

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): But I am not adjourning the proceedings today for Rajasthan Day.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Tomorrow you adjourn the House so that we can reach our places early and enjoy, as in the case of Holi.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Okay, we will see; the House will decide on it later on.

**श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं केवल एक बात जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण पर धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव है, वह केवल कार्यसूची में रह जाएगा या सदन में होगा? यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है, इसलिए मैं पूछ रहा हूँ। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज तक भारतीय संसद के इतिहास में ऐसा नहीं हुआ था कि ऐसे बात आए कि राष्ट्रपति जी के अभिभाषण पर कब धन्यवाद प्रस्ताव आए, धन्यवाद स्थापन का प्रस्ताव बार बार रोज कार्यसूची में आए, वक्ता का नाम भी बदला जाए, जिनका नाम रहे वह भी रिप्यूज कर दे कि हम नहीं रखेंगे, ऐसी अवमानना हो। इसलिए मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह आएगा या नहीं आएगा? क्योंकि बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इस तरीके की बात आज तक नहीं हुई थी। आज चेयर से इसके बारे में क्लिग दें।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल):** माननीय सदस्य, इस सदन की कार्यवाही सभी सदस्यों के सहयोग से चलती है। नेताओं के साथ बैठक में यह तय हो गया था कि राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण पर सामान्यतया परंपरा अनुसार जिस प्रकार से बहस दोनों सदनों में एक साथ होती है उसी तरह एक साथ ही होनी चाहिए। चूंकि लोकसभा में भी यह संभव नहीं है और राज्यसभा में भी अब यह संभव नहीं है क्योंकि समय का अभाव है, नई परिस्थितियाँ उत्पन्न हो गई हैं, कल सदन स्थगित हो रहा है तो अंततोगत्वा यह निश्चित किया गया नेताओं के साथ बैठक में, कि राष्ट्रपति के अभिभाषण पर वाद-विवाद 24 अप्रैल से प्रारंभ होने वाले सत्र में ही प्रारंभ किया जाए और इस पर किसी प्रकार का विवाद न किया जाए। ... (व्यवधान) ...

**श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह:** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आपको क्या यह औचित्यपूर्ण लगता है? मैं केवल इतना ही आपके मुँह से जानना चाहता हूँ। मैं कोई नियमों का हवाला नहीं दे रहा हूँ, नीतिगत बात नहीं कर रहा हूँ, लेकिन संवैधानिक मर्यादा का प्रश्न है। मैं केवल आपसे

इतना ही पूछना चाहता हूँ, आप अनुभवी व्यक्ति हैं, क्या यह आपको औचित्यपूर्ण लगता है।

**श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश):** चेयर ने क्लिग दे दी है, अपना मत व्यक्त दे दिया है। ... (व्यवधान) ...

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल):** ऐसा है, मैं खर्च अकेले के औचित्य का प्रश्न नहीं है। मैं यहाँ बैठा हुआ हूँ, तो मैं आपका पड़ोसी होकर नहीं बैठा हूँ, आपके पड़ोस में बैठा हूँ तो वह आचरण भिन्न होता है और जब आसन पर बैठा हूँ तो इस आसन से संपूर्ण सदन के माननीय सदस्यों को जो विचार अभिव्यक्त होते हैं उसी के अनुसार निर्णय होता है। सबने मिलकर जो फैसला कर लिया, वह मान्य है सदन के लिए। बोलिए, दिग्विजय सिंह जी।

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Visit of H.E. Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, President of Sri Lanka, to India—Contd.

**श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बिहार):** माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष, महोदय, मंत्री जी का जो बयान आया है, जो भारत और श्री लंका के राष्ट्रपति की बातचीत का है, उसमें तीन बातें मुख्य रूप से मैं जानना चाहूँगा। मंत्री जी के इस स्टेटमेंट में पैर 6 सबसे बड़ा, लंबा चौड़ा है। देश के लोगों को भी यह उम्मीद थी कि जब श्रीलंका की राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती चंद्रिका जी भारत आएंगी तो राजीव गांधी की हत्या के सिलसिले में प्रभाकरण के बारे में अपनी कोई स्पष्ट राय जाहिर करेंगी। पैर 6 से ऐसा लगता है कि भारत सरकार की ओर से उस बातचीत के दरमियान कुछ प्रयास भी हुआ, लेकिन जिस तरीके से श्रीलंका की राष्ट्रपति ने अपने प्रेस-जीफिंग में पत्रकारों से जो बातें की उससे ऐसा लगता है कि वहाँ की राष्ट्रपति ने प्रभाकरण के संबंध में बहुत ही हल्के ढंग से इस बात को लिया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ माननीय मंत्री जी से, कि क्या भारत सरकार इस पर अपना कोई विरोध जाहिर करेगी या नहीं करेगी? चूंकि यह मामला कोई राजीव गांधी की हत्या के संबंध में श्री प्रभाकरण के पकड़ने का नहीं है बल्कि जिस तरीके से श्रीलंका की राष्ट्रपति जी ने कहा कि अभी तो मुझे पता ही नहीं कि प्रभाकरण कहां है, यह बहुत ही घटिया किस्म का उनका वाक्य था। मैं समझता हूँ, किसी भी राष्ट्र के अध्यक्ष के मुँह से यह बात शोभा नहीं देती। इसलिए भारत की सरकार इस पर अपना विरोध जाहिर करे।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि जो तटीय सुरक्षा का मामला है और हम लोग एक-दूसरे के ऊपर आरोप

