

\*185. [The questioner (Shri Subas Mohanty) was absent. For answer, vide col. 83 infra].

**Pak President's statement regarding confrontation with India**

\*186. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:†  
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent statement made by the Pakistan President admitting that Pakistan can build an atom bomb whenever it wishes and that he cannot rule out another confrontation with India; and

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

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

(b) Government are concerned at the non-peaceful dimensions of the Pakistan nuclear programme as also the Pakistan President's reference to "another confrontation" with India. Government continue to keep a constant watch on all developments which have a bearing on our security. At the same time, they would wish to resolve all outstanding issues by peaceful means.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, after this crystal clear admission by Pakistan President that Pakistan can build an atomic bomb and can have another confrontation with India, how long the Government of India will take to come out of its indecision and go in for nuclear weapons?

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

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while the Pakistan President has made the remarks that the hon. Member mentioned, subsequently, the Pakistan Government has been at pains to explain that President Zia had been quoted out of context and the version of his interview published in the *Time Weekly* did not reflect the correct position of Pakistan nuclear programme. President Zia later told the U.S. journalist that Pakistan has neither the desire nor the intention nor the capability of entering into the atomic energy field for military purposes and similar has been also the statement of Prime Minister Junejo. Further, as far as the second part of the question is concerned President Zia did say in the *Time Magazine* and I quote:

"In my heart of hearts, I feel that there would not be another war".

Again I quote:

"Further he did not rule out another confrontation, whether it is deliberate or indeliberate".

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has not answered my question but he has just quoted. I asked how long the Government of India will take to come out of its indecision and go in for nuclear weapons.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, there is no question of indecision. If the hon. Member has adverted to yesterday's statement of the Defence Minister, we are very much concerned with what is happening there. We are committed to nuclear disarmament. However, we would not like to be pushed to a review of our policy. Whatever may have been our policy upto this time, it is obvious to us that the security of the country is paramount and nothing can be sacrificed at the cost of the security of the country.

**SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:** Sir, my second supplementary.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, it is already over.

**SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:** Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has any information about the U.S. Government helping Pakistan in making bomb by way of technical or scientific advice or by way of supplying any basic ingredient.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:** Sir, the United States Administration has been denying that they are supplying any material. However, we do see the American Administration, at the moment being able to bring out leverage and influence to work on the Pakistan Government so that it desists from its militaristic programme in the nuclear field. We do see that the present United States Administration is not exercising all the possible leverage at their command in this direction.

**SHRI LAKSHMI KANT JHA:** Sir, may I pose the question whether our neighbour does not have an advantage in not having to answer at every stage the questions relating to the details of preparedness and the manner in which we are going to meet that challenge and whether, by asking these questions and seeking specific clarifications, we are really serving the cause of security which we all share?

**SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI:** Sir, there is a substantive point in what the veteran Member has said and I am very sure that the honourable Members of the House will always take into consideration the pertinent fact that he has mentioned in this context. I may mention that only yesterday I have assured this House in my speech that the nuclear weapons programme of Pakistan is of grave concern to us. It requires us to take all necessary measures

for our security. I am in full agreement with the honourable Member that we should not discuss details regarding what could be done, what can be done or what is being done.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Next ...

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** Are you satisfied with this reply? First the question was put in such a manner as if we are not worried about the security of the country. We have a Parliament. Pakistan also has a Parliament. Should we not put questions?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You can put questions. Other Members also can give suggestions. You put your question, I have not prevented you from putting questions. I have not prevented the honourable Member from expressing his point of view. This is Parliament and both sides have equal right.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** I strongly object to the inference of the question put by Mr. Jha and the reply given by the Minister.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You have every right to object and other Members have every right to say what they feel. Now, Mr. Prashant.

**SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:** Pakistani President, Zia-ul-Haq, and Prime Minister Junejo have repeatedly announced about normalisation of relations with India and yet Zia-ul-Haq has said again that confrontation with India is likely. This is the double-standard of Pakistan. I would like to ask the honourable Minister if this slogan of normalisation is for the time being and if Pakistan is waiting for withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan and the moment these troops are withdrawn, Pakistan will attack India and what the comments of India are.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, the question does not arise.

