

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Postponement of launching of Prithvi Missile

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): Madam, the Prithvi project is a Surface-to-surface Missile System designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The programme commenced in July 1983. The final phase of trials commenced in April, 1994. These trials will take place in sub-phases. They are scheduled to be completed by July, 1994.

In this connection a note was received from the PMO by SA to RM that the trials be postponed till after the period of PM's visit to US between 14-21 May. This has been done. Generally, major missile launchings are conducted when the Prime Minister is in the country.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that there was and is no intention of stopping the trials. Since the final phase trials are planned for April-July, 1994, the dates of the sub-phases will be suitably adjusted to that there will not be any delay in the completion of trials. There is no question of pressure from anywhere; nor is there any jeopard to the programme.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Inder Kumar Gujral.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Madam, there is a very feeble thumping on the desks.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody is tired at the fag end of the day.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Bihar): Madam, I rise to seek further elucidation on one or two points. Before that, I must say that I am neither talking in terms of party nor talking in terms of trying to take any political advantage. I am speaking primarily—that is why I am drawing the attention of the Prime Minister and the House—to point out the hazards for our security. I think we all are concerned.

The Prime Minister is the leader. I appreciate that. Therefore, please don't take it as a criticism or any effort to downgrade anybody's commitment to national security. The statement is very general about the entire system as such. The controversy is greater about Prithvi than even Agni. I hope, when the Prime Minister replies, he will be in a position to explain it. What is the situation? To my mind, as far as I understand, Prithvi is a short-range missile. It has a range of 70 to 80 kilometres and it can be extended, of course, upto 150 to 200 kilometres. Is it a fact or is it not a fact? I think, the hon. Prime Minister will be able to enlighten us on this that every worthwhile army in the world today has already integrated a short-term missile in its system. It particularly includes Pakistan. It is not recognised to be a legitimate part of the force. Is it a fact or is it not a fact? Is it not a fact that Pakistan has already integrated both Haaf-I and Haaf-II? They got these from China. Pakistan has already either integrated or is in the process of integrating M-11 which also has a longer range of about 300 kilometres which can also be extended up to 800 kilometres. This has already been integrated. Is it a fact or is it not a fact? Is it a fact or is it not a fact that Saudi Arabia obtained SS-2 from China which they have integrated in their system and its range is 2,000 to 2,500 kilometres? Is it a fact or is it not a fact that the American basis in Bahrain of course, has much longer range and they stand pointing towards the sub-continent? Diego Garcia is known to us. I would like to ask, "What is its impact on our security system?" Having said that, I would like to ask one more thing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gujral, we are not discussing the entire Defence policy. It is a very specific statement that was asked for by the Members and we have asked the Governments to come over here. If you want to discuss the entire Defence Policy, I will ask the Chairman to allo-

cate a day and we will discuss it. But, today, we would like to... (Interruptions).

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Bihar): If you don't want me to speak, I will sit down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I want you to speak. But I want you to speak relevant... (Interruptions). Ahluwajji, just a minute. Let me explain to Gujral Saheb. We don't mind your speaking but on a proper subject. So, you please speak on the specific subject.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, I am speaking on the specific subject of missiles and I am not going away from that. If I am going away from that, you kindly stop me...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anything can be related to missiles... (Interruptions)

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: I am speaking within the framework...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us have guided missiles and not unguided missiles anywhere and at every place.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, you know my habit. I don't speak when I don't have to. And I don't speak unless the matter is of an urgent concern. Madam, I think, you will kindly leave me alone for a couple of minutes, so that I can develop my points.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I can't leave you because I have to sit in the Chair.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, the statement itself is, if I may use that word, with all respects, very bald. It does not give us any idea as to what type of things we are talking about and what the implications of these things are. The other day the hon. Prime Minister enlightened the House a great deal about Agni. I am not going into that at the moment. But, at the moment, I would like to say this

thing only that some of us, who have some idea,—not much, but some of which is about the system as it works—felt concerned when the Prime Minister said that the data analysis to be collected might take one year or might take more. Maybe, it is correct. But kindly keep in mind the fact that the world today is moving very fast and, therefore, we may be very much left behind. Even now, we are left behind. The Prime Minister also said that day that it was only an experiment. Fine, experiments have to precede a situation. But, I would like to be assured about the life-span of an experiment and as to when we can feel more secure and sure about the missilisation of it and the interauration of it in our system. A concern has been caused, and I will take one minute—Don't get impatient, I will take a minute more. When you give a dirty look, I get very upset...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Gujral Saheb, I think, I have never been charged for dirty looks... (Interruptions).

