

authorities, including the police to make an inquiry and then recommend whether they deserve to get security or not.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 82, Shrimati Veena Verma.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: We would also like to put supplementaries on this question because this is an important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have taken nearly half an hour on this question.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: In Punjab the threat perception is a reality.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called Q. No. 82.

Indo-Pak Relations

*82. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:†
SHRI RAJUBHAI A.
PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Pak Government's response to a number of unilateral steps taken and proposed to be taken by India to improve relations with that country, indicating precisely the Indian Government's offer and the Pak Government's item-wise response thereto; and

(b) whether the Pak response is favourable to improve bilateral relations with that country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government are following a policy of encouraging the people-to-people contacts with people of Pakistan. As part of this policy Government has unilaterally increased the number of visas being issued to Pakistan nationals desiring to visit India. Visits by intellectuals, scholars, journalists etc, to India are also facilitated. Government are exercising re-

straint in responding to polemical utterances from across the border.

(b) The Pakistan regimes continue to discourage the people-to-people contacts and also sustain their "hate-India" policies.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Sir, much water has flowed under the bridge since an offer was last made by India to resolve all issues with Pakistan bilaterally through dialogue. As much as the entire regime in Pakistan has been changed with the dismissal of the Government and dissolution of the Legislature in Pakistan and the replacement of the Bhutto Government with the interim Government headed by Prime Minister Miraj Khalid, I would like to know whether any fresh initiative has been made with the new regime by way of relaxing visa restrictions to enable people-to-people interaction and exchange of presspersons and experts for creating a wholesome atmosphere for improving the relationship and whether instead of responding positively, Pakistani intelligence and security men had physically assaulted an Indian Embassy staffer, Mr. Ashok Waho, and his family and if so, what the Government reaction thereto is and what steps have been taken in this regard.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, so far as the change of regime in Pakistan is concerned, we have taken note of that. But there is hardly any change in policy on the part of Pakistan. We have noticed that some statement was made by the present Prime Minister. But that was a press statement which was responded to by our spokesman. And we have said that the offer of dialogue at the bilateral level and official level stands. There has been no response yet. So far as the other dimensions of the issue are concerned, the hon. Member has asked me about the two officials of the Indian Embassy who were manhandled. Separately, I have al-

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Veena Verma.

ready given a reply to this. It was a very unfortunate and condemnable act. They tried to match our catching two spies here. We have taken note of it and we have also taken adequate steps to warn Pakistan on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Sir, may I know whether, after the new regime headed by Mr. Miraj Khalid has taken over, the Government has noticed any change in the attitude of Pakistan towards India in international fora like the General Assembly and in the Disarmament Conference and if so, the details thereof and how far it is favourable to improvement of relations with India?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: As I have already submitted, there is hardly any change that we have noticed. As a matter of fact, I am making another statement separately in this House about Afghanistan. In that, I would mention that a conference of the donor countries was to be held in Peshawar and it was cancelled by Pakistan on the plea that India had been invited. There is no change in their attitude.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Sir, I want to know whether it is a fact that following the change in the regime in Pakistan, smuggling activities across the Kutch Coast have increased enormously. May I know whether the Government have taken up with the Government of Pakistan the need for putting an end to these activities? And what is the response of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Smuggling is an autonomous activity on both sides. As a matter of fact, there is a separate question here about trade, etc. The quantum of what is being called 'non-official trade' is very large. Smuggling is of two types, if I can call it 'smuggling'. We are trying to stop, as much as we can, smuggling across the border. Pakistanis also comp-

lain of the same. But it is this 'non-official trade' via Dubai and Singapore which is far larger.

MR. CHAIRMAN: People-to-people activity is smuggling more.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Sir, because of the strained relations between India and Pakistan, Pakistan always used Kashmir as a ploy to attack India. Pakistan used to say that the relations between India and Pakistan cannot be improved unless the problem of Kashmir is decided. The former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shrimati Benazir Bhutto, had used every forum which was available to her, to abuse and accuse India on this issue. Even after the democratically elected Government in Kashmir has taken over, Shrimati Benazir Bhutto had made speeches before she was thrown out. Even some of the Indian print media had been saying that the elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir were rigged or something like that. Whatever it may be, it is for the Government to take up the issue with the media. The main question is, the Taliban, who has taken over Kabul, has already made a new threat that they will instigate, aid and give all kinds of help to the organised militia in the border, especially the Pak-occupied-border. They will give all kinds of aid and training to the militia to cross the border and create trouble in Kashmir, especially under Farooq Abdullah. I would like to know as to how the Government propose to handle the threat given by the newly installed Government of Afghanistan.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is not an installed Government. It is a take-over. The Government in Afghanistan continues to be the Government led by President Rabani, whom we recognise. So, let us not confuse ourselves on this issue. So far as the Taliban activities are concerned, they are apprehensive. That is why the Government has taken a very