लगाते रहते हैं, तो क्या मंत्री जी ने अपनी बातचीत के सिलसिले में कोई ज्वाइंट पैट्रोलिंग की बात सोची है या नहीं? क्या भारत सरकार और श्रीलंका सरकार के बीच में कोई ऐसा माहौल बन सकता है जिसमें ज्वाइंट पैट्रोलिंग किया जा सके? ये दोनों देशों के संबंध को जानते हुए इस बात पर जोर देकर कह सकता हूँ कि अगर सरकार चाहे तो इस पर पहल हो सकती है।

तीसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहूँगा, माधुर साहब ने जो बात कही थी, वह बहुत गंभीर बात है कि "साप्ता" का तब तक कोई मतलब नहीं होगा जब तक पाकिस्तान उसका सदस्य नहीं बनता और पाकिस्तान ने कह दिया है कि हम उसका मੈम्बर नहीं बनेंगे। मैं यह चाहूँगा कि भारत-श्रीलंका की जो यह दोस्ती की बातचीत चल रही है और जो राष्ट्रपति जी यहां आई थीं, उसमें मंत्री जी ने कोई ऐसी पहल की है कि श्रीलंका का इस्तेमाल पाकिस्तान को "साप्ता" का मੈम्बर बनाने के लिए किया जा सके? उसका सदस्य बनने के लिए उस पर कोई दबाव या उसके सहयोगी संगठन के रूप में श्रीलंका द्वारा उस पर कोई दबाव डाला जा सकता है या नहीं?

आखिरी बात में यह जानना चाहूँगा कि आज भारत सरकार ने अपने पड़ोसियों से संबंध अच्छे करने का प्रयास किया है लेकिन साथ ही साथ हमारे सारे पड़ोसी देश, जो हमारे मित्र देश के रूप में जाने जाते हैं, इन सारे देशों में आई०एस०आई० संगठन का केन्द्र बनता जा रहा है — नेपाल भी उसकी एक जगह बन गया और श्रीलंका भी बना हुआ है, तो मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि श्रीलंका से बातचीत में मंत्री जी ने कितनी गंभीरता से इस विषय को लिया है और उनकी तरफ से इस विषय में क्या जवाब आया है या उनकी क्या सोच आई है?

SHRI P. UPENDRA Andhra Pradesh: Sir, after several years of turmoil and a few other SAARC countries or other foreign countries assassinations, Sri Lanka is now settling down. And the visit of the President of Sri Lanka, I am sure, will strengthen our relations with that country.

Sir, the Minister's statement refers to the co-operation which we are seeking from the Sri Lankan Government in the case relating to the assassination of Rajivji. The Sri Lankan Government itself is involved in very delicate negotiations with the LTTE. Keeping that in view, we should seek their cooperation through diplomatic channels

instead of making public demands either for extradition or any other matter. Secondly, the ethnic problem has also been mentioned in the Minister's statement. We have always affirmed that whatever we demand for the protection of the Tamil minorities there is within the parameters of the stability and the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. And several formulae were discussed about the autonomy for the Eastern and the Northern provinces, and we should help the Sri Lankan Government in settling this ethnic problem to the mutual satisfaction of the minorities and the majority communities there.

Sir, I want to ask one or two specific queries from the hon. Minister. One is: How many refugees from Sri Lanka are still here in Tamil Nadu or any other parts of the country? How many have been repatriated so far and how many are yet to be repatriated? And what is the difficulty in sending them back?

Sir, the other point is that the Minister has made a special mention about the possibilities of a greater trade between India and Sri Lanka. It has come to my notice that the Reserve Bank of India has put some restriction in the height of the LTTE agitation and the LTTE activities in India that Sri Lankan firms doing business in India cannot be allowed to open office in this country. And, I believe, this has slightly been amended recently to allow them to open offices in rented buildings, but they cannot buy any buildings here. In view of the improved relations between the two countries and the lessening of the LTTE activities in this country, I would like to know whether the Reserve Bank of India will be persuaded to amend this

**श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी का ध्यान इनके वक्तव्य के प्रसार — 3 की ओर आकर्षित करना**

चाहता हूँ। पूरे बयान से यह लगता है कि श्री लंका की राष्ट्रपति श्रीमती चन्द्रिका भंडारनायके जब यहाँ आईं तो मालदीव राष्ट्रपति जी, से उपराष्ट्रपति जी से, प्रधानमंत्री जी से उनकी भेंट हुई और विचार-विमर्श हुआ तथा विदेश मंत्री जी से भी उनका विचार-विमर्श हुआ। मन्त्री जी ने बयान के पैराग्राफ-3 में अपने विचार-विमर्श का उल्लेख किया है। जो कुछ इसमें कहा गया है, मैं उसकी प्रशंसा करता हूँ तथा यह सरहनीय है। विदेशी मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि दो बिन्दुओं पर हमारी उनसे बातें हुई, उसके अलावा और बिन्दु भी हैं। दोनों जो बिन्दु हैं वह अच्छे बिन्दु हैं। एक तो, मछुआरों की समस्याओं के बारे में इनकी बात हुई और दूसरे, जो चरत से श्रीलंका के शरणार्थियों की निर्विधन स्वदेश वापसी सुनिश्चित करने की बात हुई। यह दोनों प्रशंसनीय हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसी पैराग्राफ में विदेश मंत्री जी ने कहा कि श्रीलंका की राष्ट्रपति जी और उनके प्रतिनिधि मंडल के सदस्यों के साथ मेरी मुलाकात के दौरान हमारे द्विपक्षीय सम्बन्धों तथा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मसलों पर उपयोगी विचार-विमर्श हुआ। इसको बहुत विस्तार से इन्होंने नहीं कहा है। दो बातें तो इन्होंने बतलाई हैं। लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दोनों बिन्दुओं के अतिरिक्त आपसे और किन-किन बिन्दुओं पर श्रीलंका की राष्ट्रपति जी से बात हुई और आप दोनों इस विचार-विमर्श के बाद किस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचे?

