के सम्बन्ध में अमेरिकी विशेषज्ञों के विचार

683 श्री पंडरीनाथ सोयाराम जी पाटिल :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान कतिपय समाचार-पत्रों में हाल में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि कुछ अमेरिकी विशेषज्ञों के मतानुसार भारतीय नाभिकीय रिएक्टर पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु शक्ति एजेंसी का नियंत्रण न होने के कारण नाभिकीय शस्त्र के विस्तार को रोकने की नीति के लिए खतरा पैदा हो गया है , और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस पर भारत की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

‡[AMERICAN EXPERTS VIEWS ON INDIAN NUCLEAR REACTOR

683. SHRI P. S. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

†Transferred from the 9th August, 1972

‡Transferred from the 10th August, 1972

[] English translation

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports recently published in certain newspapers, according to which some American experts were reported to have said that non-existence of any control of the International Atomic Energy Agency on the Indian Nuclear Reactor had caused danger to the policy of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह) :

(क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) सरकार ने अणु-आयुध न बनाने एवं अणु ऊर्जा को केवल शान्तिपूर्ण उद्देश्यों के लिए प्रयोग करने की अपनी नीति की घोषणा बार-बार की है । सरकार इस बात से सहमत नहीं है कि हमारे रिपब्लिक पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय परमाणु-शक्ति एजेंसी का नियंत्रण न होने से नाभिकीय शस्त्रों के विस्तार को रोकने की नीति को कोई खतरा है ।

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have repeatedly declared its policy of not manufacturing nuclear weapons and of using atomic energy only for peaceful purposes. Government do not agree with the view that the absence of safeguards of the IAEA on our nuclear reactor constitutes a danger to the policy of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.]

‡HINDUSTAN COPPER LIMITED

742. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN:
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to shift the headquarters of Hindustan Copper Project from Khetri to Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Rajasthan Government have represented to the Centre against the said decision; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Apart from Khetri Copper Project and other small deposits in Rajasthan such as Dariba and Chandmari Copper Deposit, Hindustan Copper Limited have under them, the Rakha Copper Project in Bihar; Agnigundala Copper Lead Project in Andhra Pradesh; Malanjhand Copper Deposit in District Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh. In March, 1972, the Company also took over the Management of the Undertaking of Indian Copper Corporation, Ghatsila, Bihar. Considering the fact that the work of Hindustan Copper Limited will thus be spread over a wide area of the country and the related commercial and administrative aspects of the matters, the Board of Directors of the Company made a recommendation to the Government that the headquarters of the Company may be shifted to Delhi or alternatively to Calcutta. Government took the decision to shift the headquarters of the Company to Calcutta as it is centrally located and is also a large commercial centre for selling the rolled products of brass, copper and for buying spare parts, mining machinery etc.

[] English translation

‡Transferred from the 10th August, 1972