

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Sir, there is a good number of Chakma people in Assam also, the Chakma refugees. I want to know from the honourable Minister what steps the Government has taken to send back these refugees to Bangladesh.

Secondly, I would like to know whether there is any communication which has been made to the Bangladesh Government in this regard.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Just as I said in the case of Arunachal Pradesh, here also I would not be able to give any off-hand reply. But I will check on it and tell the honourable Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.
Question No. 23.

Development of Atomic Bombs by Pakistan

*23. **SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU:**†

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the latest issue of "News Week" magazine of New York, US that Pakistan has developed four complete atomic bombs that can be delivered by its F-16 fighter bombers or missile or jet aircraft supplied to U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what will be its impact on the defence and security preparedness of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An article published in the *Newsweek* of the 11th July, 1988, cites Western intelligence sources as saying that Pakistan has as many as 4 atomic bombs and that the nuclear bomb fabricated by Pakistan is believed to be light enough to be delivered by its F-16 aircraft.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. V. Thangkabalu.

Government keep under constant review this as well as other developments having an adverse impact on the country's security and take appropriate counter-measures.

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Sir, the report appearing in the 'Newsweek' is very alarming. According to the report, the CIA and the U.S. Defence Department officials are convinced that Pakistan made a complete bomb. This is in spite of our repeated requests to the U.S. Administration. They are going on arming Pakistan. It clearly shows the sinister designs of the U.S. Government. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is contemplating to give an ultimatum to the U.S. Administration for the stoppage of arming Pakistan further.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The 'Newsweek' report is quite interesting, inasmuch as it not only says that Pakistan has four bombs but also that India has as many as 20 such devices. (*Interruptions*) So much for the truth. We know what it is. We do not go by reports, although reports appearing anywhere have to be taken into account, yet we have to do our own home work in checking out on facts. We are doing all that. As I said, we are vigilant about all these developments taking place in Pakistan. The Prime Minister has been bringing this to the notice of every Head of State or Head of Government in his meetings, because this is the kind of danger that is being posed to India, and it is our duty to bring it to the notice of friendly States so that some kind of pressure is brought to bear on those concerned. This is what he is doing, and rightly.

SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: My second question. Though the Prime Minister and the Government of India are taking up this matter so seriously and are taking this up with the various State Heads, yet it has been the regular feature and regular activity of the U.S. Government to create tension in this region. I would like to ask whether you are ready to face such danger in case they attack India.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is hypothetical and very sensitive question. *(Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): On no account will our security be compromised.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Thank you for it.

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Respected Chairman, Sir, Mr. Jimmy Carter, the then U.S. President, clamped a moratorium on aid to Pakistan in 1979 when the world came to know of the Kabutu nuclear plant in Pakistan. But afterwards the Government of U.S. began to turn a blind eye towards Pakistan's nuclear plants when the Soviet troops marched into Afghanistan. Now, the Soviet troops have withdrawn from Afghanistan. In addition to this, the Parvez operation violated the 1985 Solarz Amendment of U.S. In the light of the above reasons, I would like to know, what measures have been taken by the Indian Government to convince the Government of U.S.A. to stop both military and financial aids to Pakistan?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The U.S. Government has been constantly told about it and we will continue to do so. But the result has not been encouraging so far.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, the News-week report, which is the basis of this question, mentions that China has supplied the blueprint for the bomb. I would like to know whether the Government has collected any information about it, whether it is correct, and if it is correct has it taken up this issue with the Chinese Government? The U.S. Congressional Research in its report said that Pakistan is building nuclear device for its 1000 km. range ballistic missiles. I want to know what is the Government's information about it, and if it is correct what he is doing to meet the situation?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, we do not think that as yet the stage has come to take up anything with China be-

cause the information that is available from the papers is only from these sources. We will have to check on that report before we do anything.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Have you collected any information?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We are trying.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: He has not replied about the ballistic missiles, about the 1000 kilometres ballistic missiles.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, the Prime Minister just now made a statement that India's security will not be compromised. It is a good statement if it is true. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: It is very unfair.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Why are you so upset?

