

TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): The question is:

"That at page 5, line 11, for the words "three years", the words "five years" be substituted."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, CPI is always flexible. The CPM is not flexible. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, Now he should withdraw his comment about the CPM. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It was not a comment. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was a tribute that he paid. ...*(Interruptions)*... How responsive the Minister is! ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: He has done it only now because a man has been nominated on the Board from Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): The Minister has accepted two amendments. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: one from Kerala and one from Tamil Nadu! ...*(Interruptions)*...

*Clauses 13 to 24 were added to the Bills*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, I move that the Bill, as amended be passed.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### IMPROVED PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS WITH PAKISTAN

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):

As honourable Members are aware,

Indo-Pakistan official level talks at Foreign Secretary level are due to be held from March 28 to 31 in New Delhi. Talks at a higher level are also expected thereafter. We approach these talks in a positive and constructive spirit.

As honourable Members would have noticed, Pakistan has announced its decision to release 38 Indian children who have been under detention in Pakistan since 1994. We appreciate this gesture. These children were travelling on Indian fishing vessels which were apprehended by Pakistani authorities over two years ago. We have made many representations on their behalf and I had raised the issue with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yakub Khan when I met him on December 18, 1996 in New Delhi. It is a matter of satisfaction that Pakistan has now responded positively, and steps have already been initiated by us to ensure that the children are brought from Pakistan to India at the earliest. May I also convey our deep gratitude to Maulana Abdul Sattar Edhi who has taken good care of them for over a year and a half while they were lodged in the Edhi Centre in Karachi.

As honourable Members are aware, travel by Pakistani nationals to India, under a reciprocal arrangement with Pakistan, is permitted only on the basis of visitors visa. These visas are meant essentially for visits to meet close relations. This is obviously very restrictive. In keeping with our policy to promote people-to-people relations, we have decided to permit Pakistani tourists to visit India in groups. This, as honourable Members will agree, is a major new unilateral step in the right direction. In addition, we have also decided to ease travel by Pakistani businessmen to India. They will now be eligible to one year multi-entry visa and, if travelling by air, they can exit and enter either through Mumbai or Delhi. The other measures we will implement are:

- (i) Young and elderly Pakistani visitors will be exempt from police

reporting. This will give them relief from what can be a troublesome requirement.

- (ii) Visa fees for senior Pakistani citizens will be waived.
- (iii) The number of religious shrines in India which can be visited by Pakistani pilgrims will be increased.
- (iv) Expansion of cultural contacts between the two countries will be encouraged through exchanges of cultural groups, artistes, poets and writers. Visits by students and journalists will also be encouraged. All these categories will be exempt from visa fees.
- (v) Free flow of books and periodicals establishes better appreciation of each other. Therefore, India will unilaterally permit their import in keeping with our general policies.

The measures that I announce today are designed to add to the goodwill between the peoples of the two countries. They are an emblem of our earnest desire to establish and maintain relations of friendship and cooperation with our neighbour Pakistan. I am confident that this gesture on our part will have the support of Hon'ble Members.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI):** Now, I have a fairly large number of names here of hon. Members who want to seek clarifications. My only request is that it would be better if the clarifications are in the form of only questions.

**SHRI JOHN. F. FERNANDES:** He is not here. Dr. Biplab Dasgupta.

**DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (West Bengal):** Sir, I do not have much to say on this.

In fact, I congratulate the Foreign Minister for taking the initiative for improving our relations with Pakistan. It might look as being unilateral, but, at

the same time, I feel, as such an initiative has succeeded in improving our relations with Bangladesh, I am sure that it may generate a good response from the other side. My experience outside the country has always been that whenever I came across any Pakistani, either individually or even collectively, we have always received nothing but warmth from them. There is so much which unites us, India and Pakistan. The language is certainly one of the factors. There are cultural ties and so many other things. I think, it is important for us that our relations with Pakistan should be improved. In fact, after we have succeeded in improving our relations with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and several other countries, the initiative for improving our relations with Pakistan should not have been delayed so long. Therefore, I am very glad that the initiative has been taken.

I only want to know from the Foreign Minister whether, in this Foreign Secretary level meeting which is being held between the 28th and the 31st of March, in addition to the issues like these, we are also going to take up the question of the SAFTA for economic co-operation and whether there is any possibility of going into the question of having the same economic arrangement with Pakistan which we have entered into with Bangladesh. I would very much like to know this.

I have nothing more to add.

I congratulate the Foreign Minister for taking the initiative.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI):** Mr. M.A. Baby. He is not here.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal):** Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

I hope that this statement of the hon. Minister, particularly when we are going to have the official-level discussions with

Pakistan from the 28th of March, would create the right type of atmosphere to hold the talks in a spirit of appreciation and cordiality.

Sir, it is well known to all of us that during the last five decades our relation with Pakistan has undergone many changes. Despite our desire to have good neighbourly relations, unfortunately, because of various factors, it could not be so. Though there were some gestures, official level talks could not resume for quite some time. With the establishment of the new Government, with the success of the experiments with democratic forces in Pakistan, when the new Prime Minister of Pakistan indicated that he would like to normalise the relationship, the response from India was quite encouraging.

One of the most important elements in today's diplomacy is people-to-people relationship. If we can expand, what is called, the second-channel diplomacy, if we can build it up, then, it helps to soften the official positions which officials cannot do formally because of lack of proper appreciation. This approach has paid dividends in improving our relations with our neighbouring countries. I remember that in early 1990s when meetings were held between the Chambers of Commerce of Bangladesh and India, that, to a great extent, paved the way for expanding the commercial relations between these two countries.

The same approach should be adopted with Pakistan. On an umpteen number of occasions we have shared our views on how to expand our relations. I am not passing on the blame to anybody. But, unfortunately, it did not happen. Therefore, this is a good gesture, I must say, to declare unilaterally that we are taking some positive steps. These positive steps are basically to help Pakistani citizens who want to come to India.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one thing. He has exempted particularly young and old visitors from reporting to police stations. Earlier they were to report to the police on their arrival. This was a really unfortunate situation. If we can improve our intelligence collection and if our law-enforcing machinery is strong enough, it could be gradually extended to every visitor. This would be desirable. But, perhaps, with expansion of undesirable activities by some intelligence agencies, it was not possible for the Minister to extend this to all categories of visitors. It is a good gesture that he has exempted the young and old visitors from reporting to the local Police authorities. I do hope it will be appreciated.

Similarly, the exchange of cultural troupes encouraging cultural programmes between the two countries will also go a long way.

On one point I would like him to be a little careful. That is about the import of books and literature from Pakistan. I have no objection if a large number of books and literature from Pakistan come to India, but if that route is utilised by others for bringing in books and literature from the third countries, then the whole objective would be lost. So, I think detailed rules and other things are to be worked out there.

I do hope this would be responded positively by well-intentioned citizens of Pakistan. They will appreciate it in the right spirit and it will create a proper atmosphere.

I cannot expect that ice will be broken in one round of negotiations, but even if we can make a small beginning, it will help us, because it is clearly admitting the old maxim that one should not sit at the negotiation table in fear. But, at the same time, one should not be afraid of sitting at the negotiation table to exchange views and ideas. On the eve of resumption of

talks between the two countries at the official level, this is a good gesture. I do hope it will be appreciated by all concerned, particularly by our friends in Pakistan in the right spirit.

**SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi):** Sir, it is good that 38 Indian children have returned. I know the Edhi Foundation is doing excellent work here. But, I do not feel very comfortable with some of the things that the hon. Minister has mentioned here. He has referred to visa fees. This is a very minor thing. Nobody bothers about the visa fees these days.

You have said that young and elderly Pakistani visitors will be exempt from reporting to the police. I can understand that. But, I think, women can also be exempted from reporting to the police.

However, I feel there is too much of unilateralism in this. We are going to start with Pakistani tourists being given group visas. Taking initiative for some time is understandable, but, if Pakistan does not respond, we will have to consider withdrawing these concessions.

The hon. Minister also says that the number of religious shrines in India, which can be visited by Pakistani pilgrims, will be increased. What are these places, we would like to know. To the best of my knowledge, there is Ajmer and then there is Haj in Assam. I have never heard of any third place of any religious significance for Muslims.

Since the hon. Minister has decided on this, let him give a trial for three months. Let us see whether Pakistan responds. If it does not respond, we might have to give another thought to this. That is all I have to say.

**DR. M. ARAM (Nominated):** Sir, I very warmly welcome the hon. Minister's statement and support the various steps he has outlined.

During my visits to Pakistan, I found for myself an enormous goodwill, particularly at the people-to-people level.

different countries, we have one people with one culture.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister to clarify whether the various groups that he has mentioned could be further expanded. There are student groups and youth groups. Many NGOs are working for peace and amity between Pakistan and India. I would like to know whether these groups will be included. For instance, there is a World Conference on Religion and Peace. It happened to be actively associated with it for many years. They have helped in inter-religious goodwill meetings. If there is further expansion, then, it would help. I would like to suggest that on the 50th anniversary of our Independence, on the golden jubilee celebrations of our Independence, there can be intensified joint programmes. Thus the goodwill generated from these joint programmes can be further augmented. I would request the hon. Minister to comment on it. I again congratulate the hon. Minister and warmly welcome his statement. Thank you.

**डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा (गुजरात):** धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं थोड़ी देर से आया था तो मैं हिन्दी में पहले पढ़ने लगा। हिन्दी में लिखा है "हमने पाकिस्तानी पर्यटकों को काफिलों में भारत आने की इजाजत देने का फैसला किया है। माननीय सदस्य इस बात से सहमत होंगे कि सही दिशा में एक प्रमुख, नया द्विपक्षीय कदम है।" महोदय, जब मल्कानी जी ने कहा "यूनीलैट्रल" तो मैंने अंग्रेजी में देखा। मुझे लगा कि यह गलती क्यों हो गयी? हिन्दी में लिखा है कि "द्विपक्षीय कदम है" और अंग्रेजी में लिखा है "यूनीलैट्रल"।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): मैरे ख्याल से यह टेपोग्राफिकल एरर है, ट्रांसलेशन की, अनुवाद की गलती है। क्योंकि यूनीलैट्रल कहा था...

**डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** महोदय, ऐसी गलती विदेश मंत्रालय से न हो तो अच्छा है। मान्यवर, पाकिस्तान के साथ जब भी हम लोग चर्चा करते हैं, बातचीत करते हैं तो हमारा एक अनुभव है और वह अनुभव है कि भारत सदैव ही एक पक्षीय सद्भाव से आगे बढ़ते हैं। वह

सचिव स्तरीय वार्ता हो रही है और वार्ता से पहले माननीय विदेशी मंत्री सदन से चर्चा कर रहे हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि माननीय विदेशी मंत्री और विदेश मंत्रालय इस बात से निश्चित रूप से वाकिफ होंगे कि हम इस एक पक्षीयता को द्विपक्षीयता में कैसे बदलें? इसके लिए कुछ विशेष ध्यान और सोच-विचार की आवश्यकता है। अभी नयी-नयी सरकार पाकिस्तान में आयी है। मुझे मालूम नहीं कि यह एकपक्षीय सद्भाव का प्रदर्शन करने की हमें क्या जरूरत पड़ी है? मैं विदेश मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा कि क्या दूसरे पक्ष से हमें कोई ऐसे संकेत मिले हैं जिन संकेतों को हम इस सद्भाव में रिसपोंड करना चाहते हैं? यदि वह संकेत मिले हैं तो हमें रिसपोंड करना ही चाहिए। इसमें जो प्रवाधान रखे हैं, वह निश्चय ही अभिनेदनीय हैं। साहित्य का आवागमन, पत्र-पत्रिकाओं का आवागमन, लोगों का आवागमन जितना सरल हो, जितना सुगम हो, उतनी मात्रा में। यह जो गलती विभाजन की हुई, उस गलती को हम दुरुस्त कर सकते हैं। लेकिन मान्यवर, मुझे मालूम है कि कितने ही ऐसे लोग हैं जो भारत में रहते हैं, जिनके पूर्वज पाकिस्तान में थे, जिनके तीर्थ पाकिस्तान में हैं और यदि वह आज वहाँ तीर्थ यात्रा करने जाएँ—विदेश मंत्री जी को मैंने खुद एक पत्र लिखा था कि एक नितान्त वयोवृद्ध व्यक्ति जिनके गुरु पाकिस्तान में रहते हैं और जिनकी यहाँ मृत्यु होने वाली है, वह एक बार वहाँ जाना चाहते हैं और उनको वीजा प्राप्त नहीं हो पा रहा है — तो एक और हम काफिलों को वीजा देने का अपनी ओर से आग्रह कर रहे हैं और दूसरी ओर एक कयोदुद्धि आदमी वहाँ जाना चाहता है, उसको वीजा नहीं मिलता है। तो मान्यवर, ऐसे सद्भाव की एकपक्षीयता समझ नहीं आती। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि विदेश मंत्री जी इसका स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे।

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (PONDICHERY):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister of External Affairs is welcome. It is a step for the purpose of improving our relations with Pakistan. I know that the hon. Minister is a good friend of Pakistan. As for the issues and the good gesture which the hon. Minister has showed, we have no quarrel about them. The hon. Minister has said that high-level talks, at the official level, are going to be held between 28th March and 31st March this year. I would like to know from the

agenda fixed for the high-level talks at the Secretaries' level. I do not want to vitiate the atmosphere now. But I would like to tell the hon. Minister the apprehension in my mind. Several times official talks, high-level talks, were held and they failed because of one reason that Pakistan tried to bring the issue of Kashmir. Therefore, I would like to know what the agenda, a mutually agreed agenda, is. Or, is there any pre-condition for high-level talks between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan? No doubt, the Prime Minister of Pakistan is a new Prime Minister and he has also given a very good account of the talks between both the countries. We do hope that Pakistan Government will respond positively. I know that because of the strained relationship, even in getting a Visa, there have been difficulties for the people of Indian origin and they could not go there to meet their family members. There were a lot of difficulties. Some of those people approached us also for telling the hon. Minister. In some cases, the husband is there and the wife is living here. She could not get the Visa to go to Pakistan. It is very serious matter. Therefore, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will use his good offices to convince the Pakistan Government that in genuine cases, Visa cannot be denied for the Indian people to go to Pakistan to meet their family members. I want the hon. Minister to respond to these two important points. Thank you.

**SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (KARNATAKA):** Sir, I welcome this historic decision in the 50th year of our Independence. I must congratulate the hon. Minister on his bold decision, a unilateral decision. The decision is welcome throughout the country. A new chapter has started....

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI):**

Prime Minister of Pakistan has responded very well. And I am sure that this beginning by India will go a long way in building up the relationship between the two countries and removing the differences which we have got. By our unilateral decision, I am sure, all the problems between the two countries can be solved. If we maintain this spirit, I am sure that it will force Pakistan also to respond to the gesture which our country has made. I once again congratulate the hon. Minister on this gesture.

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सबसे पहले मैं माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी को हार्दिक धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने भारत की तरफ से पाकिस्तान के साथ संबंधों को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए पहल की है। पाकिस्तान के जो नये प्रधान मंत्री बने हैं उन्होंने एलान किया और इच्छा जहिर की है कि हम भारत के साथ संबंध सुधारना चाहते हैं। इस बारे में विदेश सचिव के स्तर पर 28 मार्च से 31 मार्च तक दिल्ली में वार्ता होने जा रही है। साथ ही साथ दो वर्षों से हमारे बच्चे पाकिस्तान में...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी): अंसारी साहब बात आप ठीक कह रहे हैं लेकिन क्लेरिफिकेशन पूछने के लिए नौ नाम अभी बाकी हैं।

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी: ठीक है। उन बच्चों की रिहाई के लिए जो प्रयास हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने किया है उसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। उनकी सरकार ने अपनी पहल से बच्चों की रिहाई के लिए एलान किया है इस पर मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इन दो सरकारों के स्तर पर संबंध में सुधारे जाने के प्रयास का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि भारत और पाकिस्तान की जनता के बीच जो संबंध बनेंगे वे संबंध ज्यादा मजबूत होंगे। हमारे मन में यह आशंका बनी रहती है कि हम तो अपनी ओर से पहल कर रहे हैं लेकिन वहां की सरकार हमारी पहल को ठुकरा देगी तो हमारे प्रयास का क्या होगा। देखा यह गया है कि अगर दो देशों की जनता के बीच की मैत्री मजबूत होती है और अगर उस देश की सरकार नहीं भी चाहती है तो जनता उसके लिए उस देश में संघर्ष भी करती है। दो देशों की जनता के बीच मैत्री बनी रहेगी तो...

भी आयेंगे तो इससे लगता है कि दोनों देशों की जनता के बीच जो संबंध बनेंगे वे काफी महत्वपूर्ण होंगे। हमारे माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी ने दो देशों की जनता के बीच में जो संबंध सुधारे हैं वे और भी महत्वपूर्ण बनें। इस दिशा में उनके और क्या-क्या प्रयास होने वाले हैं इसकी जानकारी भी वे हमें देने का प्रयास करें।

† श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी ने कहा: अब  
सिखापत्ती अधिकांश मजदूरों से सब से पहले  
मैं माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी को "हार्दिक धन्यवाद"  
देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने भारत की तरफ से  
पाकिस्तान के साथ संबंधों को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए  
पहल की है। पाकिस्तान के जो नये प्रधान मंत्री बने  
हैं उन्होंने एलान किया और इच्छा जहिर की है कि हम  
भारत के साथ संबंध सुधारना चाहते हैं। इस बारे में  
विदेश सचिव के स्तर पर 28 मार्च से 31 मार्च तक  
दिल्ली में वार्ता होने जा रही है। साथ ही साथ दो वर्षों  
से हमारे बच्चे पाकिस्तान में...

अब सिखापत्ती अधिकांश मजदूरों की नाकह ज़रूरी है;  
अंसारी साहब बात आप ठीक कह रहे हैं लेकिन  
क्लेरिफिकेशन पूछने के लिए नौ नाम अभी  
और बाकी हैं।

श्री जलालुद्दीन अंसारी: ठीक है।  
उन बच्चों की रिहाई के लिए जो प्रयास हमारे माननीय मंत्री जी ने किया है उसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ। उनकी सरकार ने अपनी पहल से बच्चों की रिहाई के लिए एलान किया है इस पर मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इन दो सरकारों के स्तर पर संबंध में सुधारे जाने के प्रयास का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन सबसे बड़ी बात तो यह है कि भारत और पाकिस्तान की जनता के बीच जो संबंध बनेंगे वे संबंध ज्यादा मजबूत होंगे। हमारे मन में यह आशंका बनी रहती है कि हम तो अपनी ओर से पहल कर रहे हैं लेकिन वहां की सरकार हमारी पहल को ठुकरा देगी तो हमारे प्रयास का क्या होगा। देखा यह गया है कि अगर दो देशों की जनता के बीच की मैत्री मजबूत होती है और अगर उस देश की सरकार नहीं भी चाहती है तो जनता उसके लिए उस देश में संघर्ष भी करती है। दो देशों की जनता के बीच मैत्री बनी रहेगी तो...

انہی سرکار نے اپنی پہل سے بچوں کی رہائی  
 کیلئے اعلان کیا ہے اس پر میں یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں  
 کہ ان دو سرکاروں کے استرپر تعلقات  
 بہتر بنائے جانے کی کوششوں میں خیر مقدم  
 کرتا ہوں۔ لیکن سب سے بڑی بات تو یہ  
 ہے کہ بھارت اور پاکستان کی جنتا کے بیچ  
 جو سمبندھ بننے کے وہ سمبندھ زیادہ مضبوط  
 ہونگے۔ ہمارے مئی میں یہ آئینہ نمایاں  
 رہتی ہے کہ انہی طرف سے پہل کر رہے ہیں  
 لیکن وہاں کی سرکار ہماری پہل کو سٹکر  
 دیتی تو ہمارے ہر پاس کا کیا ہو گا جیسا  
 یہ گیا ہے کہ دو دیشوں کی جنتا کے بیچ کی  
 میٹری مضبوط ہوتی ہے اور اگر اس دیش  
 کی سرکار ایس جی جانتی ہے تو جنتا کے  
 لئے اس دیش میں سنگٹھن میں کرتی ہے۔  
 دو دیشوں کی جنتا کی میٹری بنی رہے گی

تو ہم سمجھتے ہیں جو اصول نے حکومتنا ایس  
 کیا ہیں کہ چھاتروں اور پترکاروں کی  
 ٹوی آئیٹنگی۔ کلامار۔ ٹوی اور پیکٹ  
 جس آئیٹنگی تو اس سے لگتا ہے کہ دونوں  
 دیشوں کی جنتا کے بیچ جو سمبندھ بنیں گے  
 وہ کافی بہتر پورن ہونگے۔ ہمارے  
 مانڈیم و دیش میٹری جی نے دو دیشوں  
 کی جنتا کے بیچ میں جو سمبندھ سدھارے  
 ہیں وہ اور بھی بہتر پورن بنیں۔ اس

دشامیں آئے اور کیا کیا ہر پاس ہوں  
 ورنے ہیں اس کی جانکاری بھی وہ ہمیں  
 دینے کا ہر پاس کریں۔ " ختم شو"

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI  
 (Rajasthan): Sir, I welcome the statement  
 made by the hon. Minister. There are  
 two ways by which the contacts between  
 the people of the two countries can be  
 established and which can prove to be  
 very useful. Fifty years ago, when the  
 Asian Relations Conference had taken  
 place, India was not divided, and  
 Pakistan had joined India as a united  
 country in that conference. I would  
 submit that the Asian Relations  
 Conference opportunity should be utilised  
 for improving the relations between the  
 two countries. Secondly, we welcome the  
 relief given in visa fee. Very many  
 unilateral and bold decisions are required  
 to be taken so far as our relations with  
 Pakistan are concerned. On the eve of  
 partition of India, Mahatma Gandhi had  
 threatened that he would not seek visa to  
 visit Pakistan. This is a far cry today. We  
 cannot think of such a situation now. But  
 I would like to urge upon the Minister  
 that one must think of it. It may be  
 implemented after five or ten years.