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, you are good looking.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): The comment on her looks is not warranted.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Madam, what is the situation? The Prime Minister, as the leader of the nation, has every right to take decisions keeping in view all the dimensions of security. And we have confidence in him. I am not questioning that. And I am one of those who have complete faith in his patriotism, in his knowledge, in his experience. So, I am not questioning that also. I am only saying one thing. Certain factors have been coming before us which have caused us anxiety. And one of the latest factors was the so-called non-paper. I have raised this issue earlier also. The non-paper has tried to aim at something. I would only like to be assured and I think, the nation also would like to be assured, by no less a person than

the Prime Minister himself, that he thinks that this demand for a meeting of the minds before he goes to America does not have any other connotation. I am satisfied if it does not have it. But whatever has been leaked to the Press has its connotation. Secondly, I would only like that we should be in a position to know this. I have a piece of information. I am making my statement with all the sense of responsibility that I have—that Mr. Talbott, after going back from here, told knowledgeable sources, both in Europe and in America, "Indians are now in a trap and they cannot get out of it."

Thank you very much.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala): Madam, I will confine myself to the statement. The statement of the Prime Minister has come in a situation where all the citizens of the country are concerned about the imperialist belligerence of the United States. They want us to do something in regard to our missile development and deployment programme. They have their own agenda. That has worked up the entire country because the issue appeared in the Press reports in a big way. The patriotic Indians are worked up and they want to know whether the Government's stated objective would be upheld or not. This is what we are all concerned about now. Therefore, if the launching and development of the Prithvi missile has been stopped for some time because of the absence of the Prime Minister from the country it is not a bad thing. But you should note the anxiety of the people also. Now the Prime Minister, by a clear statement, should have stated that we, the Indians, would not budge an inch from the stated policies of the Government and that we would not succumb to the belligerence of the United States. This assurance is what we would like to have from the Prime Minister. I think he will be able to assure us on this point.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, we have to compliment our scientists because it is mentioned that

the Prithvi missile is as good as the Patriot missile of America. It is a defence missile. But, at the same time, there are Press reports that three of our cities are being targeted by some missiles by some countries across our borders and also in the West. The names of the cities are Jalandhar, Amritsar and Bhatinda. May I know from the Government whether there is any truth in these Press reports and what precautions the Government of India is taking?

Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairman.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Fernandes for being brief.

SHRI MISA R. GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, in the statement, the last sentence says: "There is no question of pressure from anywhere nor is there any jeopardy to the programme."

Madam, in relation to the cryogenic engine deal, we had a bitter experience. Why Russia refused to supply the cryogenic engines and transfer its technology to India? It was because of the intervention of the United States. Cryogenic engines are meant only for our space programmes and we repeatedly assured them of this. But, in spite of this, after the successful launching of Prithvi and Agni, the US thought that these cryogenic engines would be used for our defence purposes. So, they intervened and Russia refused to supply the cryogenic engines. Similarly, in this also we are having that fear. The hon. Prime Minister has to clarify this point.

Thank you

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Madam, the reason for postponing the trials during the absence of the Prime Minister from the country is explained here. If this is the case generally and in the presence of the Prime Minister such programmes are conducted, then there is no reason to worry about this. I think that India, being one of the most important countries, cannot be bullied by anyone.

