

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is an Act of Parliament. The Government of India can impose a general ban. You have the right.

SHRI SOMPAL: It is being enforced. *(Interruptions)*.

AN HON. MEMBER: Let the Prime Minister reply, Sir. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Are you going to assure us that you will ban it or not? That is the issue. *(Interruptions)*.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: For your information, in the month of April, in Visakhapatnam, small boat owners and mechanised boat owners went on a strike. They blocked the Visakhapatnam port protesting against deep-sea vessels and trawlers fishing in the season of breeding. Is it in the notice of the Government of India? What steps are they taking?

SHRI JIBON ROY: Some assurance is required.

SHRI SOMPAL: Off the coast of Kerala, it has been imposed. So far as the other territories are concerned, I will find it out. Secondly,.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: The assurance should be for the whole country...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Poor fishermen are affected....*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, all of you. Hon. Minister, my feeling is that the hon. Members are not satisfied that the ban is being properly imposed. I would request you to find out the information and have a half-an-hour discussion on this issue. Of course, they have to give notice for that.

Now, it has already taken so much of time. We will go to the next question. Question No. 423. Smt. Kamla Sinha.

Joint Statement Issued and Chinese Presidents

*423. **SMT. KAMLA SINHA:†**
PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:

Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent joint statement of US and Chinese Presidents issued from Beijing after the summit meeting regarding their role in South Asia vis-a-vis India-Pakistan issues; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The President of United States of America, William Jefferson Clinton visited China from June 25-July 3, 1998. During the visit, the US President and China's President issued a Joint Statement on South Asia on June 27, 1998.

The main elements of the Joint statement are:

—US and China would “continue to work closely together, with the P-5, Security Council and with others, to prevent an accelerating nuclear and missiles arms race in South Asia, strengthen international non-proliferation efforts, and promote reconciliation and the peaceful resolution of differences between India and Pakistan;

—The “recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan and the resulting increase in tension between them, are a source of deep and lasting concern” to the two sides;

—They called “on India and Pakistan to stop all further nuclear tests and

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Smt. Kamla Sinha.

adhere immediately and unconditionally to the CTBT, to refrain from weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons and from the testing or deployment of missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons or missiles capable of delivering them”;

- They stated their firm commitment to “strong and effective international co-operation on nuclear non-proliferation with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as its cornerstone”;
- Their goal was “adherence of all countries, including India and Pakistan, to the NPT as it stands, without any modification”;
- Their position is that “notwithstanding their recent nuclear tests, India and Pakistan do not have the status of nuclear weapons states in accordance with the NPT”;
- They are determined to fulfil their “commitments relating to nuclear disarmament under Article VI of the NPT” and “commitment to assist, where possible, India and Pakistan to resolve peacefully the difficult and long-standing differences between them, including the issue of Kashmir”;
- They re-affirmed their hope to “jointly and individually contribute to the achievement of a peaceful, prosperous and secure South Asia”;
- They see their joint responsibility “as P-5 members, and States with important relationship with the countries of the regions” requiring them to “contribute actively to the maintenance of peace, stability, and security in the region” and to do all they can to “address the root causes of tension”;

—They stated their commitment “to prevent the export of equipment, materials or technology that could in any way assist programmes in India or Pakistan for nuclear weapons for ballistic missiles capable of delivering such weapons”.

Government categorically reject the notion of any country/countries arrogating to itself/themselves joint or individual responsibility for preserving peace, stability, and security in South Asia. Government will take decisions on nuclear weapon or missile development in accordance with our own national security requirements.

The trend in South Asia is towards greater regional co-operation and economic integration. We have traditionally enjoyed close and cordial relations with our neighbours in South Asia. With Pakistan, we are committed to developing friendly, peaceful and co-operative relations. We reject any third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations.

We seek a friendly, co-operative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchsheel. We see our relationship with China as one in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns. We remain committed to the process of dialogue to resolve outstanding differences.