इसी संबंध में मैं यह जानना चाहूँगा कि मछुआरों के संबंध में आपने कहा कि दोनों देशों के अधिकारियों की निकट भविष्य में यातायात होगी। तो क्या इसके लिए कोई निर्धारित सीमा है या कोई तिथि है। क्योंकि मछुआरों की समस्या बहुत गंभीर समस्या है। इस बात को शीघ्र निबटाने के लिए क्या कोई करीब की तारीख आप लोगों ने तय किया है, मैं यही जानना चाहता था विदेश मंत्री जी से? बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

**श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (उत्तर प्रदेश):** महोदय, मेरा भी नाम है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): I will permit you. Don't worry. You have co-operated with the Chair in disposing of the Legislative Business. Now, the Chair would co-operate with you. Shri Malkani, please.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction that the President of Sri

Lanka visited India and that the leaders of the two countries had fruitful talks. I very much welcome this statement. But I would like to seek clarifications from the hon. Minister on two points.

Firstly, in paragraph 2, it has been stated that 'India has also agreed to extend a credit equivalent to US \$ 30 million to Sri Lanka to facilitate trade and commercial exchanges with India'. My question is: Are we going to make this credit available in terms of dollars or in terms of rupees? If it is rupee, you should have mentioned 'rupees', not 'dollars'. If you are going to make this credit available in dollars, it would mean that Sri Lanka can spend it anywhere. Therefore, please make this thing clear. Our currency is Rupee. The Sri Lankan currency is also Rupee. I think we should have a little more respect for our own currency.

My second point for clarification is in regard to SAPTA. I think the most important part of the statement is the reference to SAPTA. The statement says: 'Our two countries are agreed on the need for early operationalisation of SAPTA'. The reference is, obviously, to the whole of South Asia, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc. What, exactly, is our idea? It is possible that all these countries may not simultaneously agree to join the SAPTA. Therefore shall we wait for everybody to agree? Would the Government consider that if a number of countries agree to SAPTA — whether it is two or three or four — we should make this operational at an early date. I think there must be some time-frame. Let us say, the Government could consider going through the whole thing by 31st December, 1995. This is very important for us. We were very happy to note the Sri Lankan President saying that she would like to have bilateral free trade with India. That would be an ideal situation. Therefore, please do throw some light on this. Thank you very much.

**श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम:** उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सारे विश्व में आतंकवाद है, सारे विश्व में अपराध और

अपर्याप्त प्रवृत्ति बढ़ रही है। सारे विश्व में समस्याओं के समाधान के तरीके हिंस्रतापूर्ण और असंवैधानिक तरीके बन गये हैं और इसका परिणाम यह है कि सारे विश्व में अशांति है। श्रीलंका में भी अशांति है और भारत में भी अशांति है। यह ऐतिहासिक तथ्य है, जीवित इतिहास का, कि शांति का पाठ सबसे पहले तथागत बुद्ध ने दिया था और आज से दो-ढाई हजार साल पहले भारत के सम्राट अशोक ने अपने पुत्र महेन्द्र और अपनी पुत्री संगमित्र को तथागत बुद्ध के रास्ते का स्वार-परसार करने के लिए श्रीलंका भेजा था और जब इस विचार का यहां पर लोप हो गया तो आज से करीब डेढ़ सौ वर्ष पहले श्रीलंका ने अनागारिक धम्मपाल के भारत में पुनः बुद्ध के उपदेशों की पुनर्स्थापना करने के लिए भेजा था और तभी से यहां पर महाबोधी सोसायटी ऑफ इंडिया का निर्माण हुआ जिसके तहत भारत और श्रीलंका के लोग मिलकर बुद्ध के उपदेशों का प्रचार-प्रसार करते रहे। भगवन्तर, आपको यह भी मालूम है, मैं तो अलग बात कहता हूं सबसे। मैं वही नहीं कहता जो आपने कही है, कि उसी रास्ते को महात्मा गांधी ने अपनाया और उसी रास्ते को श्री दलाई लामा ने अपनाकर विश्व में शांति के लिए नोबल पुरस्कार प्राप्त किया। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन सारी समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए शांति की स्थापना के लिए जो श्रीलंका और भारत के बीच में एकाग्रता और सांस्कृतिक लगाव है, वह है बुद्ध और बुद्ध की शिक्षाएं और उनकी दीक्षाएं और यदि यह दोनों देश मिलकर इन दोनों देशों में और विश्व में इसे प्रचारित-प्रसारित करें, पढ़ाएं, टेलीविजन पर और रेडियो पर, जनसभाओं में, तो इस आतंकवाद और उग्रवाद पर कड़ी कंट्रोल किया जा सकता है। तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या इस मूलमंत्र को जिसके ऊपर हमारा पंचशील आधारित है और जिसके ऊपर हमारी फ़ोरेन पॉलिसी आधारित है, पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने जिसको स्वीकार किया था, उसका आधार है, बुद्ध की शिक्षा, तो क्या मंत्री जी आपने श्रीलंका के साथ इस मूलमंत्र का फिर से उच्चारण करने के लिए कोई विचार-विमर्श किया और ऐसा कोई निर्णय लिया कि भविष्य में हम इस मंत्री के द्वारा शांति की स्थापना इन दोनों राष्ट्रों में कर सकें? अंत में, इसी की कड़ी में, मैं उदाहरण देकर कहता हूं कि आज कैसर का इलाज बड़ा कीमती हो गया है और लोग आम तौर से कैसर से पोटेंट होकर भागते हैं, मर जाते हैं, इलाज नहीं कर पाते। कैसर का इलाज जब इतना मुश्किल है तो उन कारणों में हम क्यों नहीं जाते जिनसे कैसर पैदा होता है? कैसर होता है, जो मैंने पढ़ा,