Then, why should we take cognizance of Mr. Talbott talking to some lobby in the USA, the NPT lobby? He may speak in his own line to suit his convenience. Therefore, I don't know why we should be worried about Mr. Talbott. I think the statement of the Prime Minister is satisfactory. But to further convince the country and our citizens, the Prime Minister should firmly assure that this programme is going to be conducted. I request the Prime Minister to give such a firm assurance.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI (Delhi): Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Minister of State for Defence has said that major launching are not normally done in the absence of the Prime Minister. I wish the tour dates of the Prime Minister were changed instead of the dates of the launching of the missile. This change in the programme... (*Interruptions*) ...

It is not a matter for laughing because such changes will send wrong signals.

The hon. Minister has also said that there is no pressure. I think, pressure is there. Pressure is always there. The problem arises when you begin to yield to that pressure. (*Interruptions*) It seems to hurt them. The problem is not the pressure. The pressure will be applied. We should not be yielding to these pressures. But, I am sorry to say that in case after case, we have yielded to pressure.

AN HON. MEMBER: No.

SHRI K. R. MALKANI: For example, the US President himself had said that the Human Rights Commission in India was set up at the instance of America. This is President Clinton saying it, not the BJP saying it. This is not the only thing. (*Interruptions*)³. Madam Deputy Chairman, I seek your protection. This kind of intolerance is not the only thing (*Interruptions*). way they are trying to interrupt me. You should be strong enough to face it and answer it. We are here as

friends and colleagues. Truth should not hurt you. Let us take the case of the Missile. All these years, we have been hearing about Agni as a missile. Then one fine morning, our hon. Minister of State for Defence comes up and says, there is no such thing as Agni as a missile, but it is a technological capability demonstration. Whom are you fooling? We did not give this name to this particular device. It was the Government, it was the DRDO, who gave this title. Why are you trying to wriggle out of it? What is the great idea?

Only recently, four days back, there was this case of that Non-Paper. I think, it was very correctly put: It was not a piece of paper, it was a piece of dynamite. Here are people telling us that we have made a commitment about multilateral negotiations on NPT in October or September, whatever it was, and we are trying to wriggle out of it. This House would like to know, the whole country would like to know, whether we had made any commitment, what the nature of that commitment was and whether we have wriggled out of it. Is it a case of their misunderstanding us, or our misunderstanding them? There seems to be a lot of confusion, there is a lot of arm-twisting from the other side, and, I am sorry to say, a lot of confusion at this end. So, this confusion must end. This House would like to be assured, the whole country would like to be assured about our missile programme, the induction and deployment of Prithvi, and going ahead with Agni. Thank you, very much.

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, it is quite clear from the statement that this trial of Prithvi has been postponed because of the Prime Minister's visit to USA. But, I would like to know why this information has come to the House in the form of a statement, after a great deal of debate in our House and also in Lok Sabha. You should have told the House before you have announced this programme because, earlier, the Minister of State

for Defence clearly said that this programme is going ahead. But, after that, the American pressure and also their intervention and also many reports from the USA and the secret talks in London capping of Agni and delay in Prithvi... all these things created doubts, grave doubts among the people of India. Of course, as far as the ruling party is concerned, they may not be concerned because they believe...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Why? We are all concerned. What is all this?

(Interruptions)...

SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): You are wearing coloured glasses. You are seeing everything in a different way.

SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: We are no less patriotic than you.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: You are unnecessarily suspecting even a small thing.

(Interruptions) Mr. Giri Prasad, please.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Giri Prasad, I would... (Interruptions).

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: The ruling party must feel... (Interruptions)... concerned about the doubts and anxieties the Opposition is having and the people are having. And the people have to be satisfied with the correct position as far as the Government policy is concerned. So, they may have confidence in the Prime Minister and the Government as a whole. But the Opposition and the general public, unless they are assured of the truth, will not be satisfied. My first contention is, why did the Government not come forward to share this information with the House much earlier? Also about the deployment, the statement is not clear about deployment of these Prithvi missiles. Earlier it was stated that the Prithvi missile has come to the operational stage and these missiles will be deployed. But they have not been deployed and there is no such assurance. As