It has been India's long-term policy to work towards a good, stable relationship with the United States. Both sides are engaged in a broad-based dialogue to broaden and deepen our mutually beneficial relations and to build on areas of co-operation.

SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Sir, the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House is more or less the summarisation of what appeared in the newspapers about the joint statement of President Clinton of the U.S.A. and President Jiang Zemin of China. Well, I

have no dispute over the joint communique that they have issued. But I would like to know this from the Government of India. In the last page of the answer the Minister has given the view-point of the Government of India. It is said, "Government categorically reject the notion of any country/countries arrogating to itself/themselves joint or individual responsibility for preserving peace, stability...". The written answer also states, "We reject any third party involvement in India-Pakistan relations". It is all very good to say that we reject any third party intervention in India-Pakistan relations. But is it not a fact that in the post-Pokhran era we have seen Indo-Pak relations and the Kashmir issue being globalised in every forum in the world? So, I would like to know what the Government is planning to do to neutralise this. The reply also says, "We seek a friendly, cooperative, good-neighbourly and mutually beneficial relationship with China, our largest neighbour, on the basis of Panchshell. We see our relationship with China as one in which both sides are responsive to each other's concerns." Well, this was our established relationship. This was the pre-Pokhran relationship that we had. In the post-Pokhran era, the relationship has changed because of various facts and the Prime Minister himself is aware of all those facts. China has been named as enemy number one of India. So, Sir, what action is the Government taking to normalise our relationship with China? As far as America is concerned, we have a peculiar relationship with America. In the last para of the answer, it has been stated, "it has been India's long-term policy to work towards a good, stable relationship with the United States. Both sides are engaged in a broad-based dialogue to broaden and deepen our mutually beneficial relations and to build on areas of co-operation." Sir, recently, we have seen that our relations have become sour. It has become a sort of love-hate relationship. I would like to know as to what the Government is doing

to improve our relations with America. I know that the Government answer will be: "We are sending our emissaries." But what have the emissaries achieved so far? I would like to know that.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: There are three parts of the question put by the hon. Member. The first is concerning Jammu and Kashmir. We are very clear about the fact that this is a bilateral issue and it will be solved bilaterally. This is not only our view but also the view of the P-5, the UNSC and the G-8 countries. All of them have said in their statement that this is an issue which is a bilateral one, which will be discussed and solved within those parameters. That was the first question. The second question, I think, was about China. As far as we are concerned, we do not see this relationship in static terms. We are two of the largest and most populous countries. We are neighbours and we have historical as well as geographical links. It is important that we have good relations with each other in order to promote peace and stability in this part of Asia. Our relationship is evolving and we hope to be able to carry it to new levels of understanding. We see it in that context in which we will be responsive to each other's concern while working towards enhancing more understanding and friendship. This should make a truly stable and interactive relationship in the 21st century.

As far as the question of relationship with America is concerned, the hon. Member has said and it is known to all of us that the emissaries have gone. It is a relationship that is continuing. We hope to be able to foster this relationship further and to bring an understanding into the relationship shortly.

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Sir, the answer has been on the expected lines. We all knew what the answer was going to be. It is a normal answer that any Government would give in such a situation. We all know that. So far as the

question of Indo-Pak relationship is concerned, the Government is aware of the fact that the previous Government also had been following the same policy. Unfortunately, in the post-Pokhran era, the situation has changed and it is not only the question of acceptance of the view point one of party but the other party also has to agree to whatever you propose. It cannot be unilateral, it has to be bilateral. I do not know what bilateral relationships we have been able to build during the last two, three months. The Minister has said that our relationships with America are very good, deep and of mutually beneficial nature. But today I have read in the newspapers that the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission has been denied visa to enter U.S.A. Is this the manifestation of our relationship? As far as our relationship with England is concerned, I would like to inform the House that three of our nuclear scientists have been denied visa to enter the United Kingdom. Is this a manifestation of our good relationship with our old friend, the United Kingdom?