तम्बाकू के उपयोग से। तो अगर हम तम्बाकू का उपयोग छोड़ दें तो कैसर होगा नहीं और जब कैसर नहीं होगा तो अस्पताल नहीं खोलने पड़ेंगे, इलाज महंगा नहीं होगा। इसलिए आतंकवाद, उग्रवाद और सारा आई-एस-आई का जाल तथा आपस में मैत्री भावना नहीं है इसके पीछे हम इतिहास में क्यों नहीं जाते जिसके लिए हम विश्व गुरु कहलाए थे? यदि बुद्धिज्य को स्वीकार करें तो क्या आपत्ति है? गुड़ खाये गुलगुल्लों से आन करें अगर वह सत्यता है तो फिर मंत्री जी मैं पुनः आपसे कहूंगा यदि आप भूल गये हैं इस बात को कि क्या भविष्य में श्रीलंका के साथ पुनः संबंध स्थापित करने आपके कर्तव्य से प्रतिनिधि वहां जाएंगे और इस बात पर विचार-विमर्श करके आप ऐसा कोई निर्णय लेंगे?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): The hon. Minister. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri Satish Agarwal): What is the point of order, Mr. Afzal?

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल: सर, हम लोगों ने दरखास्त की थी और सुबह हम लोगों को चेयरमैन ने परमिट भी किया था और 6-7 दिन के बाद हमें यह परमिशन मिली है कि हम टाटा के सिलसिले में कुछ बोलना चाहते थे। हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि हाऊस एडजर्न होगा या हमें मौका मिलेगा।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: चलेगा। इसके बाद आप कहिएगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Order, please.

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, the TADA is a serious issue.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल): ऐसा है कि इसमें कोई प्वाइंट ऑर्डर नहीं है। आप मुझ से मिले थे और आपने कहा था कि जीरो अवर में मैंने मुद्दा उठाया था उस समय समय नहीं मिला। आपके सहयोग से सारा काम निपट पाया है। नेचुरली आपको मौका दिया जायेगा। इसमें प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर की बात नहीं है। मिनिस्टर साहब उतर दे दें और अपना काम करें क्योंकि अनेकों मसलें इनको देखने हैं। यस मिस्टर मिनिस्टर।

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Members who have made their observations on the statement which I have made on the visit of Her Excellency the President of Sri Lanka, Shrimati Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga.

The hon. Member have appreciated the importance and sensitiveness of our relations. They have also appreciated the gesture which the Sri Lankan President has shown by choosing India for her first visit abroad after assuming the office of Presidency of that country. The discussions between the Sri Lankan leaders and our leaders were held in that spirit. It is not that in one discussion or one round of talks, we resolved all the issues, but, it is our effort to reach, as far as possible, an understanding and agreement on the issues and to try to expand the areas of agreement and to reduce the areas of disagreement. In this general background, we had discussions. First, I would like to deal with the economic issues on which the hon. Members have made their comments, and, thereafter, I will deal with the political issues on which we had discussions with the leaders of Sri Lanka, including the President.

On the economic issues, we recognised that for the last five years the trade with Sri Lanka had increased substantially and that there was need to show some gesture from the Indian side to accommodate Sri Lankan exporters who export to India, so that the trade gap did not appear to be too big to be inconvenient to that country. Of course, you cannot have balance offer trade with each and every country. Keeping that in view, it was decided that we would reduce duties on the items in which Sri Lankan exporters had interest so that they could export them to India. In most of the cases on eight items which they suggested, we reduced it to 50 per cent of the prevailing rate. Thereafter, the request was to expand the list. From 8, it has gone up to

18. Deliberately, I have not given these details because my colleague in the Ministry of Commerce will come at the appropriate time, and he will give those details to the House. But, the point which I would like to underline here—an hon. Member has referred to it—is that we would extend this attitude to our other neighbours also like Bangladesh and other members of the SAARC.