far as the trials are concerned, it has been stated already. Now whether there is any definite commitment by the Government to deploy these missiles, I would like to know, because these were already demonstrated in the Republic Day Parade and this House discussed it last time. We want to know whether any decision has been taken by the Government with regard to their deployment or any commitment in this regard. Thank you.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): I want to seek only one clarification. Launching of the Prithvi missile was finalised much before and the visit of the Prime Minister was finalised only recently. If the Prime Minister thought it fit to postpone launching of Prithvi missile rather than postponing his visit to the blow hot blow cold U.S.A., I have nothing to say. But let the Prime Minister assure the House and the nation that not only the trials of Prithvi but also further production of Prithvis will not be stopped after his visit to the U.S.

श्रीमती सखसा चराल (हरियाणा)
सहोदर्या, मैं भी कुछ कहना चाहती हूँ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have taken only one person from each party.

श्रीमती सखसा चराल : कभी-कभी वीमेन के नाम पर भी दे दीजिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I consider you as a person, as a Member of Parliament. On women's issue, I am sorry, I cannot make an exception.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI (Orissa): Madam, I will just take a minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: With due respect to you, Mr. Bommai, please abide by what I have said. I have other requests also from the Congress Party, from the BJP but I am calling only one person from each party. I have the name of Mr. Jagesh Desai before me which I have not called.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Madam, I am very grateful to the hon. Members for the concern they have expressed one manner or the other. Apart from the concern that needs to be noted, I would like to assure them that I have not only noted their concern but I have the same concern. I have never had any different view. I wish we had a full debate on the missile programme of the Government. In fact, we had given presentations in the Consultative Committee of Parliament, if I remember right. It can be done gain for Members of both Houses of Parliament anywhere where they can assemble and there should be no difficulty about that. It will not be possible for me to give details in regard to every programme that we have, nor every programme that is being developed or has been developed around us. I have a map with me which shows the kind of missile deployment which could be triggered off around India and I entirely agree with Guiralji that it makes one feel concerned. Yes. That is why, there has been a programme on missiles which we are discussing today. It is a missile: it is being developed. It is in the final stages and there will be no delay in the original schedule of its completion. This has been stated. I would like the Members only to understand if the Prime Minister is not in the country and these test-firings, etc., are done, it will cause embarrassment in case of a particular result. So, it was considered necessary to postpone it for these 7 or 8 or 10 days, which could be easily adjusted later. So, there was no great intention of either giving it up or stopping it or anything.

I, once again, want to tell the House, till this minute, no pressure has come on me to do anything about this programme. I would not have concealed it from the House if there had been any pressure. But in any case, what our response is going to be is more important. That response is quite clear, on which I have given an assurance, an unequivocal assurance, in this House.

I do not know what else I have to say. I am going on a goodwill mission. I do not think we can do without these friendly visits in the present-day world. It is one of those visits which I have paid to many other countries. It so happened that for some reasons, which could have been avoided, this visit has assumed certain atmosphere. But then what is done is done. Probably, we would need to undo this by way of friendly dealings, firm dealings, adhering to our policies, making others understand our policies.

I can also assure the House that in my career for the last 14 years—with a little break—in the Central Government, I have not failed to convince others of what I am saying on a particular subject. It is a question of your persuasiveness. It is not a question of your conversion. We do not get converted, howsoever a person's advocacy may be. But this diplomatic process is a continuous one. Decisions are taken not because someone has pleaded his case very well in front of us, or, we have pleaded our case well before somebody else. What happens in these discussions is a better understanding, not necessarily a better agreement. That is all there is to it.

I would, certainly, welcome suggestions. In fact, Guiralji has given some suggestions for which I am grateful to him. There is no party matter in this. Even now, in the next twenty-four hours, if there are any suggestions from Members on what line I should take on a particular subject, or, if they have any information, as Guiralji said, which I may not have, or, I happen to have just the opposite information, I would take it.

All these things go on: these non-papers, e'tc. Non-paper is a non-paper only. When it is a non-paper, why should anyone treat it as a paper at all? It is a non-paper because it is not to be treated as a paper. That is how it is. Dozens of non-papers fly around when we are having a negotiation.

