

Upgradation of Israeli Consulate

*42. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:†
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the Israeli consulate and start full fledged diplomatic relations with Israel in view of recent changes in the political scenario in West Asia;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Normalisation of relations with Israel would be contingent upon genuine progress in the ongoing peace process.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन: सभापति जी इजराइल के साथ पूर्ण कूटनीतिक सम्बन्ध स्थापित न करने के लिये सरकार कोई न कोई बहाना ढूँढेगी, इसकी तो मुझे आशांका थी। लेकिन इतना हास्यास्पद बहाना ढूँढेगी इसकी मैंने कल्पना नहीं की थी। पाकिस्तान ने हमारा एक तिहाई कश्मीर हड़प लिया है। वह आज भी हमारे साथ अघोषित युद्ध की स्थिति में है। फिर भी उनके साथ हमारे सम्बन्ध सामान्य हैं।

चीन ने हमारी हजारों मील भूमि पर अनधिकृत कब्जा किया है, फिर भी उनके साथ हमारे संबंध सामान्य है। इंग्लैंड ने हमें डेढ़ सौ वर्ष तक गुलाम बनाकर रखा था फिर भी हम राष्ट्रकुल के सदस्य हैं। मैं मानता हूँ कि संसद के दुनिया में किसी के साथ अनावश्यक

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Pramod Mahajan.

शत्रुत्व करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। इस पट्टभूमि में मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूँगा कि शान्ति वार्ता तो कल शुरू हुई है, लेकिन हमारे 40 वर्षों से इजराइल के साथ सामान्य संबंध न रखने के असली कारण क्या है यदि असली कारण नहीं है तो वे क्या सामान्य संबंध कायम करने के लिए कोई कदम उठाएंगे?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: It is good that all sections of the House—at least as I recall it—stand by the Palestinian cause, by the Palestinian rights. But quite a part from that, I would like to inform the House that we have already liberalised substantially our policy towards Israel. Our policy has already been considerably liberalised. The scope and timing, however, of further normalisation will depend upon various factors and no commitment can be given in this regard. Basically, as I have said in my answer, it depends on genuine progress in the settlement of the Palestinian issues. The honourable Member has mentioned the Madrid Conference. What happened at the Madrid Conference was the first step in that process, namely, all the parties met there, something which they had not done for forty years or so. They have met there. They have merely reiterated their known position. The important step is the second step, of bilateral discussions between the different parties to the issue, namely, Israel on one side, and the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and the other countries which are directly involved, on the other. That is the second step. And the third step is multi-lateral talks on the issues in which countries of the Magreb Union and other countries will also be involved. Now the point is this. There must be some progress and it is most unfortunate that whilst the Madrid Conference itself was going on, Israel was having settlements or increasing and building settlements in the Arab-occupied land, something which even strong well-wishers of Israel like the United States found most unpleasant and condemnable. So let us wait for

a genuine progress in the direction of the policy towards Palestine to which all sections of the House are committed, and then we will do something in the matter of diplomatic relations)... (Interruptions).

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : सभापति महोदय, दुर्भाग्य से मेरे पहले प्रश्न का ही उत्तर नहीं मिला है। अरब इजराइल की जो शांति वार्ता चलाने का वातावरण बना है हम उसको सफ़लता की कामना करते हैं। लेकिन इस वार्ता को प्रगति का हमारे और इजराइल के जो संबंध हैं उनके साथ क्या रिश्ता है? हम अरब देशों के मित्र हैं। हम अरब देश नहीं हैं। हम उनके मित्र हो सकते हैं। हम उनकी वार्ता की शुभकामना कर सकते हैं : आज जो परिस्थिति बदल रही है उसमें रूस ने अपने संबंध सामान्य करना प्रारंभ किया है। चीन ने प्रारंभ किया है। इजिप्ट ने शुरुआत की है। इजराइल और अरब देशों एक दूसरे के सामने मँड़ि में बैठे थे, 4 दिसम्बर को वाशिंगटन में बैठेंगे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इजराइल के साथ अपने कूटनीतिक संबंध तब स्थापित होंगे जब सारी दुनियाँ के कूटनीतिक संबंध स्थापित हो जाएँगे? क्या भारत शांति के बाद अपना चौड़ा भेजने वाला आखिरी देश होगा, यह मैं जानना चाहूँगा।

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I have mentioned, though briefly, what the Madrid Conference was about. I would like to add that though India has no official relations with Israel, there is no formal restriction on non-official contact, including in the fields of tourism, private trade, sports and culture. Israel's participation in an individual capacity is allowed in international conferences taking place in India. There is, however, no official trade between the two countries and no official-level visits...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: What is it he is reading out? He can make a *suo motu* statement on it. But he must answer my question, not read out something.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: The point I am making is there has been already some liberalisation in recent times. The question of diplomatic relations... (Interruption).