In this connection, here, I would like to clarify one point. That is about the Charter of the SAARC and the role of the SAPTA, on which a number of hon. Members have commented. It was decided, when the SAARC was established, that all decisions, of the SAARC would be taken through consensus. Here, consensus means unanimity. The whole objective is to carry everybody with us and not to exclude anybody. This is the Charter of the SAARC. Therefore, when the SAPTA was mooted, various countries were requested to identify and prepare a list of the items on which they would require duty concessions from other countries.

Most of the countries did it and sent it to other countries. Pakistan took some time. But, I am happy to inform you that they have also ultimately sent a general list. There was a meeting in the last week of this month, i.e. on 27th and 28th in Islamabad and there has been some progress. I do hope that SAPTA will also take shape.

In regard to the issues which have been raised by some hon. Members, perhaps it would not be desirable to keep any country out. Then the spirit will be lost. So, we would like to carry people with us and there should be some sort of unanimity. India has shown this gesture even in the case of Pakistan. Hon. Members will recall that as Commerce Minister I had explained that though we did not receive the MFN treatment from Pakistan, I would like to continue to extend the MFN treatment to Pakistan. We did so and that is being appreciated.

I do hope it will be possible for us to have a larger economic cooperation to exploit the potentialities which this region has. That is why our mandate is very limited. We are going slowly. We do not want to expand overnight. But, if we go slowly, as ASEAN has developed, as European Union has developed, perhaps we would be able to achieve success in that area.

Now, in regard to other economic issues we discussed with Sri Lanka, particularly the issues which figured in my discussion. When the question of expanding trade between India and Sri Lanka came, I suggested to them that your production base is such that you cannot export to India those commodities which we are having. For example, India is going to be the largest producer of natural rubber in a couple of years. So you cannot export your natural rubber to us. Similarly you cannot export coconut oil to us, we said. But it is possible that if we have joint ventures, the manufacturing capacity in your country with India's participation will increase. And if we convert it to value added products, we can buy it and third countries can also buy it. This was what came out very prominently in our discussions with Sri Lankan leaders.

We also thought of rationalising SAPTA. Here I would like to appreciate the role Sri Lanka played in persuading other countries to finalise the list so that some agreement in regard to the items which will require the duty concessions from others would be finalised. Of course, if it was not done, as hon. Members are aware, we thought as it would take some time more, we would extend these commodity concessions to Sri Lanka through the Bangkok Agreement. And if we give this concession to them it will provide them the maximum facilities.

Now I come to the two important issues which are very vital — about the arrest of Prabhakaran.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, you have

not mentioned about the permission to open offices.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Mr. Upendra asked how many refugees are still there and whether the RBI would relax the conditions to open their offices. Yes, RBI can consider it in the context of the new changed situation.

About 90,000 refugees are still there, of which 56,000 are in the camps. Till recently about 54,000 refugees have been repatriated. In the months of February and March itself, about 10,000 refugees have been repatriated. One problem which we are facing in both the countries is that of availability of boats to repatriate refugees, but this is going on and we are receiving cooperation from both the sides. I do hope it would be possible to repatriate refugees as far as possible. About 400 refugees from the special camps have already been repatriated in this month itself.

Now, coming to the issue of extradition of Mr. Prabhakaran, it is a highly sensitive issue. In response to a question of on the extradition of Mr. Prabhakaran on the floor of the House and in the other House, it was pointed out that it was under the consideration of the various agencies of the Government of India itself. Since the case started in the Madras High Court, what has happened? I have identified the steps which we have taken. The question of extradition will arise only after the man has been arrested. Unless the man is arrested, the question of extradition does not arise. When the man has been arrested, whether he can be extradited from that country will depend upon the laws prevailing between the two countries. There are different provisions in respect of the laws. So, those are to be reconciled. What we have informed them, the President and others at the various levels is that this is a highly emotive issue. They should know what steps we have taken. They have also indicated to us what steps they have taken. For instance, a "Red Corner

Notice" was issued through Interpol. A public notification had been issued. It has been circulated in the Sri Lankan newspapers. Therefore, this issue was raised and discussed. It will continue to be raised and discussed. This issue cannot remain just where it was. But, at the same time, we shall have to keep in view, certain other sensitivity. Here I request the hon. Members not to pass any value judgment about the comments which the President of Sri Lanka has made because we shall have to appreciate in what situation she has made certain comments. So, I think that it will be better to keep it in that respect.

Now, I will come to the problem of fishermen. This is a problem about which both the countries have complaints.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, will the hon. Minister yield for a minute? Regarding extradition of Mr. Prabhakaran, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the steps taken by the Government of India. What is the response of the Sri Lankan Government? I would like to know about this in categorical terms. This issue was not formally discussed. I have specifically raised this point here. The Sri Lankan President has said so in an informal discussion. Why was it not formally discussed? That was my point.

SHRI PRANAB ^ MUKHERJEE: There are certain other issues which we should not go beyond that. I do not know whether the Sri Lankan president has said like that to the Press because in the Press certain things appear. Let us not try to find out what the President or the Prime Minister has said through the Press when we had a direct discussion with them. Let us not go to that aspect.

