

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 8th May, 1997/18
Vaisakha, 1919 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

Mr. Chairman in the Chair

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER BY PRIME MINISTER

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to introduce to you, and through you, to the House, my colleague, Shri Dhanushkodi Athithan, Minister of State in the Department of Youth Affairs and Sports in the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pakistan's Support to J and K Militants

*461. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR
MALHOTRA†:
SHRI O.P. KOHLI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Pakistan had extended full support to the separatist campaign in Jammu and Kashmir at a National Day military parade attended by top Muslim World leaders;

(b) whether in the summit of the 54th Annual Organisation of the Islamic Conference held on 23rd March last, the President of Pakistan had called on Islamic and other countries to bring "repression and human rights violations on Kashmir to an end"; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) At the National Day Military Parade on March 23rd, 1997 the President of Pakistan once again reiterated his country's support for the activities of the militants in Kashmir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government take serious notice of Pakistan's campaign of support to militants in Kashmir. We have repeatedly taken up the matter in bilateral and other fora and have consistently made every effort to promote our demand that the campaign should be brought to an end. We have also taken necessary measures to control the situation on the ground and to safeguard our security.

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: सभापति महोदय, पाकिस्तान कश्मीर में प्राक्सी बार कर रहा है और खुलेआम आतंकवादियों को धन और हथियारों की सहायता दे रहा है। अब तो उनके राष्ट्रपति ने खुलेआम यह घोषणा की है कि वे आतंकवादियों की मदद करेंगे और ऐसा भी समाचार है कि वहां के प्रधानमंत्री ने 50 करोड़ रुपए उनको देने की घोषणा कर दी है। जो 100 से ज्यादा पाकिस्तानी एजेंट भारत में पकड़े गए थे उन्होंने भी स्वीकार किया है कि पाकिस्तान ने उन्हें भारत में बम और विस्फोट आदि कराने के लिए भेजा है। हमारी सभी एंजिरीटीज़ ने बार-बार कहा है कि हमारे पास इस बारे में पूरे सबूत हैं लेकिन जो हमारे सचिवों की मीटिंग हुई थी, क्या उसमें इस सवाल को उठाया गया? आप यह कहेंगे कि सार्क सम्मेलन में जब जाएंगे, तब इस सवाल को वहां उठाएंगे। दूसरी ओर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पाकिस्तान इन सवालों को उठा रहा है, मुस्लिम देशों में उठा रहा है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर पाकिस्तान को बेनकाब करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए हैं?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Sir, first of all, I might submit to my hon. friend that the question of India safeguarding its interests is firm. Therefore, any militancy or anything happening anywhere in India is fully resisted and the country's interests safeguarded. That I can assure the House.

So far as bilateral talks are concerned, this is also part of the same dimension. On security issues, we do not compromise. On bilateral issues, if they want to discuss, as they are discussing, it will continue.

So far as raising the matter in the international fora is concerned, we have seen in the past that it had yielded no

help to them, nor any bonus or dividend to them, despite all their propaganda. Therefore, we ignore it with the contempt it deserves.

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: सभापति महोदय, पाकिस्तान लगातार इस तरह की बातें कर रहा है और उसने हमारे राजनयिकों को पीटा और यह सब कुछ किया लेकिन इसके बावजूद हमारे विदेश मंत्रालय की ओर से कहा गया कि हम इसमें अपना मुंह सी लें और इस पर रियेक्ट न करें। अभी आपने कहा कि मुस्लिम देश जो रेज़ोल्यूशन पास करते हैं, उसकी कोई ज्यादा वैल्यू नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सारे पाकिस्तानी देशों में भारत के विरुद्ध प्रचार होता है, रेज़ोल्यूशन पास किए जाते हैं, वहाँ पर यह सब किया जाता है। हम चाहते हैं कि विदेशियों से हमारे संबंध सुधरे। पर कहीं गुजराल डाॅ किट्टन का मतलब यह अपने हितों का बलिदान करना या सरेंडर करना या समर्पण कर देना यह उसका सिनोनिम तो नहीं बन जाएगा। क्या गुजराल साहब इस हाउस को एश्योर करेंगे कि कश्मीर के सवाल पर किसी प्रकार का कोई भी समझौता नहीं होगा और कश्मीर को भारत का अभिन्न अंग रखने के लिए एक इंच जमीन भी उनको नहीं दी जाएगी?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I can assure this House, Sir, that whatever the doctrine may or may not be—I am not talking of that—the issue of security and integrity of India is non-negotiable. This is one point which should be very clearly understood. The second point is, I must say that India's interests will be safeguarded. Naturally, that is my primary duty and the primary duty of any Government. That will be fully and firmly upheld.