Thirdly, I would like to submit that the  
 free flow of books and periodicals is very  
 important and should be encouraged.  
 Students from various countries are  
 studying in our universities. Can the  
 Government of India offer scholarships to  
 them? It would prove to be a great thing  
 if the students from Pakistan, who are  
 studying in India, are given scholarsips.  
 In this way, we will be able to develop  
 contacts between the young generation  
 which would prove to be very useful for  
 future. I would like to say one more  
 thing. Just now, I made a referenc to  
 the Asian Relations Conference. This is  
 the 50th year of our independence and  
 we should utilise this opportunity.

Perhaps, the Minister might recollect that during Pandit Ji's time, the then President of Pakistan, Gulam Mohd. alongwith Dr. Khan and others, had visited India on the eve of 26th January. That had paved the way for strengthening the relationships between the two countries, which was not thought of at that time. I think this was the first time when anti-India feelings were not roused in Pakistan during the general elections. If the exchange of politicians and MPs can take place, it would help in creating a very healthy climate which was seen during the elections in Pakistan. Thank you.

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ जतुबेदी):** श्री मोहम्मद सलीम। श्री ईशदत जी, आपका नाम बहुत पहले आया था, आप चले गए थे।

**श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल):** धैंक यू बेरी धन्ध। पहले तो मैं धंत्री जी को धुबारकबाद देता हूँ...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ जतुबेदी):** वह तो काफी ही चुका है।

**श्री मोहम्मद सलीम (पश्चिमी बंगाल):** वह धुबारकबाद के धुस्तक हैं। मैं घास कुछ करेह सजेरेश भी है।

Because I am one of the people who are working at the grassroot level to improve our relations with the neighbouring countries. Please allow me to put questions.

वहला तो यह है कि जब मुस्क का धार्शिशन नहीं हुआ था, उस समय जो पौस्टल सिस्टम था वह दो देशों के बीच में था। अब यह तीन देश हो गए हैं, पाकिस्तान, बंगाल देश और इंडिया। लेकिन पौस्टल, पोस्ट कार्ड, लिफाके पूरी दुनिया के लिए तमाम किस्मों के हैं और पाकिस्तान और बंगला देश के लिए दूसरे रेट के हैं। लेकिन इन 50 सालों के अन्दर नये नये फैक्स, आई-एस-डी, एमेल ये नयी चीजें आई हैं। इनके जो रेट हैं वे कंसेशनल नहीं हैं। पुराने जमाने में मीडियम रेट थे और इससे एक दूसरे देश की जनता के साथ सम्पर्क करने के लिए कंसेशनल रेट थे। लेकिन नये दौर में जो ये तमाम किस्म की चीजें आई हैं इनमें कंसेशनल रेट्स नहीं हैं।

If you want to really improve relations between the two countries, people-to-people relations.

तो आपको यह जो आई-एस-डी है, इसमें भी एशियन कन्टीज में यह होता है, नेबरिंग कन्टीज के कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्टर से क्या आप बात करेंगे या नहीं? ताकि वे टेलीफोन पर एक दूसरे के साथ बात कर सकें और जर्नलिस्ट भी कंसेशनल रेट पर अपनी बातों का आदान-प्रदान कर सकें। जैसे पोस्ट कार्ड और पत्रों के लिए है।

दूसरा है कि आउटस्टैंडिंग इश्यू बहुत हैं उनको आप फॉरेन सेक्रेटरी लेवल पर लेंगे और बाद में जो ऊपर के तबके पर मीटिंग करेंगे वह ठीक है। लेकिन यह हमें ध्यान में रखना पड़ेगा कि जो नई जनरेशन दोनों मुल्कों में आई है और वह जनरेशन 46 के फसाद और 47 की तकसीम से ज्यादा अहमियत रखते हैं आज जो दूरिज्म, ट्रेड, कामर्स, बिजनेस और ट्रांसपोर्ट में दो नजदीकती मुल्क आपस में तालमेल बिठाकर एक दूसरे की तरकी में मदद कर सकें और वे आगे बढ़ सकें इसके लिए आपको यह कदम जाकई बहुत अच्छा है। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि 3.2 में जैसा आपने कहा है कि "Visa fees for senior Pakistan citizens will be waived." उसमें आप यह भी क्यों नहीं करते हैं कि कार वि स्टूडेंट। यूथ स्टूडेंट। जैसा आपने आगे के कदम में रखा है... (ब्यवधान)... मुस्क के बारे में तो है कि एक्सचेंज आफ मुस्क होंगे, इंडिविजुअली भी आयेंगे...

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I accept it.

**श्री मोहम्मद सलीम:** धैंक यू। ताकि नयी जनरेशन को नयी दुनिया देखने का मौका मिले। आपने 3.3 में लिया है कि

"The number of religious shrines in India which can be visited by Pakistani pilgrims will be increased."

I suggest that apart from religious shrines, historical monuments, which we commonly share, both the countries, should also be included. Not only the religious shrines but the historical monuments also should be included.

ताजमहल हो या कुतुब मीनार हो या मुर्शिदाबाद के पैलेस हों। उसको भी आप कहेंगे कि देखो यह हमारा ट्रेडीशन है और एक साथ हम कामन हिस्ट्री शेयर करते हैं।



So, you please include the historical monuments and the cultural centres also.

तीसरा है, जैसा आपने एक्सचेंज आफ थुप किया है, वैसे आप आगे, यह थोड़ा लाउड थिंकिंग हो सकता है लेकिन हम कुछ फेयर एंड फेस्टिवल आर्गनाइज कर सकते हैं Whether we can also arrange some fairs and festivals to project our own culture, you can find it out. सांस्कृतिक थुप के आदान-प्रदान के साथ-साथ फेयर एंड फेस्टिवल आर्गनाइज किए जा सकते हैं। जब जेस्वर आप दिखा रहे हैं और यूनीलेटरली दिखा रहे हैं, दोनों मुल्कों में ऐसे लोग हैं, लोग करीब आये वह नहीं चाहते। ऐसे तो बहुत से मुल्क हैं जो चाहते हैं कि सरकार करीब आए वह चाहते हैं लेकिन लोग करीब आ जायें ऐसा नहीं चाहते हैं। तो थोड़ा इधर-उधर आपके मानडर इरीटेशन तो रहेंगे। लेकिन यह बहुत अच्छा है और आप जो बिजनेस मैन के लिए रहे हैं कि मल्टी एन्ट्री वीसा should be valid for one year. उनको भी मल्टी एन्ट्री रहना चाहिए चाहे कुछ भी हो चाहे वह कैलामिटीज हो, चाहे पोलिटिकल एवेंट्स हो यहां के जर्नलिस्ट वहां जा सकते हैं। अभी यह जो पाकिस्तान के इलेक्शन हुए हैं इस इलेक्शन में जर्नलिस्ट के बड़ा इम्पार्टेंट रोल प्ले किया है। Why don't you include, at least, journalists among others? जो कुछ अखबार में निकला है उससे पता चलता है कि लोगों का मूड क्या है। इसलिए जर्नलिस्ट को भी अगर आप मल्टी एन्ट्री वीसा में इन्क्लूड कर देंगे तो वह ठीक रहेगा। बहुत से लोगों ने यह कहा है कि...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी):** आप सवाल पूछिए। और क्या कहते हैं यह आप छोड़ दीजिए। आठ नाम और हैं। मेहरबानी करके सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री मोहम्मद स्लीम:** हां, मैं वही कह रहा हूं। मैं संजेशन दे रहा हूं।

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:** It is a question of time, Mr. Salim.

**SHRI MD. SALIM:** I am not expanding I am quickly covering the points You will be happy to know this.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:** I will be happy to know what you say. But I am trying to accommodate all.

**SHRI MD. SALIM:** The Minister of External Affairs is involved in this person-to-person talk.

पीपल टू पीपल रिलेशन पर सिटीजन थुप काम कर रहे हैं।

They are active without any encouragement from the Government.

हमारे यहां तो थोड़ी-बहुत सहायता मिल जाती है, वहां पेटरोनेज नहीं मिलता है। लेकिन ऐसी शिकायत होती है कि हमारे यहां पर वहां के आर्टिस्ट आ कर के काम करते हैं लेकिन यहां के आर्टिस्ट वहां जा कर के काम क्यों नहीं कर सकते। अभी कलकत्ता में पाकिस्तानी सिटीजंस और इण्डियन सिटीजंस की पीपल टू पीपल काम्फरेंस हो रही थी तो वहां एक संवाददाता ने पूछा कि आपके मुल्क में हमारे आर्टिस्टों को परफार्म करने का मौका नहीं मिलता है लेकिन हमारे मुल्क में आपके आर्टिस्ट काम करते हैं। पाकिस्तान के कल्चरल विंग के एक्टीविस्ट ने बताया कि अभी कुछ दिन पहले पाकिस्तान में हमारे ही आर्टिस्टों को परफार्म करने की परमिशन नहीं थी, आप वहां जा कर के करने की बात कर रहे हैं।

We are proud of our cultural system, our democratic heritage. हमें जेस्वर दिखाना पड़ेगा एक बड़े मुल्क के नाते, अपनी तहज़ीब और ट्रेडीशन के नाते और एक डेमोक्रेटिक सेट-अप के नाते। यह हमने बंगलादेश के साथ दिखाया है, हमने नेपाल के साथ दिखाया है और हमारे जो दूसरे पड़ोसी मुल्क हैं वो करीब आने की कोशिश करेंगे उनके यहां क्राम विदिन प्रेशनर तैयार होगा मैं मुबारकबाद देता हूं। हमें दिखाना पड़ेगा, हमें वह मिसाल कायम करनी पड़ेगी, शक्ति हमारे पास है। हम अगर करेंगे तो वह मुल्क भी एक कदम आगे बढ़ेंगे। अगर उनको शक भी होगा, शुबहा भी होगा तो भी एक आधा कदम बढ़ने के लिए वह मजबूर होंगे। हम इस मुल्क में अच्छे टाल्लुकात पैदा कर सकेंगे। इसमें आपका जो नेतृत्व है हम कामयाब होंगे। अब तक यू.एफ. गवर्नमेंट ने जो कोशिश की है, सही दिशा में सही कदम उठाए हैं, यह भी एक सही कदम है। आने वाले दिनों में हमारे टाल्लुकात और सही होंगे, यह मैं उम्मीद करता हूं। शुक्रिया।

† [شری محمد سلیم پیشین بنیال: "تھینگو  
ویریج۔ پہلے تو مشری جی کو مبارکباد دیتا  
ہوں۔۔۔۔۔"

اب سمجھا دیجئے: وہ تو کافی بھو  
چکا ہے۔

شری محمد سلیم: وہ مبارکباد کے مستحق  
ہیں۔ میرے پاس کچھ "کرنٹ سمجھیشنس"  
بھی ہیں۔۔۔۔۔ E

Because I am one of the people who are  
working at the grassroot level to improve  
our relations with the neighbouring  
countries. Please allow me to put  
question.