In regard to the fishermen's problems, we have been confronting these for quite sometime; and allegations are coming from both the sides. We have instructed and requested the Government of Tamil Nadu to hand over about 170 boats which they have captured and 26 Sri Lankan

fishermen who are still in the Karnataka Jail. This issue was raised with them. I do understand, I do appreciate the cause of anxiety expressed by the hon. Members.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu): Our fishermen are being shot dead. But the Sri Lankan fishermen are not being shot dead. We are losing the lives of our fishermen. Now, you are talking about boats.

SHRI PRANAB KUKHERJEE: I think the hon. Member will appreciate.

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: I appreciate your position. I belong to that district. I belong to that place. Tomorrow, we are having a big rally at Rameshwaram. All fishermen are going to join this rally. This is a sensitive issue. Our Government should take serious steps.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members..... (*Interruptions*)..... This is the problem with this gentleman. Let us understand that they are not the people of South. They are Indians, as much as I am an Indian, as much as you are an Indian. We are equally concerned. They are our citizens. We have to protect them. When this issue was raised with them, at the level of the President, they said that the Sri Lankan Navy has totally denied that they have shot dead the Indian fishermen. Their allegation is, in the garb of LTTE ..... (*Interruptions*) .....

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: We have to ask the Indian Government. We can ask our Minister.

We can ask our hon. Minister. But we cannot ask Sri Lankan Government or Sri Lankan President. He is responding to our question... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am replying to that.

The fact of the matter is that there has been entry into the territorial waters. That has been done and cases have been

detected. What I have mentioned in my statement is that we are not just going to discuss the question. The question is how to resolve this issue expeditiously. When the issue was brought to our notice even before the visit of the President, that 26 fishermen were detained there, we requested them. It has been decided now that we will have to work out a mechanism through which we can resolve this issue and killing of human lives, harassment and confiscation of boats should not take place. It is not merely 'talk'. We are discussing to work out a mechanism, to work out a modality, so that the issue can be resolved expeditiously, as and when it arises, without causing any harassment to anybody. It is our duty, our responsibility, to ..... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, the hon. Minister.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Virumbi, this will not help. Please take you seat.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Another issue has been raised in this connection. I do not know. I am told that as per the 1974 Agreement, we had access to Kachathivu, but we did not have fishing rights. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: No, Sir. We have got the Agreement here. He is making a false statement. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: The Minister is trying to mislead the House. (*Interruptions*).. We can show the Agreement to the Vice-Chairman. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI (Madhya Pradesh): Let the Minister complete. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: If there had been any Agreement, if I am not giving the correct information, I will correct myself. What is wrong in it? (*Interruptions*). What I am told is, we had access to the place, but we did not

have the fishing right in that area. If you say this is not correct .....(*Interruptions*).

VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Pass on the information to the hon. Minister.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I will myself collect the information from my Ministry and I will share it with you. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): That is there.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The problems of fishermen have to be resolved and for that, we shall have to work out a mechanism through which we can help. This is an instrumentality on which we can work. That is why I suggested that there should be a discussion.

In regard to co-operation, particularly to help the development of Buddhist centres, yes, we had discussions. We are also wanting that more pilgrims should come. We should provide facilities and we should enhance the cultural bondage, the ethnic identity, which we have. And we should expand it as far as possible.

In regard to joint patrolling, certain suggestions have been made. I am not sure whether it will be very effective. Of course, we can explore the possibility of its being done. The hon. Member who raised this issue knows the sensitivity of it and why it did not take place earlier. In regard to the question of the Indian Ocean, of course, our stated position is that we would like to have the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. We would like to have that and that position has not changed.

In regard to being more accommodative to our neighbours, a general point which has been raised, we are accommodative. The Special Trade and Transit Treaty which we have with Nepal, the special duty concessions which we are providing to



the goods that are exported to our country and those countries under the Bangkok Agreement are special treatments we are extending to them.

[6. P.M.]

Sir, I think, I have covered all the points raised by the hon. Members. (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI

JAYANTHI

NATARAJAN: Sir, the Sri Lankan President has not been correctly informed about the attacks on the Tamil Nadu fishermen and she has denied it. I request the hon. Minister to take up this matter with the Sri Lankan authorities. It is totally incorrect to say that there is no such thing. Our fishermen are being murdered everyday. I request that the hon. Minister may take it up with the Sri Lankan authorities and enlighten the Sri Lankan President.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Please speak one by one. Yes, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan.

SHRIMATI

JAYANTHI

NATARAJAN: Sir, the hon. Minister said in his reply that the Sri Lankan President totally denied that the Indian fishermen were being kidnapped or killed. Keeping in mind the place where I am standing now, all I can say is that she has not been properly informed. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to convey our strong feelings and say that the statement is totally incorrect. Everyday our fishermen are being shot at. Please take action. We seek an assurance from the Minister.

SHRI

PASUMPON

THA.

