

India's Demand for the Abolitionary Veto Power in the Security Council

30. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-BHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian representative at the recent UN General Assembly's meet pleaded for the abolition of the Veto Power hitherto enjoyed by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, to make the functioning of the Council more democratic;

(b) Whether he also demanded to increase the temporary membership of the security council to make it more representative in character; and

(c) if so, what consensus emerged on the demand as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The leader of the Indian delegation in his speech to the UN General Assembly called for democratisation of the Security Council and expansion of its membership including permanent as well as non-permanent members category. The issue will be discussed further by the General Assembly's Working Group on "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council". No consensus has emerged on the scope and nature of such enlargement.

US Secretary's Statement on Kashmir

31. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the report published in the Indian Express on 14th October, 1994, quoting informal press briefing of Ms. Robin Raphel, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Asia, during her visit to Bombay that US-Administration

was not convinced that elections in Jammu and Kashmir could be fair given the ground realities there;

(b) if so, whether Government have since sought any clarification about the ground realities referred to by her; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The US Embassy in Delhi clarified subsequently that US Assistant Secretary Robin Raphel had referred to problems that had existed in the past and had not meant to question the political process in the future. In a Press Guidance issued on October 18, 1994 by the State Department, US Government welcomed Government of India's attempts to establish a political basis for reduction in violence in Kashmir.

(c) It was pointed out to the US side that the remarks attributed to US Assistant Secretary Raphel in the press were not entirely consistent with what she said in the course of official discussions which took place during her visit to Delhi. It has been emphasized to the US that Government of India remain fully committed to restore normalcy and move towards elections in J&K and that the process would be undertaken in accordance with the Constitution of India.

Conditions Imposed by Pakistan

32. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan made any conditions for any discussions on Kashmir prior to the visit of the Secretary of the Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the conditions and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the Secretary made any discussions with the Pakistan authorities on Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Pakistan has raised at various times certain conditions and pre-conditions pertaining to the ground situation in J&K and the two non-papers handed over in January 1994 for the holding of talks with India. Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan our readiness for meaningful talks, formal or informal, with or without any agenda and at any time. Setting of conditions or pre-conditions for such talks does not in our view, constitute a positive approach.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Mediation of U.N. Secretary-General to Hold Talks Between India and Pakistan

33. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Pakistan had again urged the UN Secretary General Boutros Ghali to mediate or arrange "proximity" talks in its dispute with India over Kashmir.

(b) if so, whether Government have got any information about Mr. Ghalis response thereto; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) Government have seen reports to the effect that Pakistan has repeatedly urged the UN Secretary General to play a mediatory role in the Kashmir issue. Government are of the view that all differences between India and Pakistan,

including aspects relating to J&K issue, should be resolved peacefully and through bilateral negotiations in accordance with the Simla Agreement and there can be no role of any sort for any third party.

Smuggling of Enriched Plutonium from Erstwhile Soviet Union to Pakistan

34. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what follow up action has been taken by Government on the alleged smuggling of weapon's grade enriched plutonium from erstwhile Soviet Union to Pakistan posing a serious threat not only to the country but the whole world; and

(b) What are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have brought to the notice of foreign countries including Russia that Pakistan is sustaining a weapons-oriented nuclear programme through clandestine acquisition of material and technology from abroad.

There is a greater awareness internationally regarding Pakistan's clandestine programme in this sphere. The Russian Government have also conveyed to us its principled position that Russia is strongly apposed to the proliferation of nuclear material and that Russia would be endeavouring to improve upon its existing system of providing security for nuclear material.

Russia favours India in Peace-keeping Operations CIS

35. SHR V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia is in favour of India's participation in peacekeeping operations in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and backs India for a permanent Membership of the UN Security Council; and