† [پروٹو: یہ ہے کہ جب ملک کا پارٹیشن  
ہوا تھا۔ اسوقت جو "پوسٹل سسٹم"  
تھا۔ وہ دو دیشوں کے بیچ میں تھا۔ اب  
یہ تین دیش ہو گئے ہیں۔ پاکستان، بنگلہ دیش  
اور انڈیا۔ لیکن پوسٹل۔ پوسٹ کارڈ  
لفافے پوری دنیا کیلئے تمام قسموں کے  
ہیں۔ اور پاکستان اور بنگلہ دیش کے لوگ  
دوسرے دیش کے ہیں۔ لیکن ان بچاس  
سائور کے انڈسٹری فیکٹس۔ آئی۔ ایس۔  
ڈی۔ اے میل یہ نئی چیزیں آ رہی ہیں  
انکے جو ریش ہیں وہ کنٹینٹیشنل نہیں ہیں۔

ہزارے ملنے میں میڈیم ریش تھے اور اسوں  
سے ایک دوسرے دیش کی جنتا کے ساتھ  
سمیرک کرنے کیلئے کنٹینٹیشنل ریش تھے۔  
لیکن نئے دو ریس جو یہ تمام قسم کی چیزیں  
آ رہی ہیں ان میں کنٹینٹیشنل ریش نہیں  
ہیں۔]

If you want to really improve relations  
between the two countries people-to-  
people relations,

† [تو آپ کو یہ جو آئی ایس ڈی ہے۔ اس  
میں بھی ایشین کٹریز میں یہ ہوتا ہے۔  
"ٹیبیرنگ کٹریز" کے گھرو نیکیشن منسٹر  
کیا آپ بات کریں گے یا نہیں۔ تاکہ وہ ٹیلیفون  
پر ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ بات کر سکیں گے۔  
اور جرنلسٹ بھی کنٹینٹیشنل ریش پر اپنی  
باقوں کا آدن پر دان کر سکیں گے۔ جیسے  
پوسٹ کارڈ اور پتروں کیلئے ہے۔

دوسرا ہے کہ آؤٹ اسٹینڈنگ  
ایشیو بہت ہیں انکو آپ "فائن سیکریٹری  
لیبل" پر لینگے اور بعد میں جو اوپر کے طبقے  
پر میڈنگ کرینگے وہ ٹھیک ہے۔ لیکن یہ  
ہمیں دھیان میں رکھنا چاہئے گا کہ جو نئے  
"جنریشن" ہے جو دونوں ملکوں میں آئی  
ہے اور وہ جنریشن ۴ کے فساد اور بے  
کی تقسیم سے زیادہ اہمیت رکھتے ہیں۔

آج جو ٹورزم ٹریڈ - فرسٹ - بزنس اور ٹرانسپورٹ میں دھڑکیں ملک آپس میں تال میل بٹھا کر ایک دوسرے کی ترقی میں مدد کر سکیں اور وہ آگے بڑھ سکیں اسلئے کہ اگرچہ قدم واقعی بہت اچھا ہے اسلئے میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ سو آئندہ ۲۰۰۰ میں جیسا آئے گا کہ ۲۰۰۰

"Visa fees for senior Pakistani citizens will be waived."

اسمیں آپ یہ بھی کیوں نہیں کرتے ہیں کہ فاردی اسٹوڈنٹ - یوتھ اینڈ اسٹوڈنٹ جیسا آئے آگے کے قدم میں رکھا ہے ... "مداخلت" ... گروپس کے بارے میں تو ہے کہ ایکسیجیٹ آف گروپس ہو گئے "انڈیو بھول بھی آئی گئے ۲۰۰۰

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I accept it

انٹرنیٹ محمد سلیم: تھینکیو تاکہ نئی جنریشن کو نئی دنیا دیکھنے کا موقع ملے۔ آپ نے سو آئندہ ۲۰۰۰ میں لکھا ہے کہ

"The number of religious shrines in India which can be visited by Pakistani pilgrims will be increased."

I suggest that apart from religious shrines, historical monuments, which we commonly share, both the countries, should also be included. Not only the religious shrines but the historical monuments also should be included.

آج محل ہو یا قطب مینار ہو یا مینار آباد کے پالیس ہوں۔ اسکو بھی آپ لکھیں گے دیکھو یہ ہمارا ٹریڈیشن ہے اور ایک ساتھ ہم کامن حصہ کریں گے

So, you please include the historical monuments and the centres also.

آج تیسرا ہے۔ جیسا آپ نے ایکسیجیٹ آف گروپ لکھا ہے۔ ویسے آپ آگے۔ یہ تو "لاؤڈ تھینکنگ" ہو سکتا ہے۔ لیکن ہم کچھ فیڈرل اینڈ فیڈرل آرگنائزیشن کر سکتے ہیں ۲۰۰۰

Whether we can also arrange some fares and festivals to project our own culture, you can find it out.

اسانکر تک گروپ کے آزادانہ پروان کے ساتھ ساتھ "فیڈرل اینڈ فیڈرل آرگنائزیشن" لکھا جاسکتا ہے۔ جب جیسپر آپ دیکھا رہے ہیں اور "یونیورسٹی" دیکھا رہے ہیں۔ دونوں ملکوں میں ایسے لوگ ہیں۔ لوگ قریب آئیں وہ نہیں جانتے۔ ایسے تو بہت سے ملک ہیں جو جانتے ہیں کہ سرکار قریب آئے وہ جانتے ہیں کہ لوگ قریب آجائیں ایسا نہیں جانتے ہیں۔ تو حق اور ادھر ادھر آپکے "مائٹرائی" ٹیشن "تو اچھے" لیکن بہت اچھا ہے۔ اور آپ جو بزنس کیلئے کہہ رہے ہیں کہ ۲۰۰۰



ایک برے ملک کے ناطے اپنی تہذیب اور  
 ترقی و ترقی کے ناطے اور ایک ترقی و ترقی  
 سیٹ اپ کے ناطے۔ یہ ہم نے بنگلہ دیش  
 کے ساتھ دیکھا ہے۔ ہم نے نیپال کے ساتھ  
 دیکھا ہے اور ہمارے جو دوسرے بڑے  
 ملک ہیں وہ قریب آنے کی کوشش  
 کر رہے۔ اس کے یہاں "فرام حد" ان کے  
 تیار ہو گا۔ میں مبارکباد دیتا ہوں  
 دیکھا ہے گا۔ ہمیں وہ مثال قائم کرنی  
 پڑے گی۔ شکیں ہمارے پاس ہے۔ ہم اگر  
 کریں گے تو وہ ملک بھی ایک قوم آگے بڑھے  
 اگر انوشک بھی ہو گا۔ سب سے بھی ہو گا  
 تو بھی ایک آدھ قدم بڑھنے کیلئے  
 مجبور ہو گئے۔ ہم اس ملک میں اچھے  
 تعلقات پیدا کر سکیں گے۔ اس میں آج  
 جو "بڑے" تھے ہم کامیاب ہو گئے۔ ایک  
 یو۔ ایف۔ گورنمنٹ نے جو کوشش کی  
 ہے صحیح دشمن میں صحیح قدم اٹھائے  
 ہیں۔ یہ بھی ایک صحیح قدم ہے۔ آنے  
 والے دنوں میں ہمارے تعلقات اور  
 صحیح ہونگے۔ میں امید کرتا ہوں۔ شکریہ۔  
 "ختم شد"

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI  
 TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): It  
 was only in that hope I called his name  
 first.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Sir, when Neil  
 Armstrong landed in moon he said, "It is  
 a small step, but a giant leap for the  
 mankind". Whatever the hon. External  
 Affairs Minister has done today may look  
 like a small step but it is going to be a  
 giant leap towards better relations  
 between the two countries. We make so  
 many Zero Hour Submissions and Special  
 Mentions in this House. They are just  
 like, blowing the trumpet into the dead  
 man's ear. We do not get any response or  
 we do not get any reaction. This is my  
 experience for the last one year in this  
 House. But on this occasion I am very  
 grateful to the External Affairs Minister  
 because he had solved the issue of the  
 plight of 38 children and got the children  
 back within three months from the date  
 of raising the issue in this House during  
 the winter session. I congratulate him.

Now I will take only one minute to  
 bring to his notice another very important  
 plight which is going to happen after 1st  
 July, 1997. The Indians visiting  
 Hongkong today get visas for three  
 months on arrival. When I was in  
 Hongkong last time I heard that our  
 Consul General had written to the  
 External Affairs Ministry that the  
 Chinese Government wanted to know  
 what we were going to do. As regards the  
 Chinese they are going to give new  
 passports. Unless it depends on reciprocity  
 and unless a decision is taken fast,  
 Indians may not be able to get visas for  
 landing in Hongkong. Of course, he need  
 not answer it immediately. He can take  
 note of it and answer later.

SHRI R.K. KUMAR (Tamil Nadu):  
 Mr. Vice-Chairman, the disadvantage of  
 being called last is that Mr. Md. Salim  
 and others have spoken everything.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI  
 RAY (West Bengal): Sir, first of all, I

would like to congratulate to hon. Minister for taking this very bold step. This is a bold step which is in tune with our tradition because Indian history is a history of unity in diversity and in the words of Tagore:

Esho he Arya, Esho Anarya, Hindu-Musalman (come Aryans, non-Aryans, Hindus, Muslim, you all come to this great land of India.

The most important thing in the Minister's statement is the people-to-people contact. We know that when there is tension between the two Governments the people are not always affected by that. On the other hand, they are subjected to propaganda, the usual wrong propaganda. This step will help to understand each other. That is the most important thing. Our comrade Md. Salim has mentioned most of the points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): You seek your clarifications.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: What I am going to say is that you have mentioned about expansion of cultural contacts., I would very much like to know how you propose to do that. Please elaborate on that point. Thank you.