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से प्रधान मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जम्मू कश्मीर के मुख्य मंत्री श्री फारुख अब्दुल्ला समय-समय पर ऐसे बयान देते रहे हैं कि जो नियंत्रण सीमा है उसी को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सीमा मान लिया जाए और जम्मू कश्मीर के पर्यटन मंत्री श्री अजात शत्रु सिंह ने भी हाल ही में एक बयान दिया जिसमें श्री फारुख अब्दुल्ला और उनकी सरकार की इसी प्रकार की मंशा उनके बयान से पुष्ट हुई। इसके अलावा देश के भीतर और जम्मू कश्मीर के भीतर ऐसे तत्व हैं जो समय-समय पर कश्मीर के आत्म-निर्णय की बात करते रहते हैं। इसके अलावा स्वयं केन्द्रीय सरकार

समय-समय पर कश्मीर को अधिकतम स्वायत्ता—मेक्सिमम ऑटोनोमी की बात करती रहती है। देश के भीतर ऐसे तत्व हैं, कश्मीर के भीतर ऐसे तत्व हैं जो अपने को मानव अधिकारों का मसीहा कहते हैं और वह दुनियाँ के सामने यह तस्वीर पेश करते रहते हैं कि जैसे कश्मीरियों पर हम दमन चक्र चला रहे हैं और हम कश्मीर के मानव अधिकारों का उल्लंघन कर रहे हैं। इस प्रकार की हरकतें देश के भीतर और कश्मीर के भीतर जो वेस्टेड इंटेरेस्ट चला रहे हैं उसके कारण दुनियाँ के सामने कश्मीर का मामला इस तरीके से प्रस्तुत होता है कि एक भ्रमक स्थिति पैदा होती है। कश्मीर के सवाल पर अनेक प्रकार के भ्रम पैदा होते हैं। यह भ्रम पैदा न हो और कश्मीर के सवाल पर अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर हम डिफेंसिव पोजिशन पर न आएँ इसके लिए इस प्रकार के तत्वों को देश के भीतर रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्रवाई कर रही है? और... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a question.

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: एक प्रश्न येय यह है और भेरे इस प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि 22 मार्च.... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question is allowed.

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: उसी का "बी" पार्ट है। 22 मार्च, 1994 को संसद ने एक मत से प्रस्ताव पास किया था कि जम्मू कश्मीर भारत का अभिन्न अंग है, पाकिस्तान के कब्जे में जो जम्मू कश्मीर है उसको भी वापिस लेने के लिए हम प्रयत्न करेंगे और जम्मू कश्मीर को भारत से अलग करने के किसी भी प्रयत्न को कामयाब नहीं होने देंगे। उस प्रस्ताव को अमली जाम्म पहनाने के लिए सरकार की ओर से क्या ठोस कंक्रिट कदम उठाए गए हैं?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, so far as the Parliamentary resolution is concerned, this Government is expected to respect, and it respects, the resolution. Therefore, it is my duty as the Prime Minister to uphold the will of Parliament, and that shall be upheld. Now, details of what we are doing is something which we can discuss at length. There are certain things which are to be safeguarded at the security level; that is being done. There is something to be done at the diplomatic level; that is also being done.

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: महोदय, मेरे पहले प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया है जो दुनिया के सामने कश्मीर की स्थिति को भ्रमक रूप में उपस्थित करने के बारे में है।

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I am sorry, I missed it. So far as the first question is concerned, about some people thinking of a particular line of control, international line, etc., that is not accepted by the Government of India.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, while agreeing that there are people in the ruling circles of Pakistan, who would like to meddle in India's internal affairs and that there are people in Pakistan who would like to see that the relations between India and Pakistan should turn worse, will the hon. Prime Minister confirm that there is a strong, growing public opinion in Pakistan among intellectuals and social activists who look for better relations between the two countries, who look for better trade relations and who are against the way in which some of the high-ups in Pakistan are behaving?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, at one stage here, in this very august House, I had said that India is very much in favour of having improved and friendly relations with Pakistan but without in any way compromising India's secular unity and integrity.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, that is not my point. I wanted to know whether there are people in Pakistan... (Interruptions)

Just to remind you, hon. Prime Minister, of my question, I want to know whether there are people in Pakistan who believe that there should be friendly relations and more trade and that the way in which the ruling circles in Pakistan are behaving, should not be adopted.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Well, I think, this is the growing public opinion in both the countries.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister announced in this august House relaxation of some conditions relating to visa for having better trade relations between India and Pakistan. They were widely welcomed. My question relates to the mutual response coming from Pakistan to India's approach to Pakistan issue. In spite of the fact that the Government of India is taking a liberal attitude and is wanting to have better relations with Pakistan, we find, on the other hand, that the Government of Pakistan is hostile. The Government of Pakistan is directly and indirectly inciting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The ISI activities are on the rise. Recently there was also firing on the border areas.