Only recently, I read in the newspapers that the ASEAN countries had advised us to sign the CTBT and to improve our relationship with our neighbours. What kind of relations are we going to have with all these countries? It does not show, at least to me, that we are having improved relationship. I would like to know what is happening.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this is going to lead to a much wider question. As far as the denial of the visa is concerned, I will put before the House the facts, that Mr. Chidambaram, who was the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, was to attend an Executive Committee meeting of the International Union of Crystallography in his capacity as Vice-President of IUC. An application for US visa was made; this is true. Dr. Chidambaram did not withdraw his visa application, as it is mentioned in the papers. The US Consulate did return the diplomatic passport and the application

fee, and there was no entry made on the passport regarding the application or the denial of visa. These, restrictions come along with those under the US Nuclear Proliferation Act of 1994. We considered this as an attitude which is unwarranted; we completely agree with you. But these are things that will have to be discussed and sorted out at levels at which they are being discussed, and, having been the Minister in charge of this Ministry,—Madam, you do understand that this is a consensual approach; this is an approach that has been adopted by various Governments—I will continue to approach it in that fashion. As far as we are concerned, with America, we intend to make, we hope to make, and we are making, efforts, from both sides, to try and break the impasses, and to try and bring the countries together to levels of understanding which will be beneficial to both the countries.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the phrases used in the Joint Declaration by the US President and the Chinese President. Some of the phrases used almost speak as if these two countries have assumed for themselves some sort of right of hegemony over South Asia. Therefore, in that context when you use the phrase “that India outrightly rejects, categorically rejects, the concept of assuming responsibility of maintaining peace and other things in South Asia”, it is the right response. But merely saying that we are trying to improve our relationship with China and our relationship with USA is not right. The key to the problem lies in improving our relationship with Pakistan because they are getting advantage of the weaknesses in the relationship between India and Pakistan and of the type of hegemonistic approach which has been assumed. If somebody goes through the phrases used in the Joint Declaration, it appears as if it speaks of the pre-colonial days, they themselves are assuming that it

is their responsibility as members of P-5 countries and as nuclear weapon states to maintain peace and tranquility in South Asia. Those were the nuances, the languages used in the pre-cold war era, and that type of phrases have reappeared in the international vocabulary. Therefore, in that context, I would like to know whether the Government of India has noted the differences which the P-5 countries made in the Security Council, and that spirit is not properly reflected in the languages used in the Joint Declaration issued by the Chinese President and the US President.

Part (b) is, in that context, I would also like to know how quickly the Government is going to counter it by strengthening the concept of bilateralism. Can the Minister throw some light on those two points?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I completely agree with the hon. Member that the improvement of relationship with Pakistan is at the core of all this, and, with that in mind, we look forward to the SAARC Summit, which is coming up very shortly, where the two Prime Ministers will meet; we will lay out the process of the kind of dialogue that will take place, and we will also try to settle this question bilaterally between us.

As far as the UNSC Resolution is concerned, as you know, we dissociated ourselves with the Resolution *per se*. We dissociated ourselves with the Resolution. When we look at the Resolution, and the statement of the UNSC and the P-5, statements, they said that it should be looked at bilaterally. I think the world over everybody is concerned with this so-called flash-point. They would also be concerned about seeing that this is sorted out. Therefore, whether it is P-5 or whether it is UNSC or whether it is G-8 or whether it is the South-East Asian countries, Everyone would be concerned about seeing that Pakistan and India met and were able to sit down and work out some *via media* by which this could be contained.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Sir, without going into the question of justification for the explosion, the Prime Minister has been consistently making statements rejecting the joint statement of the Chinese President and the US President. We know that emissaries were sent to the United States and to some other countries which had imposed sanctions. The Prime Minister is going to meet the Pakistan prime Minister in Colombo. I would like to know what the efforts are that the Government is making to normalise relations between China and India. Are any specific steps thought of or taken?