6.00 P.M.

श्री ओम्पी कोहली (दिल्ली): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह जानकारी दी है कि पाकिस्तान ने अपने यहाँ बंद 38 भारतीय बच्चों को मुक्त करने की घोषणा की है। यह तो बहुत सख्तनीय बात है। इसके लिए हमारी सरकार और विदेश मंत्रालय की ओर से जो प्रयास किए गए हैं उसके लिए वे बधाई के पात्र हैं। लेकिन मैं विदेश मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि भारत के कुछ सैनिक और बड़े सैनिक अफसर पाकिस्तान की जेलों में पिछले लगभग

25-26 सालों से बंद हैं और उन अभागों सैनिकों के माता पिता उनके परिवार के लोग इस संबंध में विदेश मंत्रालय से बार बार अनुरोध और आग्रह करते चले आ रहे हैं। 25-26 वर्ष हो गए हैं। 1971-72 के आसपास उनको गिरफ्तार किया गया था। वे बेचारे जवान रहे होंगे तो अब बूढ़े हो गए होंगे। यह जो विदेश सचिव स्तरीय बैठक हो रही है और उसके बाद उससे भी ऊपर के स्तर की बैठक होने वाली है क्या इस बैठक का उपयोग विदेश मंत्री जी उन अभागों सैनिकों की भी मुक्त करवाने के लिए करेंगे। ऐसा मैं उनसे स्पष्टीकरण भी चाहता हूँ और अनुरोध भी करता हूँ।

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA (Punjab): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of External Affairs deserves congratulations from all Indians for taking up a noble, bold and unilateral step and making two countries move towards normalisation as well as peace on a permanent footing in both the nations. I would say it is a first major step the Government has taken to strengthen the bonds between the people of two countries. There have been attempts earlier also from NGOs to improve people-to-people contacts but once the Government takes a step, probably it will help more. I would like to seek two clarifications from the hon. Minister. The fifth measure which the Minister has mentioned in his statement is, "Freeflow of books and periodicals establishes better appreciation of each other". One would agree with it completely. I am cautioning the Minister. Before the actual normalisation takes place, will there be some kind of monitoring that the free flow or special flow of books will only strengthen contacts and appreciate each other? Let there not be any propaganda material of one kind or the other come in so that the whole attempt does not get jeopardised.

My second point is this. I come from the State of Punjab. I would like to know whether the Secretary level meeting has

an agenda on the point of ISI activities both in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. There were a lot of Press reports that in the recent bomb blasts ISI was involved. I would like to know whether the Minister would take up this matter apart from Secretary level talks, as a part of the agenda.

Thirdly, the hon. Minister is aware of the SGPC demand. The SGPC is demanding of the Government of India to take up the matter of repair of their gurudwaras and religion places. But this permission has not been given. If the hon. Minister takes up this matter at the Secretary level meeting or otherwise we will really be grateful to the hon. Minister of External Affairs. Thank you.

श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): मान्यवर उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं भी विदेश मंत्री जी को और भारत सरकार को बहुत धन्यवाद दे रहा हूँ इनके प्रयास के लिए जो बच्चे जेल में बंद थे वे छूट गए और हमारे आपसी संबंध सुधर रहे हैं। मान्यवर, लगभग 50 साल पहले बंगला देश और पाकिस्तान भारत का ही हिस्सा था। दुर्भाग्य था कि हम अलग हो गए। इसलिए डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया ने कहा कि भारत, बंगलादेश और पाकिस्तान का एक महासंघ बनना चाहिए। महासंघ बन जाएगा तो हमारे संबंध सुधरेगे जिससे हमारे व्यापार में भी वृद्धि होगी, हमारी राजनीतिक सूझ-बूझ भी अच्छी रहेगी और हम इस दुनिया की एक शक्ति बन सकेंगे। भारत सरकार ने और विदेश मंत्री जी ने इस ओर प्रयास प्रारम्भ कर दिया है। इसके लिए मैं बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ। मैं केवल एक ही प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ कि विदेश मंत्री जी के बयान में यह है कि यह लगता है कि पारस्परिक और आपसी समझौता दोनों देशों का हुआ है तो आपने जो एक से पांच तक सुविधाएँ गिनाई हैं पाकिस्तान से आने वाले लोगों के लिए तो क्या वही पांचों सुविधाएँ वे लोग भी अर्थात् पाकिस्तान के लोग भी हमारे देशवासियों को देने के लिए तैयार हैं? क्या इस तरह का आपका समझौता हुआ है अथवा इससे कुछ कम या ज्यादा हुआ है?

मैं अपने मौअज़िज़ मैम्बराने पार्लियामेंट की तरह जनाब वज़ीर-ए-खारजा इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल साहब को इस बात की मुबारकवाद देता हूँ कि मोहब्बत की इकतरफा कोशिश और नफरत को खत्म करने का इकतरफा जज़्बा हिस्टोरिकल लोगों में होता है जिस काम को गुजराल साहब ने इस वक़्त कर दिखलाया है। गुजराल साहब ने हम तमाम हिन्दुस्तानियों की तरफ से पाकिस्तान को यह पैगाम दिया है कि,

खुलूस-ए-दिल है अगर सलामत  
मिट्टी एक रोज़ यह कशा-कशा  
तुम्हें मेरा नगमा-ए-मोहब्बत  
करेगा मजबूरे हमनवाई।”

गुजराल साहब के दिलो दिमाग में यह तलखी पहले से मौजूद है कि एक वतन दो टुकड़े हो गया, व हिन्दू व पाकिस्तान नफरत की दीवारों खिंच गई और दो दिल के दरम्यान, कुम्बे की तकसीम को अपनी हार कहूँ या जीत। बहर-नो वह बड़ा ही दुखदायी फैसला था जिसके नतीजे में हमारा मुल्क दो हिस्सों में तकसीम होकर रह गया। आज नफरत को मोहब्बत में बदलने के लिए जो प्रस्ताव और जो सजेशन गुजराल साहब लेकर आए हैं हमारा पूरा मुल्क उनका स्वागत करता है उन्हें खुशामदीद कहता है।

सर, कुछ अरसा केवल हमारे मुल्क में पाकिस्तान का एक डेलीगेशन आया था और हमारे मुल्क के डेलीगेशन की सरबराही हिन्दुस्तान के वफ़द की सरबराही एक साबिक होम मिनिस्टर ने फरमाई थी जिसमें आपस में इस बात पर जोर दिया गया था कि इंडो-पाक जंग हमेशा हिन्दुस्तानियों और पाकिस्तानियों के मुस्तकबिल को तबाह करने वाली साबित होगी। हम जीत कर भी हार जायेंगे ... (व्यवधान) ... सर, ऐसी सूरत में जो एकतरफा कोशिश गुजराल साहब ने की है उसमें मैं सिर्फ दो बातें कहना चाहूँगा जो प्रश्न भी है और सुझाव भी है। एक तो यह कि पाकिस्तान से जो डेलीगेशन आए वह डेलीगेशन सिर्फ दारुल सलतनत से वापस चला जाए, हमारे यहां से जो वफ़द जाए वह सिर्फ इस्लामाबाद का ने होकर रह जाए वहां से जो वफ़द आए वह सिर्फ दिल्ली का होकर न रह जाए बल्कि हिन्दुस्तान के मुक़्तलिफ बड़े शहरों में जहां हमारा कल्चर रचता-बसता है वहां भी उन वफ़द को जाना चाहिए और वहां भी एक-दूसरे से मिज़ाज़ आशनाई होनी चाहिए। सर, दूसरी बात कहना चाहूँगा कि इस वफ़द को गांवों में भी भेजना

चाहिए। जिस गांव में हिन्दुस्तान की सही अक्कासी और पाकिस्तान की सही अक्कासी होती है।

सर, एक बात और कहना चाहूंगा कि अक्सर यह होता है कि वहां से जो वफद आया वह मुसलमानों के घरों में रह जाता है और मुसलमान उसका इस्तकबाल करते हैं, मुसलमान उसकी मेहमानदारी करते हैं और यहां से जो वफद और डेलीगेशन पाकिस्तान गया वहां हमारा हिन्दू भाई उसकी मेहमानदारी करता है। इस तरीका-ए-कार को अगर बदला जाए तो ज्यादा बेहतर होगा। वहां से जो वफद आए यहां हिन्दुस्तान में हमारे हिन्दू भाइयों का मेहमान हो हिन्दुस्तान से जो हमारा वफद जाए वह वहां के मुसलमानों का मेहमान हो। इस तरह के हम एक-दूसरे के साथ खैरसगाली का जज्बा पैदा कर सकते हैं।

मैं एक बात अखिरी कहूंगा सर, और पूछूंगा भी वह बीसा की सहूलियत के बारे में है। हमारे मुल्क में बीसा की सहूलियत भी एकतरफा दी है। मगर पाकिस्तान जाने वालों के लिए यह होता है कि पाकिस्तान एंबेसी में पासपोर्ट को रख लेते हैं और उसके बाद उनसे कहते हैं कि 90 दिन के बाद आपको बीसा मिलेगा।

वह इस्लामाबाद से इस को क्लियर करेंगे, उस के बाद आप को बीसा मिलेगा। "तो कौन जीता है तेरी जुल्फ के सर होने तक।" किसी का बच्चा बीमार है वहां, किसी का बाप बीमार है, किसी के रिलेशन में कोई मरने वाला है और आप कहते हो कि 90 दिन के बाद बीसा देंगे। तो 90 दिन में तो पता नहीं उस इंसान को कहां पहुंचना होगा? यह तो गैर-इंसान और गैर-अखलाक़ी तरीका-ए-कार है पाकिस्तान का। एहतताजी तौर पर मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जिस तरह हमारे श्री गुजराल साहब ने इंसानी और अखलाक़ी रवैया अख्तियार करते हुए वहां से आने वालों की राहें हमवार की हैं, उसी तरह पाकिस्तान को हमारे साथ भी मुख्त रवैया अपनाने हुए वहां से आने वालों को फौरी तौर पर बीसा देना चाहिए।

मैं आप से यह अर्ज़ करूंगा कि जब उच्चस्तरीय बैठक हो तो उस में इस मसले को टॉप-प्रॉयोरिटी पर उठाया जाए ताकि जाने वालों की समस्याएं खत्म हो जाएं और लोगों की असुलियां फराहम हों। धैंक यू शुक्रिया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी):

शुक्रिया आजमी साहब। श्री सोमपाल।

[[مولانا عبيد اللہ خان اعظمی بہار]] :