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : बना-बनाया जवाब न दीजिए, कुछ मन से भी बोलिए... (व्यवधान)

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, the Minister has not replied to the hon. Member's question. He is just reading from a prepared statement from his file. The reply has got nothing to do with the question the hon. Member asked. The Minister can apply his mind... (Interruptions).

श्री सभापति : वह यह कह रहे हैं कि शासन इस और प्रगति पर है... (व्यवधान)

श्री ज. बी. प्रसाद माथुर : मूल सवाल यह है कि पिछले 40 सालों में कौन सी अड़चन रही है... (व्यवधान)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, there are two points that I wish to make. In recent times, there has been a substantial liberalisation in our relations with Israel and the second point is that full-fledged diplomatic relations with Israel will depend upon genuine progress on the settlement of Palestinian issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, I understand that national interest is the supreme guiding principle of a country's foreign policy and I hope the Minister will have no disagreement with that general statement. If that be so, then we have to look at our relations with Israel in that context. It is my feeling that the reply which the Minister has given shows that we are still prisoners of the past and we are not able to get out of the prison in which we have deliberately put

ourselves. In the Madrid conference—and there is going to be another conference in Washington on December 4th—the PLO has been invited, they are sitting face to face across the table with the Israeli delegation. Now, we are not participating in that conference and we shall not determine the shape and outcome of that conference. I do not know whether the Minister of External Affairs has any role to play even as far as the Arab States are concerned in regard to their attitude. In the light of all these, the question is one of upgrading the relationship and it is not a question of recognising Israel. The Soviet Union has done it. I do not understand this: if it suits our national interest, why should the Government not be bold enough to take this step? Why does it not show this courage instead of being a prisoner of its earlier shibboleths?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Bilateral talks on the Madrid initiative are taking place early next month and so, let us see how it develops... (Interruptions)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Why do we have to wait and see? What is it that you are waiting for? What do you expect is going to be the outcome of the conference? Why should we not take any initiative? What is this, 'some progress'? Unfortunately, the Minister is being vague in his reply. He is talking of some progress. Let him tell us what it is. Why is he not being categorical?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have given recognition to Israel since 1950. The Consulate is there in Bombay. The question of establishing full-fledged diplomatic relations will depend on genuine progress on the Palestine issue. We shall wait for the outcome of the bilateral talks. There is really no point in making long statements here. Let us wait for a few more days.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: What are the principles that are guiding our relations?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has said what he had to say. Now, let Mr. Karanjia speak.

SHRI R. K. KARANJIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree with the Opposition on the point that we are not only being prisoners of the past but we are also abdicating our responsibilities as peace-makers. We should have been there in the conference in some capacity or the other. But just because we failed to give full diplomatic recognition to Israel at the ministerial level, we are nowhere in the picture. I do not agree with the hon. Minister that we are extending all facilities to Israel. We are not doing anything like that. We are being very cruel and we are treating them almost as untouchables. I will give you an example. During the Gulf war, Saddam Hussain was sending his missiles into Israel. There are five thousand Israelis in India—this is purely a compassionate issue that I am mentioning—who wanted to phone up, who wanted to use the STD telephone facility, to contact their relations, their friends, and their near and dear ones in Israel, but they could not do it. Five thousand people were just shut off the electronic instrument because of our cussedness... (Interruptions) ... What are we doing this for? I have been anti-Israel all my life—everybody knows it—and I am pro-Arab. Actually, I am a member of the Al-Fatha. But, at the same time, I do not see why we should pursue a totally barren, totally non-productive, almost anti-Indian policy on this particular issue. We have got to be there and I want to be there, but we are not there why? Because we have disqualified ourselves since we happen to be prisoners of the past which, I must say, is a dead past.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, there are two parts to the question of the honourable Member. The first part of the question is why we are not there as a party to the Madrid peace process. Here, the Madrid peace process... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The question was why you did not allow them the STD facility. But you have not answered that ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I am coming to that. Just wait. I am coming to that ... (Interruptions)... The Madrid Conference and its peace process were initiated by the US and the USSR and it is not a UN Conference. So, it depends upon them and it is for them to decide whom they should invite and whom they should not invite. We are not in it. That is point number one.