calculated policy decision on that and when I make a comprehensive statement this afternoon, with your permission, Sir, I will be able to elaborate that. We have taken note of the fact of the print media and that some activities are being aimed at India. We are taking due care of this fact.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Sir, since trade and commerce is the best healer, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the response of Pakistan on the unilateral status which we have given to Pakistan as the 'Most Favoured Nation', has been. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government of India would consider giving the privilege to pakistani businessmen and industrialists to allow them to come to India either without visa or at least give them visa for a longer period, which I know can be or would be reciprocated by Pakistan for similar facilities to the Indian businessmen.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, I have already stated that so far as visa facility for businessmen is concerned that is being given liberally and that will continue to be given. Whenever any businessman from Pakistan wants to come here, all visa facilities are provided. So far as Pakistan is concerned, naturally I cannot answer that point. It is not within my purview to reply to that. So far as trade is concerned, I think at the moment, because of the SAPTA which is now operationalised, talks have been going on between Pakistan and other members of the SAARC countries, including India. Even now, the talks are going on. We hope and see the signs that more sense will prevail.

SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Is it possible to make the duration longer for the visa-six months to one year?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: visas are of two types. One is single entry visa. The other is multi-entry-visa. If there are any businessmen within the notice of my hon.

friend, he should inform me and we will be willing to consider the multi-entry visa.

श्री बलबीर सिंह: सभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी के नोटिस में यह बात लाना चाहता हूँ कि 25 तारीख को ननकाना साहिब, पाकिस्तान में, गुरूनानकदेव जी का गुरुपर्व मनाया गया। वहाँ की स्टेज पर खालिस्तानियों ने कब्जा कर लिया और हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ जहरीला प्रोपेगंडा किया गया। होम मिनिस्टर साहिब कहते हैं कि बहुत सारे पॉलिटिशियन्स सिर्फ डेक्लरेशन के लिए सिम्बोरिटी लेते हैं। वहाँ पर पंजाब के लीडरों, खासकर मेरी पार्टी कांग्रेस के लीडरों को तंग किया गया, गालियाँ दी गई और कहा गया कि इनको मार भगाया जायेगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यदि उनके नोटिस में यह बात है और अब मैं भी उनके नोटिस में यह बात लाया हूँ तो वे इस पर क्या एक्शन लेंगे और होम मिनिस्टर भी, जो थ्रेट पर्सन है पंजाब के लीडरों को, उसका भी ध्यान रखेंगे?

श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल: यह जो होम मिनिस्टर साहब को करना है वह होम मिनिस्टर साहब करेंगे। जहाँ तक प्रोपेगंडे का सवाल है, मैंने भी पढ़ा है कि ऐसा प्रोपेगंडा किया गया है। लेकिन मुझे हिन्दुस्तानियों पर बड़ा विश्वास है। वे इतने देशभक्त और इतने मजबूत हैं कि कोई जहरीला प्रोपेगंडा उन पर असर नहीं करता।

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Will the Government of India lodge a protest against these activities?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: The best protest is not to go or if you want to go, then I think about the people who go there, I have great faith in them and I know that propaganda does not affect them. Will a protest make any difference in the situation?

