

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:**  
I think, I have answered the question and within the limitations of the Union Government, I have tried to explain to the hon. Member, who has been a distinguished Chief Minister of a State and who, knows the parameters and the constitutional powers of the Union and the States.

**SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :**  
Sir, I only wanted to ask the hon. Minister whether in the files which exist about this project, any action has been taken against the erring contractor because the last postponement, according to the hon. Minister's answer, has been due to poor performance by the contractors. If that is so, do the files indicate that some action has been taken either by way of penalising the contractor or by changing the contractor ? That is the question.

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:**  
Sir, the contract was rescinded and a new contract was also found. The name of the present contractor is M/S Simplex Concrete Piles Limited.

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH :**  
Sir, in the construction of big projects, bridges, power stations, an agency is fixed. For instance, the National Highway Construction Corporation is one of the agencies for building the National Highways. I would like to know whether the Government is considering the formation of a Bridge Construction Corporation or whether the bridges on the National Highways will be handed over to the National Highway Construction Corporation so that this kind of lapses of cost escalation and time escalation do not arise. Will the Government consider that ?

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:**  
Sir, I think, the hon. Member labours under the illusion that this is under the National Highways.

It is not so. As far the suggestion that he has made, well, we can discuss it but I cannot explain the same without a separate notice.

**SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:**  
Sir, the Trans-Yamuna colonies and towns are expanding very fast. In view of this, what are the bridges what are the bridges which are under construction and what are the bridges which are proposed to be constructed over Yamuna ? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister does the Government have plan to expand the ISBT or build a similar complex in any other part of the capital to cope with the vast increase of inter-state bus traffic ?

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:**  
There is another question coming up.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** He wants to know about any other bridge being constructed over Yamuna. Are you building any other bridge on Yamuna ?

**SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN:**  
No, Sir.

**Pakistan Senate's resolution on withdrawal of Indian Troops from Siachin and demanding plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir**

**\*42. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resolution passed by the Pakistan Senate sometime back demanding immediate withdrawal of the Indian troops from Siachin and reiterating its stand on plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether Government of India have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if so, what is the response received and what is the reaction of Government there to stating how these developments are likely to reflect on the ongoing talks on Siachen issue and for normalisation of bilateral relations between the two countries?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) :** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government issued an official statement clarifying that the resolution was not in conformity with the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement and with the efforts India and Pakistan have been making to normalise bilateral relations.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :** Sir, there has not been once instance of India interfering in the internal affairs of Pakistan and yet Pakistan constantly continues to provoke India. It was expected that after President Zia when democracy was restored in Pakistan, things would improve. These hopes have been belied. Frankly speaking, Sir, the answer of the hon. Minister is rather disappointing. Is an official statement adequate or is something more required to be done? My first question is: Is the Government of India contemplating to have a high-level dialogue with Pakistan to emphasize that the Simla Agreement has to be followed in letter and spirit so that the two neighbours could live in a peaceful manner?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** Sir, my hon. friend would recall, over the years, ever since 1971, the Government of India has been emphasizing time and again that adherence to the spirit and letter of the Simla Agreement would help in building good cooperative bilateral relationship. In the recently exchanged letters between the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India, this has been reiterated by the Prime Minister of India.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :** Sir, regarding the second supplementary, recently, during dis-

cussions in the Pakistani Senate, a reference was made to minorities in India. The Government of India is doing everything possible to maintain communal harmony in the country. Sir, the reference is a blatant interference in the internal affairs of our country and it is not conducive to mutual friendship and respect. The matter requires to be taken up strongly by the Government of India. I would like to ask what action Government of India is proposing to take.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** Sir, the resolution was definitely intervention in India's internal affairs. A spokesman of the Government of India—I am talking of the Government of India then—had made a statement saying that India did not view this favourably because—I would read on—“...the resolution passed by the Pakistan Senate on Monday the 18th September last year has come to our notice. It is clear this resolution which speaks of Kashmir and Siachen is not in keeping with the letter and spirit of Simla Agreement. It does not conform to the efforts that had been exerted by us and also by the Pakistan Government for normalising our mutual relations in the interests of the people of the two countries and of the peace and stability of South Asia. The resolution makes references also to the rights of minorities in India. Pakistan has no *locus standi* in this matter. Nor has any other country. Such references have to be constructed as interference in our internal affair.” The present Government of India sticks to this formulation.