The Foreign Secretary-level talks are going on. Our hon. Prime Minister, when he was Foreign Minister, held discussions with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan for improving the relations. Why should the Government of India not impose pre-conditions on the question of terrorism and that of Jammu and Kashmir? When we approach with an open mind to talk to Pakistan on various bilateral issues, Pakistan is not responding favourably. I want to know from the hon. Prime Minister whether India's liberal attitude has been taken for granted by Pakistan and how the Prime Minister is going to approach the problem.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, my hon. friend is a very knowledgeable person. He may kindly keep in mind the fact that diplomacy is aimed at achieving results. We should try to improve the situation. That is the real purpose of diplomacy. We are pursuing that line. We are conscious of the difficulties that are there. Therefore, improvement of relations with Pakistan cannot be viewed as an event. It is a process. Therefore, this process is being accelerated as far as

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

it can be. You know the Foreign Secretary-level talks. Then, I, as Foreign Minister, have met my counterpart. I am looking forward to meeting my counterpart in Male next week. I think this is a process which we want to build on one side, at the same time remaining vigilant and alert about our security.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Mr Chairman, Sir, I feel assured when the Prime Minister mentions about the vigil and alertness that he is keen to maintain and about safeguarding the integrity of the country. But, some disturbing trends unfortunately emerge, and they undermine the confidence within the country itself.

Sir, (a) part of my question is there is a reference to the trend while India has always been extremely helpful, sympathetic and co-operative to the Palestinian cause and to President Arafat in general, why has there been a changing stance in his attitude or in some of the statements that he has made outside this country about Kashmir? Recently in the SAARC we had even a Special Session devoted to the Palestinian problem itself.

Sir, (b) part of my question is this. People to people effort is very necessary.

I am all for it. But, it is unfortunate that in December the people-to-people meeting that took place in Calcutta, passed a resolution, which does not at all refer to the general elections held in Jammu and Kashmir. The full text of the Resolution has been published in the "Economic and Political Weekly" and in many other journals. There was no reference to that at all. We were just expecting that that would satisfy the opinion of the people in general. But, there was no reference and the words put in that Resolution were; "The people of Pakistan, the people of India and the people of Kashmir." It was a people-to-people conference and the facilities were extended by the Government of India, including the Ministry of External

Affairs.

In this connection, I would also draw the attention of the Prime Minister that the Ambassador of a country, with which we want to have utmost friendly relations, was trying to give us a lecture on Kashmir, while addressing the Jammu University. He spoke on many other things and said that general election is not the end of the matter. It is only an instrument.

Again, there was a news item in the *Asian Age* of yesterday analysing the kind of the role that he envisages for his country in what he calls the problem of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, my friend has widened the scope of the question to a large extent that it really requires a full speech. But, anyhow I will try to...

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Sir, with reference to you, I have been having the highest respect for you. I have always been following your speeches.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am not objecting. I am only submitting to the Chairman that I may take some time in replying.

Sir, so far as the question of some lectures by some envoy is concerned, I have already expressed my view on this in public that India does not approve of these things. That remark on my part, as Foreign Minister, has already been registered.

So far as the question of people-to-people forums is concerned, they are not Government-sponsored. The Government does give facilities sometimes to all types of N.G.O. activities in this country. Now, I should not be asked to explained as to why they passed a particular resolution. We have seen the resolution. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: This is part of safeguarding the integrity of the country.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: We have seen the Resolution. The ultimate purpose of such a resolution is to trigger off some sort of a debate in the country. I would strongly urge of my friend, because one of the moving spirits in that forum is one of his ex-colleagues in bureaucracy, if he can possibly get in touch with him and ask him as to how it happened.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I am reminded of my past again and again. I thought with you I have now redeemed myself.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I am seeking your help. Please talk to your ex-colleague. Kindly exchange your views with him on this particular point of view.

The third point that the hon. Member asked me is about Mr. Arafat's statement. Mr. Arafat came here and I talked to him. He has assured me that he stands firmly with his views regarding Kashmir as he had told us previously.

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: The hon. Prime Minister has said that enough measures will be taken to ensure the security of the country. But, during the last week a very alarming report has appeared in various papers saying that more than 10,000 insurgents had recently entered the Kashmir area. Has it come to the notice of the Government? If so, what steps are being taken to prevent such developments.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The Government, as I said, is maintaining vigilance. It may not be wise on my part of talk of figures. But, I can only assure this House that every activity, which is anti-national or that affects adversely our security is taken due care of and responded to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 462.

श्री संजय निरूपम: बैक्यू सर, मैं अपना प्रश्न पूछने से पहले कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ... (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have posed the question. Now, please sit down. The Minister would read out the reply. Would you please sit down?

श्री संजय निरूपम: मैं सप्लीमेंट्री नहीं दे रहा हूँ। प्रश्न सदन में रखने से पहले...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have asked the question. What else have you got to ask now?

श्री संजय निरूपम: मैं वही बोल रहा हूँ। प्रश्न मैं अपना सदन में रखने से पहले... (व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister read out the statement. Then, you can put your supplementary. ... (Interruptions)... You are not allowed. Please sit down.

Printing of Currency Notes in Foreign Countries

*462. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:¹
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India is in the process of getting currency notes printed from other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is being done as a short term measures to overcome the shortage of notes;

(d) if so, on how many occasions currency notes were printed abroad during the last five years; and

(e) the main problem faced in getting currency notes printed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (e) There were only two note Printing Presses in the country at Nasik and Dewas set up in 1964 and 1973 respectively. The annual capacity of these Presses for printing currency notes by 1995 was about 3,600 million pieces and

¹ The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanjay Nirupam.