سر۔ میں اپنے معزز ممبران پارلیمنٹ کی طرح جناب وزیر خارجہ اندر گارجرل صاحب کو اس بات کی مبارکباد دیتا ہوں کہ محبت کی ایک طرفہ کوشش اور نفرت کو ختم کرنے کا ایک طرفہ جذبہ جسٹس ریکل لوگوں میں بھوتا ہے۔ جس کام کو گجرال صاحب نے اس وقت کر دکھایا ہے۔

گجرال صاحب نے ہم تمام ہندوستانیوں کی طرف سے پاکستان کو یہ پیغام دیا ہے کہ:

خلوں دل ہے از سلامت ملے گی ایک عزیز کشاد  
تمہیں از نعمہ محبت نرے گا مجبورے ہندوئی۔

گجرال صاحب کے دل و دماغ میں یہ تلخی پہلے سے موجود ہے کہ ایک وطن دو ٹکڑے ہو گئے۔ ہندو و پاکستان کے درمیان نفرت کا دیوار میں کھینچ گئی اور دونوں کے درمیان یکے کی تقسیم کو اپنی صدارتوں یا جیت۔

بہر تو۔ وہ بڑا ہی تکلیف دہ فیصلہ تھا۔ جس کے نتیجے میں بہار ملک دو حصوں میں تقسیم ہو کر رہ گیا۔ آج نفرت کو بدلنے کیلئے جوہر ستار اور جو سمجھوتہ شش گجرال صاحب نے کر اسے اس بہار اور ملک انکا سواکت کر رہا ہے  
اعین خوش آمدید کہنا ہے۔



سر۔ کچھ عرصہ قبل ہمارے ملک میں پاکستان کا ایک ڈیلیگیشن آیا تھا اور ہمارے ملک کے ڈیلیگیشن کی سربراہی ہمارے صوبہ وستان کے وفد کے سربراہی ایک سابق صوم منسٹر نے فرمائی تھی جس میں آپس میں اس بات پر زور دیا گیا تھا کہ انڈیا پاک جنگ ہمیشہ صوبہ وستانیوں اور پاکستانیوں کے مستقبل کو تباہ کرنے والی ثابت ہوگی۔ ہم جیت کر بھی ہار جائیں گے... "مداخلت"... سر۔ ایسی صورت میں جو کلر ف کو شش گجرال صاحب نے کی ہے اس میں میں عرف دو باتیں کہنا چاہوں گا اور جو سوال بھی ہے اور سمجھاؤ بھی ہے۔ ایک تو یہ کہ پاکستان سے جو ڈیلیگیشن آئے وہ ڈیلیگیشن صرف دارالسلطنت سے واپس چلے جائے۔ ہمارے یہاں سے جو وفد جائے وہ صرف اسلام آباد کا نہ ہو کر رہ جائے وہاں سے جو وفد آئے وہ صرف دہلی کا نہ ہو کر رہ جائے بلکہ وہ صوبہ وستان کے مختلف حصہ شہروں میں جہاں ہمارا اہم رجسٹرا رہتا ہے وہاں بھی ان وفد کو جانا چاہیے اور وہاں بھی ایک دوسرے سے مزاج آشنائی ہوئی جائے۔ سر۔ دوسری بات کہنا چاہوں گا کہ اس وفد کو گاؤں میں بھی بھیجا جائے۔ جس گاؤں میں صوبہ وستان کی صحیح عکاسی ہو پاکستان کی صحیح عکاسی ہوتی ہے۔

سر۔ ایک بات اور کہنا چاہوں گا کہ انٹریہ ہو تا ہے کہ وہاں سے جو وفد آیا وہ مسلمانوں کے گھروں میں رہ جاتا ہے اور مسلمان اسکا استقبال کرتے ہیں۔ مسلمان اسکی مہمانداری کرتے ہیں اور یہاں سے جو وفد اور ڈیلیگیشن پاکستان گیا وہاں ہمارا وفد بھی اسکی مہماندار کرتا ہے۔ اس طریقہ کار کو اگر بر لا جائے تو زیادہ بہتر ہوگا۔ وہاں سے جو وفد آئے یہاں صوبہ وستان میں ہمارے وفد بھی انکو کامیاب ہو صوبہ وستان سے جو وفد ہمارا چلے وہ وہاں کے مسلمانوں کا مہمان ہو۔ اس طرح سے ہم ایک دوسرے کے ساتھ خیر سلگالی کا جذبہ پیدا کر سکتے ہیں۔

میں ایک بات آخری کہہ چکا۔ سر۔ اور پوچھ کر لگا بھی وہ وزیر اعلیٰ سمبولیت کے بارے میں ہے۔ ہمارے ملک کے وزیر اعلیٰ سمبولیت بھی یک طرفہ دی ہے مگر پاکستان جانے والوں کے کہنے کہ ہو تا ہے کہ پاکستان ایچ بی سی میں پاسپورٹ دیکھ لیتے ہیں اور اسکی تصویر لے لیتے ہیں کہ ۹۰ دن کے بعد انکو ویزا ملے گا۔ وہ اسلام آباد سے اسٹریٹ کرپشن ایسے جو انکو ویزا ملے گا۔

تو کون جیتا ہے تیری ذہن کے سر ہونے تک  
 کسی کا بچہ بیمار ہے وہاں۔ کسی کا باب  
 بیمار ہے۔ کسی کے دل میں کوئی  
 مرنے والا ہے اور آپ کہتے ہیں کہ ۹۰ دن  
 بعد وزیر اعلیٰ تو ۹۰ دن میں تو بیٹہ  
 نہیں اس انسان کو کیا پہنچنا ہوگا۔ یہ تو  
 غیر انسانی اور غیر اخلاقی طریقہ ہے پاکستان  
 کا۔ احتجاجی طور پر میں یہ کہنا چاہوں گا  
 کہ جس طرح ہمارے شہری گجرات صاحب نے  
 انسانی اور اخلاقی رویہ اختیار کر کے  
 ہوئے وہاں سے آنے والوں کی دہائیوں  
 بھوار کی ہیں۔ اسی طرح پاکستان کو  
 ہمارے ساتھ بھی مثبت رویہ اپنانے  
 ہوئے یہاں سے جانے والوں کو فوری  
 طور پر ویزا دینا چاہیے۔

میں آپ سے یہ عرض کروں گا کہ اوجی  
 سطح کی بیٹھک ہو تو اس میں اس مسئلہ  
 کو ٹاپ پر لکریٹی پر اٹھایا جائے تاکہ جانے  
 والوں کے مسائل ختم ہو جائیں اور لوگوں  
 کو آسائیاں فراہم ہوں۔ تحذیر کیونکہ  
 "ختم شد"

points made by hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee who has just left. He made a point regarding import of literature. From my personal experience and personal chat with one very senior diplomat who had visited, on behalf of our country, sometime back the capital of Pakistan, on one afternoon, he was a bit free and he decided to go around in the market. He was having a look at the literature and books in a bookshop. All of a sudden one small book which was meant for teaching letters to primary students caught his eye. He just lifted the book, opened the page and he came upon two letters. As we all know, when we teach letters to primary students in the first class, the objects are placed to make him aware of the sounds of consonants of vowels. He found two very amazing pictures. One was denoting the sound 'K' and the word written was Kafir and a Brahmin with a tika on his forehead and a Yojopavit was depicted. On the second page, he found a similar sound 'Z' where the word Zalim was written and a turbaned Sardar was depicted. My point is, there should be some caution in allowing free import of

such books. If such a book lands here, instead of creating goodwill it may generate some kind of animosity. But as far as the steps contemplated in his statement are concerned, I have always been a votary that some such unilateral measures must be undertaken. I had been to karachi way back in September, 1993 with my leader, Shri V.P. Singh to attend the Conference of the Opposition Leaders of SAARC Countries convened by Mrs. Benazir Bhutto. We visited so many families. There is tremendous amount of goodwill among all the Pakistanis. They respect India for the freedom, for human rights, for literature and some people told me that they were studying Urdu from our radio and television. They respect all our institutions, our families and other things. They wish to come here. Even the security personnel attending all of us for two days kept quiet. But then they

SHRI SOM PAL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I wish to make a very brief point. I just listened to the

started conversing with me and all of them are craving to get visa to come to India. This will generate a lot of goodwill if they are allowed to do so. In that respect I do welcome it but on the literature import point, some caution should be taken. That is my brief point. Thank you.

**SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, will the Minister kindly supplement his bold and breakthrough initiative with the following exchange programmes that I am going to suggest? They are: Exchange of children's delegations. Exchange of Freedom fighters who shared the heritage of struggle against the British imperialism; exchange of academic, cultural and sports delegations between universities; exchange of educationists, and linguists in particular, more so in the background of a new university which is coming up in Hyderabad, the Maulana Azad Urdu University; cooperation and exchanges among the scientific communities, and in particular software exchange programmes; exchange of women's delegations; exchange of handicraft artisans delegations and delegation of former prisoners of war and former warriors. Thank you.

**श्री वसीम अहमद (उत्तर प्रदेश):** डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर, जैसी कि सबने मुबारकवाद दी है गुजराल साहब को, मैं भी उन्हें मुबारकवाद देने के लिए अपने आपको शरीक करता हूँ। गुजराल साहब की कोशिश, वैसे गवर्नमेंट मैं आज मिनिस्टर की हैसियत से ही नहीं बल्कि आप गवर्नमेंट में रहे या न रहे, अपने पड़ोसी मुल्कों से ताल्लुकात बेहतर करने की हमेशा रही है, चाहे वह श्रीलंका हो, चाहे वह नेपाल हो, चाहे वह बांगला देश हो, अकेला पाकिस्तान का सवाल नहीं है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री त्रिलोकी नाथ चतुर्वेदी):** आप उसी पर थोड़ा कन्फाइन करिए।

**श्री वसीम अहमद:** पाकिस्तान से जो हमारे रिश्ते पिछले 50 साल से हैं, उसमें कोई शक नहीं कि जितने हमारे पड़ोसी मुल्क हैं उनमें सबसे ज्यादा टेन्स रिश्ता पाकिस्तान से रहा है, रहता है। इसमें भी कोई शक नहीं है कि दोनों मुल्कों के लोग अपने ताल्लुकात बेहतर रखना चाहते हैं। यह जो मासूम बच्चे गुजराल साहब की मेहनत से फिर अपने मुल्क में आए हैं, इन बच्चों की वजह से हम दोनों मुल्कों के ताल्लुकात बेहतर हों और हम एक अच्छे पड़ोसी की तरह रह सकें, यह हमारी कोशिश जारी रहनी चाहिए।