Otherwise, you would never put your pen to the paper.

If it becomes a paper, it becomes part of the record and then you are tied by it. So, there is no question of being tied by anything. We have clearly stated the case and I would like hon. Members to rest assured on all these questions which they have raised.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: What about the anti-missile missile?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, no misguided missiles, please.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister about the anti-missile missile.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted you. Mr. Viren Shah I am sorry. This matter is over. We are on family planning now. I am on time-planning. I will call the next speaker.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Madam, just now, we were discussing the health of the nation.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE—Contd.

उपसभापति : कमला सिन्हा जी, आप बोलना चाह रही हैं। बोलिए।

श्रीमती कमला सिन्हा (बिहार) : मैडम डिप्टी चैयरमैन, मैं बहुत ही संक्षिप्त में अपनी बात को कहूंगी। यह साल ईयर आफ द फैमिली है और दुनिया भर में इसको मनाया जा रहा है इंटरनेशनल ईयर आफ द फैमिली, लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान में हम क्या देखते हैं? (व्यवधान)...

मैडम, मुझसे पहले कुछ वक्ताओं ने अपनी राय रखी, मैं उसको दोहराना नहीं चाहूंगी। हिन्दुस्तान एक ऐसा देश है, जिसमें हर साल पौने दो करोड़ की आबादी जमा हो जाती है और दुनिया की ढाई प्रतिशत

जमीन में 16 प्रतिशत आबादी बसी हुई है। अगर इस तरह से चलना रहेगा तो राजिम है कि दुनिया में हम जिदा नहीं रह सकेंगे क्योंकि हमारे पास खिलाने के लिए अनाज नहीं होगा, हमारे पास जमीन नहीं होगी। हम जानते हैं की महोदय कुछ-कुछ सोचना ही पड़ेगा।

यहां ईलाज के बारे में कहा गया कि हमारी हालत क्या है। अभी हाल में जो गेट एग्जिप्ट हुआ उसके बाद तो दवा के दाम बढ़ जायेंगे पेटेंट के कारण और उसके कारण हमारे ग्रामीण अंचल में ईलाज का और ब्रैकट आने वाला है। आज के ही दिन डाक्टर और पेशेंट का रेशो बहुत बुरा है, 16000 पापुलेशन पर एक डाक्टर होता है और दिनों दिन आपका बजट एलोकेशन घट रहा है।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापड़ें)
पीठासीन हुईं।]

आपके अस्पताल तो हैं नहीं। ग्रामीण अंचल में आप चले जाइए, वहां कोई अस्पताल नहीं। मकान जरूर बड़ा है, लेकिन डाक्टर वहां नहीं रहता। हिन्दुस्तान के किसी भी हिस्से में आप चले जाएं, यही हालत आप देखेंगे। डाक्टर वहां रहता नहीं क्योंकि डाक्टर के रहने की जगह भी नहीं होती। लेडी डाक्टर तो कतई नहीं रहती क्योंकि उनकी सुरक्षा की कोई व्यवस्था है ही नहीं। वहां रह नहीं पाती। नर्सिंग या ए०एन०एम०, वह अपने घर में होती हैं तो किसी तरह से अपना गुजारा कर लेती हैं, लेकिन उसको अगर किसी दूसरी जगह भेज दिया जाता है तो वहां वह भी नहीं रह पाती क्योंकि उनकी भी सुरक्षा की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है, न ही कोई रहने की जगह है। तो यह हालत ग्रामीण अंचल की है। हिन्दुस्तान एक गांवों का देश है। हमारे देश की 70 फीसदी आबादी गांवों में रहती है। उस हालत में जब तक हम अपने ग्रामीण अंचल के लोगों के स्वास्थ्य का ख्याल नहीं करेंगे तब तक हम नहीं समझते कि अपने देश के स्वास्थ्य का ख्याल हम कर सके हैं। केवल अरबन पापुलेशन के लिए कोई व्यवस्था करके मंत्री महोदय अगर चाहें कि हालत में