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: You have decided not to accept any truth

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I want that statement to be true. That is all I say. In the present context of nuclear proliferation, of nuclear technology spreading fast all over the world, Pakistan indulging in clandestine activities and some of the powers supporting it surreptitiously, I would only plead with the Prime Minister that our security perceptions have got to be reoriented. We are pegging our concern on Pakistani bomb which may be there or which perhaps will be there. But let us not lose sight of the nuclear threat coming from elsewhere. Therefore, Sir, my question is whether our security perception will be broadened, widened and made more realistic to take care of the developments in Asia and whether we will refashion our security approach to fit into the Asian security milieu which is fast changing. I would like the Prime Minister to answer my question.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: It is true that Mr. Gurupadaswamy wants an answer from the Prime Minister for the reason that I have not been able to understand his question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know what is your pointed question.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I want to know whether our security perception is being reviewed in view of the nuclear challenges that we are facing in our neighbourhood. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: In the security perception of a country, there is always a constant component and also a variable component. It is never static. But it is not shifting all the time. So it has to be a balanced approach to security concept also.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the information which is given in Newsweek does not seem to have any relevance to the facts because they have also bracketed India with Pakistan and the information obviously is not correct. Everybody is happy that the Prime Minister not only today but previously also, during his various tours abroad has stated that India will take appropriate steps and that the efforts at present made are to persuade the U.S.A. I want to say that so far as the U.S.A. perception of India and Pakistan is concerned, they have got basic interest in Pakistan's security and not in India's security. So, I want to know whether the Government will have some type of rethinking on our relations with the United States of America because all along their perception is always tilted towards Pakistan. So, is there any possibility of reviewing this situation?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, whatever their perception, I think, there are reasons for a re-orientation of the perception of all countries. What the hon. Member said may be true, may have been true two years or three years back. But events are challenging so fast that all these perceptions would have to undergo a corresponding change. So, we are continuing

with our efforts with the United States of America but that does not mean that we are not really alive to the dangers that are growing.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want clarifications on what has been reported in an important American journal. I will seek three clarifications, Sir. Firstly, what is the Government of India's information on Pakistan's nuclear programme, on Sino-Pak nuclear co-operation? Secondly, Sir, repeated statements have been made by the Prime Minister identifying the issues which stand in the way of a full normalisation of relations with Pakistan and one of these issues is Pakistan's nuclear programme. What, therefore, due bilateral initiatives or steps is the Government of India contemplating to move towards a resolution of this question? Finally, Sir, I hold, as aptly demonstrated by the replies given by the hon. External Affairs Minister and the Prime Minister, that all necessary steps would be taken. Indeed to except less from the Government, any Government, would be an absurdity. We take that you will take all necessary steps. Nevertheless, after having said that, the question of India's response still remains ambiguous. And I hold, Sir, that ambiguity is possibly the worst policy when it comes to nuclear question because it gets us the worst of both the worlds. Would, therefore, the Government clarify that given the inherent logic of the INF Treaty, of our call for global disarmament, of our participation in the Six-Nation initiative, how do we reconcile these policy pronouncements with a nuclear asymmetry in the bilateral aspect of Indo-Pak relations?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, on the bilateral question, there is one great difficulty. We know what the situation is more or less. But there is always a flat denial from the other side. So, how do you discuss any matter bilaterally with a country which starts with a big no?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I started by asking what is the Government's information.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is what I am saying. In the bilateral sphere, it is very difficult to come to any meaningful dialogue on this matter. That is why we have to create an atmosphere wherein it is possible for us to sort this out, even bilaterally later on. So, I feel that this is the right approach that we have taken. We have taken up the matter not only for the sake of India, not only for this region, but we have taken up the matter in all its ramifications, in the world-wide ramifications of nuclear disarmament. And that is how we are creating pressure, a kind of moral pressure, pressure from all sides, that no country will either go ahead with its programme or will flout this kind of atmosphere that is being created. Sir, beyond this, it is just not possible on the bilateral side to do anything because we are confronted always with a denial.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That is not his question. What is the Government of India's information? You are not answering that. Have you any information?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You stop interfering (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I am not a bonded labour like you. (Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If you direct me to sit down, Sir, I will sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The whole thing is obvious.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My submission is that I seek your protection, Sir. I had asked very specific questions. One related to what was the Government of India's information of Pak nuclear and Sino-Pak nuclear cooperation? That was one. The other was the bilateral steps to be taken and the third was reconciling what we are saying globally about disarmament on the aspect of Indo-Pak nuclear question. Now, none of these questions the hon. Minister is replying. What