सर, इसके साथ गुजराल साहब ने बिल्कुल सही मैसेज दे दिया है पाकिस्तान के लोगों को कि "दुश्मनी डट कर करो, लेकिन गुंजाइश रहे कि हम कभी दोस्त बन जाएं तो शर्मिन्दा न हों"। यह हमारी कोशिश रहनी चाहिए अपने पड़ोसी मुल्कों के लिए। मुझे एक बार, जैसा कि सोमपाल जी ने कहा, वी०पी० सिंह साहब के साथ 1993 में पाकिस्तान जाने का मौका मिला था। वहां की आवाज दोस्ती चाहती है, लेकिन बदकिस्मती यह है कि हम गवर्नमेंट टू गवर्नमेंट, जो हमारी गलतफहमियां हैं, वह दूर नहीं होती। आवाज को हम अपने मीडिया और दूसरे जरिए से गुमराह करते हैं। मैं खुद पाकिस्तान में वहां के टी०वी० के अंदर देखा कि वह किस तरीके से कश्मीर के मसले को पेश करते हैं। जब तक हम इसे ठीक नहीं करेंगे, हमारे आवाजी रिश्ते उनसे बेहतर नहीं हो सकते। हमें यह चाहिए कि उनसे एक बार दिल से बात करें कि तुम हमारे खिलाफ प्रोपेगंडा छोड़ो, हम तुम्हारे खिलाफ छोड़ें, और तभी हम एक दूसरे के सही मायनों में अच्छे पड़ोसी हो सकते हैं, एक दूसरे के हमदर्द हो सकते हैं। आप देखिए दूसरे मुल्कों को, दूसरे मुल्क कितनी तरक्की कर रहे हैं। हम चाहते हैं कि हम लौक भी वैसे की तरक्की करें।

वाइस चेयरमैन सर, इतनी बात कहकर मैं फिर से गुजराल साहब का शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि वह अपनी यह कोशिश जारी रखें, हम सब लोग उनकी मदद करेंगे। बहुत बृहत् शक्तियां।

**मौलाना हबीबुर्रहमान नोमानी (नाम-निर्देशित):** सर, मैं भी इसके अंदर शरीक होना चाहता हूँ आपको मेहरबानी से। गुजराल साहब एक अतिदूर नजर और

रेशन ख्याल सियासदां है। उनके इस इकदाम पर मैं उनको बहुत बहुत मुबारकबाद देता हूँ और मैं यह कहता हूँ कि अभी यह इन्क़दाई इश्क है, अभी जो हालात बनेंगे, कहां तक यह चीज जाएगी, कहां तक परवान चढ़ेंगे, उसके लिए हम लोगों को बहुत ज्यादा चिंतित नहीं होना है, फिक्रमंद नहीं होना है। जिस तरह से बच्चों के मामलात सुलझे हैं और वे जेल से बाहर आ रहे हैं, वैसे ही धीरे धीरे हमारे दूसरे मसायल भी हल होंगे। एक बार हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के ताल्लुकात के सुधार का सिलसिला शुरू हो जाए तो हम यह समझते हैं कि हमारे मैम्बरों ने जिन ख्यालात का इजहार किया है, जिन चीजों को कहा है, जिस तरफ मुतवज्जुह दिया है, वे सब मसायल धीरे-धीरे हल होंगे। हमें यकीन और भरोसा है कि गुजराल साहब के कयादत में, रहनुमाई में पाकिस्तान से ताल्लुकात उक्तवार होंगे और जो हमारे मसायल हैं, वे मसायल हल होंगे।

इन्हीं लफ्जों के साथ आपके शुक्रिया के साथ एक बार फिर मैं गुजराल साहब को पूरे सब लोगों की तरफ से, इस हाऊस की तरफ से, पूरे हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों की तरफ से मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। शुक्रिया।

﴿امولانا حبیب الرحمن نعمانی نامزد شہادت سر- میں بھی اچھے اندر شریک ہونا چاہتا ہوں آپ کی مہربانی سے۔﴾

گجراں صاحب ایک بہت ہی دور انویشن اور روشنی خیال سیاستدان ہیں۔ انکے اس اقدام پر میں بہت بہت مبارکباد دیتا ہوں اور میں یہ کہتا ہوں کہ ابھی یہ ابتدائی عشق ہے، ابھی جو حالات بنیں گے کہاں تک یہ چیز جانیگی۔ کہاں تک پروان چڑھیں گے۔ انکے لئے ہم لوگوں کو بہت زیادہ فکرمند ہیں ہونا چاہئے بہت زیادہ چشمتیت نہیں ہونا چاہئے۔ جس طرح سے بھارت کے معاملات سلجھ رہے ہیں اور وہ جیل سے باہر آ رہے ہیں

وہ جیسے ہی دھیرے دھیرے ہمارے دوسرے مسائل بھی حل ہونگے۔ ایک بار ہندوستان پاکستان کے تعلقات کے سدھار کا مسئلہ شروع ہو جائے تو ہم یہ سمجھتے ہیں کہ یہاں ممبران نے جن خیالات کا اظہار کیا ہے۔ جن چیزوں کو کہا ہے جس طرح متوجہ کیا ہے۔ وہ سب مسائل دھیرے دھیرے حل ہونگے۔ ہمیں یقین اور بھروسہ ہے کہ گجراں صاحب کی قیادت میں مددگاری میں پاکستان کے تعلقات استوار ہونگے اور جو ہمارے مسائل ہیں وہ مسائل حل ہونگے۔

ابھی لفظوں کے ساتھ آپ کے شکریہ کے ساتھ ایک بار پھر میں گجراں صاحب کو تمام لوگوں کی طرف سے اس ہاؤس کی طرف سے پورے ہندوستان کے لوگوں کی طرف سے مبارکباد دیتا ہوں۔ شکریہ۔  
»ختم شد«

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am deeply touched by the sentiments expressed by my colleagues. It is indeed a great deal of encouragement to me in the policy that we are pursuing. It is not in this context only that this policy is being pursued. You will kindly recall and this House will please recall that ever since we occupied this office, we have consistently followed a policy which has now been assigned my name, as my Doctrine. What is basically the doctrine? Basically we believe that it is primarily in India's interest that we should have good neighbourly relations with all our neighbours. In spelling that out, we have done two or three things a

new which we had not done before. And the new element is that we have said that we are a large country, we are a vast country, 85 per cent of the landmass of South Asia is India, nearly 85 per cent of population of the landmass of South Asia is in India and 90 per cent of the economy of all the countries put together is the Indian economy. We take pride in this. We are happy that the way the Indian economy has progressed and the way we have made our place in the world, we can take now a very remarkably magnanimous attitude towards everything. And that is why we have said, and we believe in it, that India does not believe in reciprocity. India believes that being a large country, being a vast country, being a more strong country, being a more self-confident country, we are willing to assist our neighbours and even go a step further and go more than halfway to create an environment of friendship and cooperation. It is in this context that we look at our foreign policy. Bangladesh was one example. For thirty years difficulties have been there. We have been able to sort them out. I don't claim personal credit for this. I claim credit for the country for that. My friends from Bengal are sitting here. I think Mr. Jyoti Basu's contribution is the most remarkable in that. And today when you see India and Bangladesh together, you start feeling within a matter of couple of months as if we never had bad relations. This is a type of environment change, which has suddenly come. India-Nepal relations, India-Bhutan relations, India's relations with Sri Lanka, all these have been placed on a new footing, which is a matter of satisfaction.

And now we are venturing to have a new attitude and I hope for a more positive environment between India and Pakistan. Well, I am not trying to rouse any hopes or euphoria, I am proceeding with caution, but also with optimism. We are proceeding with hope and also

encouraging those trends which can possibly create an environment of cooperation.

In these fifty years since freedom, and some friends have rightly pointed out, this is a time for us to take stock of our situation and I can only assure you, Sir, that the talks that may begin next week, are such that we are looking and proceeding, as I said in my statement, with positive optimism. Therefore, let us see.

The steps that we have taken and which I have announced today are a part of the people-to-people relations, which we have been following from day one. This House will kindly recall that I had earlier conveyed to the hon. Members that even now we are following a new regime of unilateral visa issuance. Particularly after the closing of the Karachi Consulate of India we had to do our utmost to see that the families and particularly people of those families which are divided, are able to come to us and meet their old relatives and relations. On the average we are issuing about 300 visas a day from Islamabad. We have also tried to facilitate because we don't expect many people who live in Karachi, to come first to Islamabad to apply, go back, then come back. So, we are now giving permission to apply by Fax and get it done very quickly. Well, more can be done. When in December last the former Foreign Minister of Pakistan came here, I had requested him to let us post two or three more officials in Islamabad so that we can add to this number. Unfortunately that has not come through as yet. But I must say to the credit of our officials that in order to cope with the high pressure of more visas, their wives are now working in the evenings to help issuance of more visas. And this will continue. This is a part of Indian tradition. It does not need reciprocity. If somebody comes to us from Karachi or Lahore or somewhere and says that his son is

suffering or him mother is suffering, I can't think of bilateralism at that time. I think as a human being. And when I say 'I', I am not talking of an individual, I represent the compassion of this country, I represent the civilisation of this country and it is our compassion and our civilisation that makes our policies.

In this context, therefore, Sir, you will kindly recall and my friend, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee had drawn my attention to this, about Track-II.

I myself have been a part of Track-II. As a matter of fact, I am a luckier one that I have travelled from Track-II to Track I. Therefore, while working on Track II, I have gone to Pakistan several times and I have gone to Bangladesh several times. It provided me an insight into two situations. Therefore, when I contribute to making policies here, I am able to think of the feelings of the people there, and I feel the feelings of the people of Pakistan, as it was in Bangladesh, as it was in Nepal, are positive, friendly. We are only facilitating that. India is an open country; India has a democratic polity; India has a society which welcomes everybody to come here. Millions of people come from all parts of the world and I think we get very funky if a few hundred come from neighbouring countries. I want to abolish those walls. I hope the time will come soon when we will be able to say, anybody can come to India from this side also without visas. We live for that. We want to do that. I think that is one of the very obnoxious dimensions of our history that we expect our children, our women, our citizens to go and report to police. Somebody comes from Timbuktu and he may be a highly undesirable person; he does not have to go to the police. But somebody comes from neighbouring countries; we expect him to go to the police. I hope you will understand, this is not something of which we feel proud.

Therefore, gradually we are demolishing it also. We will have

difficulties because all these decisions, I don't take in my own Ministry alone; we have to consult our colleagues who will also have difficulties, but gradually, you have seen we are abolishing that as well.