On the question of the use of the STD, I will find out the details and I will inform the Members. But I would like to state here very clearly that though we may have difficulties with Israel, problems with Israel, we are not the enemies of the Jewish people or any other people. Therefore, as far as the question of the STD is concerned, I shall have the details, I will find out the details ... (Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You think that the Government of India did not stop it?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: You meant the STD?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Of course, not. Of course, with regard to that point of time, I have no information. I will find out and will inform the Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Afzal.

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल: जनाबे सदर, मेरे ख्याल में जो बहस यहां सवाल और जवाब के मामले का है वह दूसरी तरफ चला गया है। यशवंत सिन्हा जी ने बहुत सही प्वाइंट आउट किया है कि अरब-इजराइल के ताल्लुक़ात जी एक नया मोड़ ले चुके हैं मेडिटरेडियन कान्फ़ेंस में उसमें हम को अपना नेशनल इंस्ट्रूमेंट भी

देखना चाहिए। हमारा नेशनल इंस्ट्रूमेंट क्या है मैं जरा इसको वज़ाहत करना चाहता हूँ। 1947 में यह तय किया था अरबवामे मुस्तहदा ने कि दो आजाद मुल्कों का कयाम अमल में लाया जाए— एक इजराइल का और दूसरे फिलिस्तीन का। लेकिन बदकिस्मती से इजराइल का कयाम अमल में आ गया लेकिन फिलिस्तीनी लोग आज तक बेघर हैं। उनके लिए आज तक कोई जमीन नहीं है। यही नहीं ...।

श्री सभापति : यह आप तारोख बता रहे हैं।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल: मैं उसी से रिट कर रहा हूँ। यह बहुत अहम है और हिन्दुस्तान से जुड़ा हुआ सवाल है। सवाल यह है कि हमारा पालिसी यह थी कि जो नजायज कब्जे इजराइल ने किये हैं, खासतौर से पांच इलाकों में— गोलन हाइट्स, वेस्ट बैंक, ईस्ट जरुशलम गाजास्ट्रिप, सेक्योरिटी जोन आफ साउथ लेबनान—इन इलाकों को खाली किये बगैर अब तक कोई आजाद अरब मुल्क इस बात के लिए राजी नहीं हुआ कि इजराइल से कोई पेंच किया जाए। अगर मेडिटरेडियन कान्फ़ेंस के अंदर भी जो जाईन और सीरिया और फिलिस्तीन के नुमाइन्दे थे उनकी बार-बार इजराइली नुमाइन्दे के साथ इस बात पर झड़प हुई क्योंकि वे बार-बार इसरार करते थे कि इन इलाकों को खाली किया जाए और वह कहते थे कि नहीं यह हमारे ग्रेट इजराइल के अंदर शामिल हैं। मैं आगे बढ़ कर फिर आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि ग्रेट इजराइल का मसूबा सिर्फ गोलन हाइट्स या गाजास्ट्रिप तक नहीं जाता बल्कि मक्का-मदीना तक जाता है। मक्का-मदीना तक जब जाता है तो इससे पूरे दुनियां के मुस्लिम अवाम के सेटीमेंट्स हर्ट होते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ हिन्दुस्तान के जो मुसलमान हैं उनका भी यह इंटेरेस्ट है कि मक्का और मदीना तक जिस इजराइल का कयाम अमल में लाने का प्रोग्राम है...