मौलाना हबीबुर्रहमान नोमानी: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ और मंत्री जी को भी यह बात मालूम है कि जो लोग पाकिस्तान जाना चाहते हैं उनको वीजा देने में बड़ी आनाकानी की जाती है और बड़ी दुश्चारी पैदा करते हैं। तो क्या आप इस सिलसिले में पाकिस्तानी हुकूमत से बातचीत करके वीजा के लिए कोई सहूलियत पैदा करवा सकते हैं, आसानी पैदा करवा सकते हैं, जिससे लोगों के आने जाने में दुश्चारी न हो ताकि जो लोग वहाँ जाना चाहते हैं उनको आसानी के साथ वीजा मिल सके और वे पाकिस्तान जा सकें।

†[مولانا حبیب الرحمن نعمانی: میں جانتا
چاہتا ہوں اور منتہی جی کو بھی یہ بات
معلوم ہے کہ جو لوگ پاکستان جانا چاہتے
ہیں انکو ویزا دینے میں بڑی لانا کمانی کی
جاتی ہے اور بڑی دشواری پیدا کرتے
ہیں۔ تو کیا آپ اس سلسلہ میں
پاکستانی حکومت سے بات چیت کر کے
ویزا دیکھ کر کوئی سہولیت پیدا کر سکتے
ہیں۔ جس سے لوگوں کے آنے جانے میں
دشواری نہ ہو تاکہ جو لوگ وہاں جانا
چاہتے ہیں انکو آسانی کے ساتھ ویزا
مل سکے اور وہ پاکستان جاسکیں۔]

श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल: जो आना चाहते हैं उनको तो सहूलियत दी जा सकती है। लेकिन जो जाना चाहते हैं उनसे मेरा कोई तात्लुक नहीं है। यह पाकिस्तान का काम है कि कैसे वीजा देना चाहिए, कैसे नहीं देना चाहिए। लेकिन हम सहूलियतें बढ़ा रहे हैं और बुनियादीतौर पर ध्यान में रख रहे हैं कि बहुत सी फेमलीज ऐसी है, खानदान ऐसे हैं जो बंटे हुए हैं। मामा वहां है, बेटा यहां है, भाई वहां है, भतीजा यहां है। वे एक दूसरे से मिलना चाहते हैं। यह कुदरती बात है। इसलिए हमने वीजा की फैसिलिटीज़ बढ़ाई हैं। लेकिन पाकिस्तान ने जानबूझकर वहां से आने वालों की वीजा की फैसिलिटीज़ को घटाया है। हमारा जो करांची में कौंसिलेट चल रहा था वहां से एक्जेंट 700 वीजा पर डे हम देते थे। इसको नजर में रखकर उन्होंने हमारे कौंसिलेट को बंद किया। पिछले दिनों से हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि इस्लामाबाद से जो वीजा देते हैं, हिन्दुस्तान में आने वाले युवकों के लिए उसकी संख्या बढ़ाये। इस वक़्त करीब-करीब 300 रोज़ दे रहे हैं। मुश्किल हमारी यह है कि हमारे पास स्टाफ कम है और इसलिए ऑफिसरों के खानदान, उनके बीबी-बच्चे भी यह काम कर रहे हैं वीजा वैकसीलेट करने के लिए। हम इस

मुसीबत को समझते हैं, दर्द को समझती हैं क्योंकि 95 परसेंट वीजा जो दिया जाता है वह उन लोगों को दिया जाता है जिनके खानदान बंटे हुए हैं। लेकिन क्योंकि यहां से जाने वाले लोगों के लिए सहूलियतें नहीं हैं, इसलिए यह भी एक इंसानी हमारा फर्ज है और जो हमारा खैया है उसके आधार पर हम कोशिश करते हैं कि जो लोग आना चाहते हैं उनको यहां आने की सहूलियत दी जाए।

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, in addition to the 'hate India campaign' by Pakistan, is it true that 75,000 soldiers from Pakistan Armed Forces have joined Taliban to destabilise peace and law and order in this part of the world and countries like Iran, CIS and India would be the target? Will the hon. Minister throw some light on this issue?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Sir, I won't be able to numerically say how many soldiers have or have not joined. But one thing is very certain that some people are there who are pakistani nationals. As a matter of fact, when our Secretary visited Mazaar-e-Sharif recently, he was told by the Dostum regime that they have captured quite a few Pakistani national fighting in Afghanistan. But that report is there. That is why the policy that India is following regarding Afghanistan has two dimensions. One dimension is that we want Afghanistan to settle down in peace and in dignity and nobody from outside should intervene. Secondly, we feel that the type of regime which Pakistan and some other friends at a much longer distance are trying to encourage, will destabilise the whole region.

Implementation of National Telecom Policy

*83. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to implement the National Telecom Policy of 1994;

(b) whether Private Sector which is investing more than Rs. 64,000 crore in the sector does not have a single rep-