**श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा :** सर, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने पाकिस्तान के थल सेनाध्यक्ष, जनरल मिर्जा असलम बेग के उस बयान को देखा है जिसमें कहा गया है कि पाकिस्तान की थल सेनाध्यक्ष के मुताबिक पाकिस्तान के अब तक के सबसे बड़े युद्धाभ्यास “जर्वे मोमिन” की अभिकल्पना पाकिस्तान के

युद्ध नीतिक सिद्धांत के प्रमुख अंतर तथा बड़े पैमाने पर आक्रमण करने की थल सेना क्षमता के परीक्षण के रूप में की गई है ? पाकिस्तान के थल सेनाध्यक्ष के इस बयान के प्रति सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है कि भारत के साथ यदि कोई युद्ध होगा, तो वह भारत की भूमि पर होगा ? इस अभ्यास का भारत के सुरक्षात्मक वातावरण पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा ? क्या उसकी कोई समीक्षा की गई है अथवा कोई सर्वे करवाया गया, तथा सरकार पर इसकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं या अब तक उठाये गये हैं—मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ ?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** The Government has taken due notice of the recently held exercises in Pakistan. Well, it is part of the normal defence practices in various countries. As a matter of fact, the statement that has been made whether and where the war will take place does not say war with whom. Therefore, so far as we are concerned, we are very confident about our strength and capacity to look after ourselves. Therefore, these statements do not really affect us. India's policy continues to be that we would like to have very friendly relations with Pakistan.

**श्रीमती बौणा वर्मा :** देखिये, भारत की भूमि पर अगर कोई युद्ध लड़ा गया तो वह भारत के अग्रेस्ट होगा, भारत की भूमि के लिये होगा। क्या भारत की भूमि पर लड़ा गया युद्ध किसी और के लिये होगा ?

**श्री इन्द्र कुमार गुजराल :** भारत की सुरक्षा करने की हममें हिम्मत भी है, उत्साह भी है, केपेसिटी भी है। इसलिये भारत की भूमि को कोई खतरा नहीं है।

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :** Sir, the Minister and the Government have taken the exercises by Pakistan rather lightly. In fact, it may fit in with the Government's new policy that we have seen developing since

the Minister's statements on Panama and others. I think he should not take the matter so lightly. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government of Benazir Bhutto is despatching a senior official to India. I would also like to know from the Government whether they intend to take up not only these threatening noises that are coming from across Pakistan but also the fact that the JKLF Head is based in Islamabad and everybody he is giving a running commentary on what should be done in Kashmir.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** So far as the exercise is concerned, it is not a question of taking it lightly or less then seriously. We were vigilant all the time. The exercise has ended. Therefore, there is no use of talking or postmorteming it in the political terminology. So far as the JKLF is concerned, we have taken up this matter very seriously. A few days ago, the Pakistan's diplomats here were called to the Ministry and given a demarche on this issue.

**SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :** Sir, I had asked whether the Government of Benazir Bhutto is despatching some senior official to Delhi or not. He has not answered that.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** So far as I know, yes, he is coming.

**SHRI SHABIR AHMAD SALLARIA :** I would like to ask the hon. Minister to state whether as a result of talks with the Government of Benazir Bhutto it was agreed at Islamabad that the position as it obtained at the time of the Simla Agreement with regard to the Siachin Glacier will be maintained. Is that a fact ? If that is a fact, as according to reports it transpires to be so, does it mean withdrawal of our forces to any position other than that which they are presently occupying ?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** Yes, Sir. The talks had taken place about Siachin and since then the Defence Secretaries have met. In the June 1986 meeting between the two Secretaries, it was decided that the two sides would work towards a comprehensive settlement based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict, avoidance of the use of force and determination of the future positions on the ground so as to conform to the Simla Agreement and to ensure durable peace in the Siachin area. The Army authorities of both the sides will determine those positions.

**SHRI SHABIR AHMAD SALARIA :** Sir, I had asked whether this redeployment means withdrawal of Indian forces from any forward position. Let the House know the true position.

