

August 2, 1966

**Rajya Sabha Q&A on the Proposal to Destroy
Stockpiles of Atomic Weapons and Their Delivery
Systems.**

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Summary:

Transcript of questions and answers between members of the Rajya Sabha and the Minister of External Affairs, Sardar Swaran Singh, on whether India has placed a proposal for the immediate destruction of the stockpile of atomic weapons and their delivery system at the 17 Nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva.

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of completion of tenure in accordance with the rules in force, if granted a regular commission, or for a specific period if granted non-regular commission, unless permitted by Government to retire earlier. They are subject to their respective Service Acts during their service.

CANADIAN IRRADIATORS

250. SHRI A. D. MANI :
SHRI M. C. SHAH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Atomic Energy Establishment propose to procure two Canadian Cobalt 60-Irradiators for experiments on processing food;

(b) if so, what is the estimated market value of the Irradiators; and

(c) what is the nature of experiments which are going to be conducted ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Two Cobalt-60 irradiators have been offered by the Government of Canada through the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. as a gift under the Colombo Plan.

(b) The market value of the irradiators is estimated at Rs. 19 lakhs approximately.

(c) The irradiators will be used to carry out feasibility trials for preservation of perishable food and for disinfestation of cereals and grains. The irradiators will also be used for experimental studies on sterilisation of medical supplies.

INDO-FRENCH TALKS

251. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the talks between France and India held in June, 1966;

(b) whether any discussion took place about the situation in Vietnam and other South-East Asian problems; and

(c) whether there were talks on cultural and scientific cooperation between these two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) The Indo-French talks which were held at Paris on June 1 and 2, 1966, in pursuance of the agreement between the two countries to have regular consultations alternately in Delhi and Paris, were satisfactory for both the parties.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

KACHCHATIVU ISLAND.

252. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 286 in the Rajya Sabha on 17th May, 1966 and state the outcome of the top-level conference of Indian and Ceylonese officials held to discuss the future of the Kachchativu Island ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : There was no such conference between the officials of India and Ceylon, regarding Kachchativu Island.

DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

253. SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have placed a proposal for the immediate destruction of the stockpile of atomic weapons and their delivery system at the 17-Nation Disarmament Conference recently held at Geneva; and

(b) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir. Government have, however, proposed that in order that the non-nuclear Powers should enter into undertakings not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons, the nuclear weapon Powers should agree to cease further production of nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles and enter into obligations to reduce existing stockpiles in an acceptable manner.

(b) There has been general support for our proposal by non-aligned countries represented in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee. The nuclear Powers have recognized the need to halt and re-

verse the arms race but have not reacted favourably to the inclusion of any such provision as part of a non-proliferation arrangement.

EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN FILMS AT MILAN

254. SHRI M. C. SHAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that four children's films were sent by the Children's Film Society through the Indian High Commission, London for exhibition in the International Film Festival at Milan (Italy); and

(b) what is the cost of production of these four films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 4,66,748.61.

बेल्जियम में 'हेल्प इण्डिया' अभियान

255. श्री महाबीर दास : क्या बेंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बेल्जियम में "हेल्प इण्डिया" अभियान मई, 1966 में प्रारम्भ किया गया था; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस अभियान की रूपरेखा क्या है और उस अभियान के फल-स्वरूप जून, 1966 तक भारत को क्या कोई सहायता प्राप्त हुई है या भविष्य में प्राप्त होने की आशा है ?

†['HELP INDIA' DRIVE IN BELGIUM

255. SHRI MAHABIR DASS : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Help India' drive was started in Belgium in May, 1966; and

(b) if so, what are the outlines of the drive and whether any help was received by India till June, 1966 or any help is expected to be received in the near future as a result thereof ?]

बेंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह) :

(क) और (ख) भारत में अभूतपूर्व सूखे के कारण उत्पन्न कठिन खाद्यस्थिति को देखते हुए, बेल्जियम की सरकार ने 18 मई 1966 को एक प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के रूप में राष्ट्र के नाम एक अपील जारी की थी कि 1 जून 1966 को "भारत के साथ एकता का राष्ट्रीय दिवस" मनाया जाए। विज्ञप्ति के अनुसार, इस राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन का उद्देश्य चंदा इकट्ठा करना था जो मुख्यतः भारत की कृषि पैदावार बढ़ाने की परियोजनाओं में लगाया जाएगा। बेल्जियमियों के महामहिम नरेश ने स्वयं इस कोष में 100,000 बेल्जियम फ्रैंक दिए। इसमें चंदा जमा कराने के लिए डाक-खाता 15 जून 1966 तक सरकारों तौर पर खुला रहा। सरकार के अनुसार, आज तक इसमें 1 करोड़ 10 लाख बेल्जियम फ्रैंक जमा हो चुके हैं। इस हिसाब में भारत को अभी तक कोई रकम प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

†[THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) and (b) In view of the difficult food situation caused in India by unprecedented drought, the Government of Belgium issued an appeal to the Nation in the form of a communique to the press, on May 18, 1966, to observe the 1st June, 1966, as a "National Day of Solidarity with India". The object of this national campaign, according to the communique, was to raise contributions which would chiefly be used to finance projects meant to increase the output of Indian agriculture. His Majesty the King of the Belgians personally contributed a sum of Belgian Francs 100,000 to the fund. The postal account to receive these contributions remained open officially till June 15, 1966. Up to date, according to the Government, a sum of Belgian Francs 11 mill on has been collected. No remittance on this account has yet been received in India.]