Some friends talked about books. An open society's one dimension is import of books. Books come from all parts of the world. If books come in English; if books come in French, if books come in Italian, we are not worried. Why are we not worried? We have certain rules. We follow those rules and those rules will be followed for Pakistan also. Therefore, I am not worried that on only one side the books will come. Ultimately, books come to be available to those who buy them. If undesirable books come, nobody will buy them and nobody will import those books which cannot be sold here. Therefore, there are by themselves inbuilt impediments, in a way. So, I am not worried about that. It is very interesting for us to see, after all most of the books that will come from Pakistan are in Urdu. Fortunately, I happen to be a Urdu reader myself. I think, it is a very interesting thing. For the last fifty years, if you look at the history of our relations, you will notice that almost every good Urdu book published here is plagiarised there and the compliment is returned. This is something which we both of us keep on doing. Why not do it? I can say with confidence that one of my own books in Urdu was published in Hyderabad and with my permission, of course, now a publisher has published it in Karachi. This is, of course, another dimension. I was taken by surprise because—I don't write love stories; I write solid politics, I write international affairs, I write about those literary personalities in India and Pakistan whom I have known, like Faiz and others.

One of my books which is called *Mazammne-e-Gujral* has been published in Hyderabad and now published in Karachi. Why? This means what? Why are people wanting to publish books? They did not publish the book to oblige

me. There must be some readers available; there must be some people who want to read these books and there must be books which people here want to read. If Ghalib is read here and Ghalib is read there, I see nothing wrong in it. If Iqbal's book is published there and we read it also and quote him, it is a great thing. Why not? Therefore, we are now demolishing these walls and moving towards that direction.

I totally welcome what Malkaniji has said, particularly exempting to womenfolk from going to police. I feel ashamed, as an Indian, my head bows down in shame when somebody, some lady coming from Pakistan tells me that he had to go to the police station. I feel very sorry for those women. I remember one particular incident. Four or five years ago, a lady friend, whom we had known—both my wife and myself—for many years, came from Pakistan and she went to police and she came back. She was totally disturbed. I could not raise my head. We have built these walls to try to humiliate each other and we think both in India and Pakistan we represent great cultures when we force our womenfolk—both in Pakistan and India—to go to police to report.

I do not like it. But there are difficulties. So, I am proceeding step by step. All senior women will not go to police; all children will not go to police; all senior citizens will not go to police. And I do hope gradually I will be able to persuade our law and order authorities to expand and have the approach which Malkaniji had mentioned. It has my full support. I have also been told about the inter-religious conferences. Of course, all kinds of people are welcome. When I am relaxing visa, I am relaxing it all round. And particularly I am relaxing it for intellectuals, thinkers and philosophers be they philosophers of religion or be they philosophers of Marxism. They are most welcome. I do not know whether the Marxist philosophers are there or not any more....(Interruptions).... well, some of

my friends have said: why unilateral? I represent the unilateralism of India. The Indian civilisation does not wait for others to react. It is not that India does not do good things only because others are not doing good things. They may or may not; I do not care. It is our own style. In Urdu there is one couplet that I remember:

“हम अपनी खू न छोड़ेंगे वह अपनी वज्रा क्यों बदले,  
सुबक सू हो के क्यों पूछें कि हमसे सरगर्ज क्यों हो।”

Why should I give up my ethos ....(Interruptions).... That is the policy that we follow and will continue to follow. Response, no response—I do not care. Those people should come and see my society. I am proud of my society. I want people to come and sit in the gallery and see how our Parliament functions. I feel proud of this Parliament. I want people to come and see our dances, our dramas and our theatres. We are proud of these Indian legacies. And, therefore, why should I stand in the way? Who am I to stand in the way? Am I a good Indian if I stand in the way? Therefore, as good Indians, we are demolishing all these walls. Well, I have also been asked whether there is any agenda for the Foreign Secretaries' meeting. I am now turning more serious. Well, we are meeting, the Foreign Secretaries will be meeting after three or four years. Meeting by itself is an agenda ....(Interruptions).... Let them meet. Let them share with each other, what is bothering each other. Let us understand each other's limitations. Gradually, perhaps. I can assure this House and I want to say it also that dramatic things are not likely to happen. But, perhaps, gradually we will move in that direction. After all our relations with China are not the same as they were, say, 30 years ago. Not that we have got over everything, not that problems have been solved; but feelings have changed gradually. I do remember, Sir,—if I may take the House into confidence—that in 1976 when the Chairman of this House, Mr. Narayanan,

himself was appointed Ambassador to China and it so happened by chance in 1976 that I was named as Ambassador to Moscow, in Delhi itself there was a reception in one of the hotels for both of us joint—it is an anecdote—I got up and told the audience, “Both are being set by the Prime Minister one to China and the other to the Soviet Union and one of us is bound to fail; both cannot succeed because of the quality of relationship between Russia and China is also there.” By a turn of history, we both succeeded. Relationships have succeeded in a different fashion. And these are the miracles which happen sometimes historically and by pressures of the people. Therefore, when these talks are taking place, I would say, I am cautious I am optimist. I am both. I want things to improve. But, we have to safeguard the vital basic interests of India. We have to safeguard the vital interests of the people and the vital basic interests of the people are two—sovereignty of India and the secular dimension of the country. These two things are not negotiable; everything else is. Therefore, this spells our agenda. Within this agenda, if we are able to move gradually, slowly, and reach something, we can do it.

Salimji has rightly pointed out that it would be useful to reduce tariff. Sir, we live in a strange world. It is much easier to reach London than Dhaka. No direct communication. In regard to tariff, SAARC has been recommending. SAARC is the right forum for these things. We have not succeeded. If we have succeeded, we have succeeded only partially. But I think it should be done.

I accept the idea that there should be no visa fee for students also. I accept this. Straightaway, I accept this.

I accept also that historical monuments should be added to this list. I accept this.

The point has been made that multi-entry visa for journalists should be there.

I will consult my colleague. I will have to consult my colleague. We will consider it more positively.

Then, there is the question of prisoners of war. Rightly, the question has been raised. It is a matter of great concern and anxiety for us. It is not only the question of those miserable souls who may be languishing in jail. What about their families? Their mothers. Their wives. Their children. Sometimes, they come and meet me. I feel miserable. Why should these families be denied their right?

We have been raising this issue time and again, during the last thirty years. Pakistan has totally denied that there is any prisoner of war. How much of it is credible; I do not know. How far they can be believed; I do not know. But the reality is that it is a human problem. People have been coming to me, as I said. Even two days back, somebody came to me with a press-clipping. This was about somebody who is in jail in Pakistan. I just could not look into the eyes of the person. I am also a father. I am also a grandfather. I am also a husband. I am also a son. Why should there be so much misery? I cannot bear to look at so much of misery. When misery stares in my face, I do not know how to look at it.

Sir, I can only say that our efforts would continue in that direction.

About the release of these children—the same attitude. I asked my Pakistan counterpart: ‘What will you gain by keeping these children?’. We have been trying consistently, for so long. Touchwood! We have succeeded. But this is not the end of the story.

There are, approximately, 250—plus or minus—fishermen still in jail, on both sides. Last year, when the Foreign Minister of Pakistan came here, I requested him. I told him: ‘Let us have a clean slate’. What do these fishermen, poor fishermen, know? They do not know where, in the sea, the country’s



border ends and where they are fishing. Therefore, they cross the area, in pursuit of their few pennies, few rupees. Instead, they land themselves in jail. Four years, ten years, they languish in jail.

Sir, the basic point is: in South Asian politics, in South Asian relationship, we will have to be humanistic. We will have to look at every problem in a humanistic sense; not in the sense of politics, not in the sense of what is written in the code book. Once we have this kind of a policy towards each other, our relationship would undergo a change. We had agreed, in the meeting in December, that both sides should release the fishermen. Yes, it has to be done; it should be done. From Gujarat, from Kutch, we get representations. Everytime, again, the same family story, the same story about people who are in jail for three years, four years. What crime have these people committed? Why should we suspect everybody?

The problem with us is—I think this applies to all of us, including the law and order authorities—we assume that everyone is a scoundrel unless he is proved to be otherwise. This is a strange approach. This does not appeal to me. Therefore, we pursue this policy. We shall continue to pursue it.

We have similar problems with Sri Lanka also. Their fishermen in our custody. Our fishermen in their custody. Similarly, with Bangladesh. The seas are common. Seas have no walls. We have got to continue doing something about this. I hope we can agree on something.

The other point that was raised was whether there would be any agreement between the two sides. This is unilateral. I will continue this unilateral policy. I shall not seek any agreement. I shall not ask for any agreement. I shall not discuss any agreement. I will go on doing all that is possible, on behalf of all of you, keeping in mind only two restrictions. One is: the security of India would not

be compromised. So long as the security of India can be safeguarded, we will do everything to create an atmosphere of amity and goodwill.

There are two-three points more.

The point was there about the places of pilgrimage in India which should be added. Well; Ajmer Sharief is there. Nizamuddin Aulia is there. We can also have Amir Khusrô's shrine. There is one in Sirhind. You may be knowing. Then, of course, at Agra there are two or three. There are some others also.

The main point is that we will go on adding to these. If somebody comes from a remote corner of Pakistan and wants to go to a shrine, why not? These are also a common heritage. Ultimately, we all believe in India. We never believe in the two-nation theory. We believe in the commonality of traditions and civilisation. We believe in commonality and shared shrines. Therefore, anybody who wants to come here for that is most welcome.

Yes, I was asked about fifty years of our Independence and exchange. Fifty years of Indian Republic is a matter of pride for us. It is a great day. My generation is now living to see this day. My generation participated in the freedom struggle. I take pride in that. I take pride in the fact that I have seen the dawn of the nation. I take pride in the fact that I am sitting in this House when we are celebrating the Fiftieth Year of our Republic.

We want all our neighbours to come and participate in it. We will invite them also. We want to share it with them. I think the Vice-President and the Speaker have already written to the Speaker of the Parliament of Pakistan to send parliamentary delegations and to come here. As a matter of fact, on track II, three years ago I had also invited them. I hope they will respond to our invitation. I hope, even if they do not respond officially to our invitation, non-official people will come. They are most welcome. If people from any part of the

world want to come and participate in our joy on the Fiftieth Year of our Republic, we will be very liberal in issuing visas to them.

We are also thinking of organising several seminars and discussions not only in terms of India seminars but also in terms of reviving the legend of the Asia Conference. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Gandhiji, standing on the platform, gave us the vision of a great Asia, the vision of Afro-Asia and the vision of a great civilisation. We have covered a part of the journey. We have covered a part of the tryst and the promise which Jawaharlal Nehru had made from these Benches. We have not come the whole way, but, I think, we have not done badly. We will continue that.

I do hope that when talks with Pakistan take place, we on both sides will again realise and appreciate that both of us gain by co-operation and that both of us can be more happy if we live as good friends.

Thank you very much.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): I think, Mr. Singla, we will have many more occasions to discuss this.

Thank you.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: What about gurdwaras to be visited?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I have received a letter from Mr. Tohra on this subject, and I have already taken it up with Pakistan.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Thank you, Mr. External Affairs Minister, and thank you, hon. Members, for extending your co-operation.

Now the House stands adjourned till 11-00 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at forty-three minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 21st March, 1997.