Secondly, after the explosion the Prime Minister has been appealing to all the parties, all the people, the entire nation, to stand united to meet the political, economic and other situations. in reply to a question here he said that he was to inform the Leader of the Opposition before the explosion, but he was not available. But it is very strange that even after two months no meeting of the NDC, no meeting of the Chief Ministers, no meeting of the Inter-State Council is called, nor is a meeting of all the political parties called. Does it mean that they want to make it a party issue? Do they want to take it as a national issue and seek the co-operation of all the people? I would like to know this from the hon. Prime Minister specifically.

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी): सभापति महोदय, देश में विदेश नीति के सवाल पर एक आम सहमति रही है। वह आम सहमति बनी रहे, इस दिशा में सरकार सभी प्रयत्न करती रही है। जहां तक बैठकें बुलाने का सवाल है, बैठकें होती रही हैं, बैठकों का आयोजन आगे भी होने वाला है। किसी के मन में यह संदेह नहीं होना चाहिए कि हम इस सवाल पर सबको साथ लेकर नहीं चलना चाहते। इस समय जो परिस्थिति है, उसमें देश को एक होकर खड़ा होना है और मुझे इस बात का संतोष है कि अधिकांश दलों और उनके नेताओं ने रचनात्मक रवैया अपनाया है। इसके और आगे बढ़ाने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है।

श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन: सभापति महोदय, प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अपनी बात स्पष्ट कर दी है। अब मुझे इस बारे में कुछ नहीं कहना है।

श्री राम गोपाल यादव: श्रीमन् जब से सोवियत यूनियन का डिस्इटीग्रेशन हुआ, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति में बिल्कुल दादागिरी की राजनीति करने लगा और जिस तरह की भाषा का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है, ऐसा लगता है कि जैसे साउथ एशिया इसके जागीर बन गई है। मैं माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि कभी अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति जॉर्ज वाशिंगटन ने कहा था...

"To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace."

जब दोनों ताकते इस बात पर आमदा है कि किसी न किसी तरह से देश को अपमानित करें और जरूरत पड़ने पर आक्रमण भी कर सकती हैं तो क्या हमारा ऐटीच्यूड ऐसा होगा कि हम अपने को इतना सक्षम रखें कि उनका मुकाबला कर सकें?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी: सभापति जी, भारत हर परिस्थिति का सामना करने के लिए तैयार रहे, इसी दृष्टि से पोखरन में परमाणु परीक्षण किया गया था। चीन और अमेरिका ने संयुक्त रूप से जो कुछ कहा है वह नितांत आपत्तिजनक है। हम उसे अस्वीकार करते हैं। वर्तमान विश्व में इस तरह के तथाकथित संरक्षण देने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। दक्षिण एशिया के देश अपनी शान्ति-सुरक्षा बनाए रखने में समर्थ हैं और समस्याओं को आपस में मिल बैठकर हल करने के लिए तैयार हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Extension of "Deemed Export" Benefits to new refineries

*424. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have extended "Deemed Export" benefits for equipment supplies to new refineries to be set-up in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether these benefits are being given to all items imported by the oil and gas sector; and

(c) whether these benefits are applicable to foreign companies only or joint ventures also?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir; for the oil and gas sector (excluding refineries), in addition to equipment supplies to new refineries coming up in the Ninth Five Year Plan, deemed export benefits are available for domestic supplies of eligible capital goods to on-shore and off-shore oil and gas exploitation and exploration projects.

(c) Demand Export benefits are available in respect of supplies of domestically manufactured goods without reference to the suppliers' equity structure.

Opening of additional consulate in Dammam

*425. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would take measures to strengthen the Indian Missions in various countries in the Gulf region in order to equip them to handle expatriate problems; and

(b) whether Government would take steps to open one additional consulate in Dammam in view of the heavy workload in the Indian Embassy at Riyadh and consulate office at Jeddah?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) and (b) The Ministry regularly sends teams of Foreign Service Inspectors to the Gulf region who supervise the working of the Missions and the workload and make recommendations with regard to staff strength. The Government has recently sanctioned 67 additional posts at various missions in the region.