श्री सभापति : आप अपने सवाल को इसी सवाल तक मद्दद रखिये।

श्री मोहम्मद अफजल ऊर्फ मौम अफजल : मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि वह गोलमोल जवाब दे रहे हैं। उन्होंने महाजन साहब के सवाल का भी गोलमोल जवाब दिया है। उनको साफतौर से यह बताना चाहिए कि क्या बकदुदा श्रब इलाकों से कब्जा वापस लिये बगैर इजराइल को तसलीम करेंगे या इसके तालुकात बढ़ायेंगे ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will he apply the same conditions for Pakistan and China

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That is really the difficulty, Sir. As the hon. Member is right in saying that while most of the Arab participants in the Madrid Conference insisted and made it a point that Arab-occupied territories must be vacated, Israel has nothing to say on that and showed no inclination at all to vacate any of these territories. On the contrary, Sir, Israel accelerated building and construction of settlements in the Arab lands. And, Sir, they accelerated the building of settlements in the occupied territories. And there are an estimated 1,20,000 Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza and 18,000 on the Golan Heights. Sir, the basic point that I am making here is that while the Conference itself was in session, new Jewish settlements were being inaugurated in the Golan Heights and the West Bank. So, now this is the position. Therefore, let us await the bilateral talks. That is my submission, Sir.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Sir, China has occupied Indian territories and we have kept relations ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: My question, if you permit me, Sir ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have asked Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, the Minister is putting Israel on probation and said that if it behaves well in the Madrid Conference, they would give due consideration to recognise them. Of course, by the time we will come to it, the whole world would have recognised Israel. Already China has invited the Defence Minister of Israel to visit China. And somehow they are more Arabs than the Arabs themselves. But, Sir, my question is more in continuation of what Mr. Karanjia has asked. There are 35,000 Indians in Israel, Jews of Indian origin who live in Israel. They have a hell of problem. Excuse me, Sir, that is an unparliamentary word. They have a heaven of problem to get a visa to come to India. They have to go to Cyprus, they have to go to Romania, they have to fly out into Europe. And there the visas are not automatically issued. They have to wait sometimes weeks, sometimes months. And this harassment is unbelievable. Considering that the NRIs are to be treated equally—forget all your Madrid Conference—I would like to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question is whether they are willing to expedite for the sake of Indians there.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I am not expecting anything from the Minister. The Minister is, in fact, not even original; he is reading out what the Foreign Minister of the Janata Government in 1977 read out, and not anything different.

AN HON. MEMBER: Old wine in new bottle. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want to get your answer from the then Janata Dal External Affairs Minister? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: There was no BJP then, BJP was created later on, out of Janata Party. Now, the question is whether out of humanitarian consideration for these 35,000...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what I said; that is how I summed it up.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I want to know whether out of humanitarian consideration some special efforts will be made at least to open a visa office or to designate some Embassy in Tel Aviv which can issue visas for Indians to come and visit.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, as far as the position here is concerned for the benefit of Israeli citizens of Indian origin and others who want to go to Israel, we have extended recently the jurisdiction of the Israeli Consulate... (Interruptions) We have extended recently the jurisdiction of the Israeli Consulate in Bombay to Kerala also. As far as the specific question of the hon. Member is concerned, for the benefit of the Israeli citizens in Israel of Indian origin, we shall look into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ashis Sen.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: How long will he be looking into it? That is not the answer. How can you be so lenient with the Minister, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to know the meaning of 'looking into', you ask Yashwant Sinhaji.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That is precisely the culture I do not want, Sir. The question is: How long is he going to look into? He has been looking into it all this time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will look into it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The question is whether the Minister is prepared to say that he would consider giving...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will consider.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Is that your assurance, Sir?

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Kumar Birla.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ashis Sen.

SHRI ASHIS SEN: I would like to mention here that upgrading the diplomatic relations in a State is towards ultimate recognition of a State. In that context India's position vis-a-vis Palestine is quite clear that Palestinians are moving around the world without any homeland of their own. Naturally, it cannot be compared with what is happening with China's occupation of Indian territory and like that. They are trying to equate it. It is not a parallel situation. I would like to say here that till there is an amicable settlement between Israel and Palestine on the Arab land when Israel continues to occupy a sizeable portion of the Arab land there, and till there is a specific decision... the Palestinians should be given a homeland of their own out of a negotiated settlement—I would like to have a clear-cut assurance from the Minister that no such upgradation of the status would be made. Let us wait till we see the outcome of that procedure.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: That I have already mentioned. Sir, we are waiting to see what is happening now in the bilateral talks. Therefore, let us wait and see the outcome, just 10 or 15 days from now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 43.

Proposal to wind up the Hindustan Shipyards Limited

*43. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:†

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Shipyards Limited is proposed to be shut down by Government;

(b) if so, what are the accumulated losses suffered by HSL since it was taken over by Government in 1952;