KIRUTTINAN: Sir, I appreciate the sentiments expressed by Mrs. Natarajan. I also request the hon. Minister to take up this matter with Sri Lanka. This is a very sensitive issue. Our fishermen are being killed everyday. They are being shot at. The position is not normal. I come from that place. I know the situation. The people are agitated. Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan rightly pointed out that the President of Sri Lanka has not

been correctly informed and the Government of India also has not informed her properly. The Government of India should take effective steps to see that the lives and properties of fishermen in Tamil Nadu are fully protected.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Minister, please keep it in mind.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Sir, when I raised this issue in this House, I made it very clear that in 1974, we had the fishing rights. But according to the 1976 letter which forms part of the Agreement, these rights were given up. On 23rd July, 1974, the then External Affairs Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh made a statement, and I quote: "At this time, I wish to remind the hon. Members that in concluding this Agreement, the rights of fishing, pilgrimage, navigation, which both sides have enjoyed in the past, have been fully safeguarded for the future." But these rights were given up by the letter of 1976. I have got a copy of that letter and I can show it to the Minister. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Yes, yes. You pass on this information to him. It will be very helpful, it will really serve the purpose.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Therefore, I want a categorical assurance from the Minister that this type of atrocities would not be repeated again. That is what we want. (*Interruptions*) so many assurances were given by the Government but none of them is fulfilled. (*Interruptions*) when the Gujarat is in Uganda were in trouble, the Government of India had taken action. But when the Tamil Nadu fishermen are being killed, the Government of India is taking no action. This inaction on the part of the Government of India compels the South Indians to believe that we are being discriminated against in the Indian politics. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY We lost

a great leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi for the Tamilians' cause. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Don't have that feeling. (Interruptions) Shri Shankar Dayal Singh.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार): उपाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कुछ भी कहा है इसमें एक सच्चाई है। सच्चाई इसलिए है कि मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से कहूँगा कि इसको गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए, कच्चाटिवू का मामला जब 1974 में उठा था और जब भारत सरकार के साथ श्रीलंका का यह करार हो रहा था मैं उस समय दूसरे सदन का सदस्य था, मैं उसको कोट नहीं कर रहा हूँ, मुझे अच्छी तरह याद है कि जब विवाद बहुत गहरा हुआ तो भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल के नेता ने बाल्मीकि रामायण की प्रति वहां पेश की थी। इसलिए पेश की थी कि राम और रावण के समय का संदर्भ वहां लिया गया, देखा जाए पुराने कगजात में वह होगा और भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल के नेता ने कहा कि भगवान राम जब गए थे तो कच्चा टिवू पर रुके इसलिए उस समय भारत का हिस्सा था और इसलिए भारतीय मछुआरे जो वहां जाते हैं उनको वहां ठहरने के लिए रुकने के लिए, उनको जगह मिलनी चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह थी कि जिस तरह से श्रीलंका के लोग बोध गया आते हैं, सारनाथ आते हैं और दूसरे बौद्ध स्थलों को जाते हैं, वैसे ही भारतीय लोगों को रामेश्वरम तक ही नहीं बल्कि कच्चा-तीवू तक जाने की अनुमति दी जाय। यह बात उठी थी और मैं समझता हूँ कि उस समय एग्रीमेंट हुआ था और उस समय इस रूप का एग्रीमेंट हुआ था कि भारतीय लोग कच्चा-तीवू तक बिना किसी रोक-टोक के जाएंगे। मैं चाहूँगा कि माननीय मंत्रीजी गंभीरतापूर्वक इस बात को वहां जरूर उठाएं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): He has already assued the House that he would look into it. The document is passed on.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Sir, the hon. Minister has not clarified the point that I had raised about 30 million dollars, why the credit is given in terms of dollars, and not rupees.

SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu was consulted on this

issue before they discussed it. In 1974 they invited. I myself came. We produced the documents. Article 6 of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement, 1974 clearly says that their fishing rights are protected. I want to know why the Chief Minister of my State was not invited.

श्री सुरेश पच्चौरी: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैंने मंत्रीजी से सीधे तीन सवाल किए थे जिनका कि उत्तर मुझे नहीं मिला है।

मैंने वह कहा था कि 20 मार्च, 92 को मद्रास की डेजिग्रेटेड कोर्ट में जो चर्जशीट सबमिट की गयी है, उसमें प्रभावकरण तो एक अभियुक्त है ही, उसके साथ ही दो और अभियुक्त हैं जो कि फरार हैं। इस तरह टोटल तीन अभियुक्त फरार हैं। तो जहाँ तक एक ओर प्रभावकरण को भारत को सौंपने संबंधी रेड कर्नर नोटिस इंटरपोल के माध्यम से जारी किया गया है, क्या प्रभावकरण के अतिरिक्त जो दो अन्य फरार अभियुक्त हैं, उनको भी भारत को सौंपने संबंधी अनुरोध भारत सरकार ने श्रीलंका की राइट्स से किया है? दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न था कि समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से यह ज्ञात हुआ है कि "लिट्टे" ने श्रीलंका के राइट्स को यह दबाव डाला था कि वे भारत की यात्रा रद्द कर दें और यदि रद्द नहीं की जा सकती है तो भारत की यात्रा से पहले जो "लिट्टे" और श्रीलंका के बीच में वार्ता चल रही है, उसको किसी अंतिम निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचाने के बाद ही यात्रा करें। क्या इसे भारत सरकार के नोटिस में लाया गया है और तीसरे मैंने यह कहा था कि यद्यपि यह श्रीलंका का आंतरिक मामला है फिर भी चूंकि भारत में "लिट्टे" एक प्रतिबंधित संगठन है, इसलिए क्या यह सही है, जैसा कि समाचार पत्रों में छपा है, कि भारत ने श्रीलंका और "लिट्टे" के बीच जो वार्ता चल रही है, उस पर संतोष जताकर दिया है? क्या भारत ने ऐसा अपना मंतव्य दिया है? अगर दिया है तो उसका ब्यौर क्या है क्योंकि भारत में हमने लिट्टे को प्रतिबंधित किया है?