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** It may be too early for me to say that. I think the Army Generals and Army officials would sort it out.

**SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :** The hon. Minister referred to the Simla Agreement. In fact, when the Benazir Government came into power, she also said that her policy towards India will be based on the Simla Agreement. Afterwards, this Resolution was passed in the Pakistan Senate. Pakistan also raised this Kashmir issue in the United Nations. The way they are nurturing the terrorists from Kashmir, it appears that the Government of Benazir Bhutto is shifting from her earlier stand and is trying a more aggressive stand towards India. The hon. Minister has said that they have issued a statement from the Foreign Ministry and that they have also called their diplomats and talked to them in our Foreign Ministry. Is it sufficient? Or will our Ministry take up the matter with Pakistan at the Foreign Ministers' level so that before the issue becomes more serious and assumes serious dimensions, we talk

at the level of Foreign Minister to ease the situation?

**SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :** Sir, it has been the endeavour of the Government of India to have a very friendly relationship with Pakistan. So far as the policy of this Government is concerned, it is not to flinch from the pursuit of the long-term objective of living with Pakistan as a friendly neighbour for we know that in this lie the interests of the people of the two countries and the stability and the progress of our entire region. It is our hope and expectation that we would have the active and willing support of the Government of Pakistan for the success of this endeavour. With this objective in mind, we will talk to anybody who comes here or anybody who goes from here.

**SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY :** Sir, in spite of making clarifications from the Government of India that every dispute including the Jammu and Kashmir issue will be settled according to the Simla Agreement, Pakistan is persistently pleading for the plebiscite not only in their Senate, but also in the United Nations Organization. Repeatedly they are doing it and, recently, a representative of the occupied area of Jammu Kashmir had been to the USA and he is lobbying with the members of the American Senate and Congress that the issue of plebiscite should be brought into the United Nations Organization on the plea that this has been adopted in a resolution in the United Nations in the past. I would like to know from the Minister what exactly the position the Government of India has taken in this regard so far as the plebiscite issue is concerned and why Pakistan is repeatedly persisting in this effort on the plebiscite issue. I would also like to know whether the Government of India has made it very clear to Pakistan that there is no question of any plebiscite and the

only question that remains is that the occupied area of Jammu and Kashmir which should be handed over to India and that is the only question that is existing between the two Governments to be settled. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government has made that position clear to Pakistan.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have stated the Governments position very clearly.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Sir, regarding Siachen, the Prime Minister's two discussions with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Bhutto, on Siachen did come in and the Prime Minister of India stated the position very categorically and very clearly. It is only a question of avoiding conflicts. Therefore, we will try to pursue that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 43. Question No. 44. Mrs. Chakravarty.

\* 43. [(The questioner (Shri D. B. Chandre Gowda) was absent. For answer vide col. 33 infra)]

#### Restricted area permit in North East Region

\*44. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Restricted Area Permit is still in force in the North East region;

(b) if so, whether this has hindered the development of tourism in that region; and

(c) whether Government propose to withdraw Restricted Area Permit from North East region ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Certain areas of tourist interest have been opened up and foreigners can visit these areas after obtaining permits which are being issued liberally.

(c) Government of India reviews the situation from time to time.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : It is known to all that Assam is full of scenic beauties and worth-seeing birds and animals in its national parks. It is unfortunate that while foreigners come and silently settle in Assam, foreign tourists are not allowed to visit Assam. Foreign tourists are not allowed to visit Assam because of the restrictions and this has really caused a serious setback to the economy of Assam. This has also hindered the overall development of tourism in Assam. Many important personalities invited by the different Universities of Assam have been refused permission because of the system of Restricted Area Permit and this has happened last year, in the year 1988, and some important agricultural scientists have been refused permission. They were invited by the Agricultural University of Assam. At the same time, foreign tourists can visit the most sensitive areas like some parts of Jammu and Kashmir including Ladakh, and also Darjeeling. Therefore, I want to know from the honourable Minister why Assam has been singled out in this respect and why this Restricted Area Permit system is being imposed in Assam.

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED : Sir, as far as Indian tourists are concerned, there is no restriction. But the Government of India considers that in Assam and other parts of the north-East conditions are not quite normal. Therefore, any foreign tourist who