is the information, how do you reconcile,

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have answered two, because the reconciliation of a world view in regard to disarmament, nuclear disarmament, is something for which we are trying to create an atmosphere and in that atmosphere we also have a definite programme, a proposal in that programme is that potentially nuclear States will stop where they are. They will not go ahead with their programme, and if this fructifies much of the problem will be solved. That is why it is subsumed in our total programme which the Prime Minister has placed before the world. Now, in regard to information, Sir, our information as the Prime Minister has said time and again, is that they are very close and probably they have already done it, but he has stopped short at that point.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, whether or not an atom bomb has been manufactured by Pakistan, the simple truth is that America has been arming Pakistan, to the teeth and the reason being not to augment the security potentiality, defence potentiality of Pakistan, but to build up arms there just to pressurise India because India had not been toeing the foreign policy as America wanted. Therefore I would like the Prime Minister to tell us what is being done in this background to put pressure on America so that this policy is changed, or, at the same time, what is being done to build up the public opinion or the world opinion so that America discontinues its hostile policy towards India. I would like the Prime Minister to kindly enlighten us on this subject.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I have already touched upon this aspect of the question to say that the situation, in the changed circumstances, will now compel all countries including the United States to rethink about the importance that they are attaching to a particular country. I mean that is going to happen in the post INF period. There is no need any more for any power to think that

they have to continue their old concept of security in this region or elsewhere. Therefore, we are sure that the force of circumstances, the changed circumstances, are going to change these things. We will have to monitor these things and we will have to be making our efforts in that direction. This is all that can be done by India. But we are very much alive to our own immediate security problem.

Theft of charts and maps from Central Ordnance Depot, Agra

*24. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:†

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Navbharat Times dated the 25th May, 1988 to the effect that theft had occurred of the charts and maps of the Central Ordnance Depot at Agra which contained detailed information and whereabouts of the placement and inventory of Rs. 30,000 crores worth machine parts and their usage meant for our Army; if so what are the details thereof;

(b) whether any investigation has been made and if so, what are the findings and the follow-up action; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) The Army Headquarters have confirmed that

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Lal K. Advani.

no maps/charts of the kind referred to have been stolen as reported in the news item.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) above, a Special Board of Officers re-verified documents held by COD, Agra and confirmed that there has been no loss of the items reported in the newspaper.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री लाल कृष्ण अडवाणी : मंत्री जी ने कहा है समाचार गलत है, क्या इसका प्रतिवाद अखबार में भी हुआ था या यहाँ पर संसद में खवाल उठाये जाने के बाद इसका प्रतिवाद हुआ है ? क्योंकि उत्तर में यह कहा गया है 'नोटविदस्तेडिंग (ए) अब व, ए स्पेशल बोर्ड आफ आफिसर्स री-वैरीफाइड डॉक्यूमेंट्स' इससे लगता है प्राइमफेसी की कुछ बात थी जिसके कारण स्पेशल बोर्ड आफिसर्स नियुक्त करना पड़ा ?

श्री चिंतामणि पाणिग्रही : मैंने जो बताया री-वैरीफाइड है यह प्रेस रिपोर्ट है । री-वैरीफिकेशन हुआ है । इसमें मिलाकर कुछ नहीं दिया ।

श्री लाल कृष्ण अडवाणी : मेरा खवाल यह था कि सधारणतः किसी अखबार में कुछ छपता है जिसकी बुनियाद नहीं है तो उसके आधार पर कोई बोर्ड आफ आफिसर्स नियुक्त नहीं होता है जब तक कि प्राइमफेसी कांटेन्ट उसमें न हो । प्राइमफेसी कांटेन्ट उसमें क्या था यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Because reports were there in the press, therefore we thought that it is better that we verify all these things and we found out that nothing had gone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.