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I was in Rameshwaram just, last week. I had occasion to know the feelings of the people living in that area and I fully endorse the views expressed by my friends from Tamil Nadu, Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan and others. There is a feeling that the right of the fishermen which they were enjoying over a long period of time is now obstructed and this feeling is very genuine and they are very

much concerned. This should be taken note of by the hon. Minister and appropriate action should be taken.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I do fully appreciate that the rights of the fishermen are to be protected fully. The fishermen should not be subjected to harassment. No question arises of their being killed or shot at. Unfortunately, for quite some time, the situation is that area has been such; it is not that the Sri Lankan President denied that the fishermen have been killed, but one thing they pointed out was, may be, some LTTE people in the grab of Navy killed the Indian fishermen .....

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no, no.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes. You may have that information, but I am sharing the information which I have or which I received.....  
(Interruptions) .... So far as we are concerned.....(Interruptions)....

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Sir, the Minister is responsible for giving correct information to the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: So far as we are concerned, .....  
(Interruptions) ....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): If you do not permit him to clarify your points, there is no end to the debate ..... (Interruptions).... This is not a question-answer session. ....  
(Interruptions).... Mr. Virumbi, don't interrupt him.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: But they should not mislead the House.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am sorry, Sir, I don't want my good friends to get agitated. I share their anxiety. I can tell you that I am second to none in protecting the lives, property and interests of the fishermen because they are as much part of India as we are.

There are no two opinions on it. Therefore, merely expressing words is not going to solve the problem. We will have to solve the problem. We will have to take it up with them. If mere expression of words would have solved the problem, it would have been solved long back. But we should have to take all steps and we are taking them.

In regard to the credit, we are giving credit to foreign countries in dollars. They are to buy from our country. It is not giving for free shopping all over the world. This is the preliminary thing. When I extend a credit to facilitate a country to import from our country, it is not for importing from other countries. (Interruptions)....

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Why did you give it in dollar figure?

Why didn't you give it in rupee figure?  
(Interruptions)....

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Why should I? We have given them 30 million dollars. That is why I have mentioned 30 million dollars. (Interruptions)....

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: But why? You should have given it in our own currency.  
(Interruptions)....

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: What is wrong in it?

I am unable to understand it. But the limited point which he has raised is whether it is meant for free shopping or to buy from other countries. My answer is: No. They will have to buy it from India. It is the normal standard practice. That is why I didn't respond to it.

In regard to the three issues which Mr. Suresh Pachouri raised, yes, we raised this issue. But we also told them that basically this is an internal problem of Sri Lanka and we would like that they should solve this through bilateral discussions, through negotiations, within the framework of their Constitution keeping in view the territorial integrity of Sri Lanka itself. That is the stated position which we have taken all along.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Digvijay

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): You have to resume your seat and you will not go before I go. (*Interruptions*).....

†[Transliteration in Arabic Script.]

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: सर, एक बात स्पष्ट कर दीजिए कि जो बातें आज बच गई हैं, सब लेंगे।  
.....(व्यवधान).....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल): सबके लिए नहीं, .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: सिर्फ टाडा के लिए, सर।  
.....(व्यवधान).....

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: देखिए, केवल टाडा की ही बात नहीं है, .....(व्यवधान).....

मैं, आपसे यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि नार्थ-ईस्ट साइड में मिस्टर एल०वी० रेड्डी, एक आई०ए०एफ० अफसर की हत्या हुई। .....(व्यवधान).....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Just a minute.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: जनता दल पहले सुलझा लीजिए आप लोग। .....(व्यवधान)..... एक विषय पर हम तैयार हैं, जो लेना है, ले लीजिए।  
.....(व्यवधान).....

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: "टाडा" तो रहेगा।  
.....(व्यवधान)..... "टाडा" तो रहेगा ही।  
.....(व्यवधान).....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL) : Shri Shankar Dayal Singh, just a minute. (Interruptions).....

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: कल करेंगे हम लोग।  
.....(व्यवधान).....

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Sir, these are (Interruptions).....

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह: "टाडा" हटाने के लिए जो प्रयास कर रहे हैं मिस्टर अफजल  
.....(व्यवधान).....

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, these are Zero Hour submissions. They should be taken up with the Chairman tomorrow. They should not be discussed now. I would suggest that.....(Interruptions). What I am suggesting is Afzalji and others should meet the chairman tomorrow morning. (Interruptions). I am not saying \*no\ Sir, these issues should be taken up tomorrow.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Dr. Biplab Dasgupta is right. So far as the unfinished submissions of the Zero Hour are concerned, I don't have the authority to decide and directions cannot be issued that they would be taken up tomorrow morning automatically. But, I do hope that if Shri Afzal, Shri Shastri, Shri Shankar Dayal Singh and others meet the Chairman tomorrow morning, he will permit them. As we have disposed of the financial business today, there will be no problem tomorrow. I think that is the consensus of the House. So, I should adjourn the House. The House is adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at seventeen minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 31st March, 1995.

kar Dayal Singh and others meet the