श्री कलश पति निधः सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से एक जवाब जानना चाहता हूँ। पाकिस्तान न्यूक्लियर बम बना रहा है, यह समाचार-पत्रों में भी आ गया है और सरकार ने भी कई बार संकेत दिया है कि वह आवाक्स अमरीका से ले रहा है। इससे भारत का 700 किलोमीटर का रेंज बिल्कुल उसकी छानबीन में आ जाएगा।

क्या भारत के संसद सदस्यों को यह जानने का अधिकार नहीं है, केवल प्रधान मंत्री या मंत्री महोदय के आश्वासन पर ही निर्भर रहने की आवश्यकता है? पाकिस्तान की क्या तैयारी है और जवाब देने के लिए भारत सरकार क्या तैयारी कर के बैठा है, मंत्री महोदय, इसका उत्तर दें ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: There is no doubt in our mind that Pakistan is moving headlong, as the Prime Minister said yesterday himself, towards a nuclear weapons programme. There is no doubt in our mind also that the United States administration, as I have said earlier, is not exercising all its influence to deter Pakistan from going in this direction. Now, regarding the remarks made by the honourable Member as also the previous remarks made by a very senior Member of this House, we are very much concerned about the dimension of the Pakistani nuclear programme. We would say nothing to dilute our perception of what Pakistani Government is doing and we will respond adequately. We are working in that direction. All that we have been saying is, please donot ask us for details because details will imperil the security and the strategic operation in that direction. And I think here Mr. Vajpayee and all of us are in agreement. We are as alert as you are.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Nobody has asked for details. We are asking about the policy of the Government, whether the present

policy will be reviewed in view of the developments in Pakistan.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: If necessary, it will be reviewed.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: There have been conflicting reports regarding the capability of Pakistan for atomic weapons. The President of Pakistan has stated that they will be able to build a bomb whenever it is required. Recently I read a note from our correspondent, Mr. Kuldip Nayyar, who had a discussion with the Chairman of the Pakistani Atomic Commission, that Pakistan has already a bomb and it is not that they are prepared and can bring out a bomb. What is the view of the Government, whether Pakistan has a bomb or has the capability of preparing a bomb?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: This was the statement that I have made and there are contradicting statements. But we are aware of what the position is and we are taking steps for adequate response.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The main point is not what the Pakistani President says. The main point is where from Pakistan derives the strength to say that. Therefore, it is a question of relationship between Pakistan and America. Pakistan feels strong enough to threaten India because America is arming Pakistan. Therefore, my question to the Minister is: What is the Government of India doing to put pressure on the Government of the United States so that the arms supply is discontinued or at least reduced? My specific question to that extent is: What are you doing to pressurise America to persuade Pakistan and to discontinue its arms supply?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have brought to the notice of the United States Government what they are doing as far as arming Pakistan with more weapons and

qualitatively higher technology is concerned, that what they are doing is against their professed policy in this area, against their very profession of peace in this region. And I may add that we have a dialogue, a continuous dialogue, with the United States administration and policy-makers in the Congress and elsewhere in the United States; soon the Minister of External Affairs himself will go to the United States to continue this dialogue and obtain as positive results as can be expected.

**SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** There are conflicting reports and news items in the press and also statements by different persons both in Pakistan and elsewhere regarding Pakistan having bomb. President Zia of Pakistan said in Pakistan Parliament that it can make a bomb at any time. The founder of the Pakistani bomb, Dr. Khan, says Pakistan has a bomb. We have reached an agreement with Pakistan when the Prime Minister of India and Zia met, not to attack each other's nuclear installations. I would like to know the honourable Minister—whether Pakistan has got a bomb or not—whether the Government of India is prepared to discuss with Pakistan not to manufacture, not to have bombs in respective countries, whether Government of India and Pakistan are prepared to have a discussion, to have an agreement not to manufacture bombs in either of the countries.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:** It was our Prime Minister's initiative to have this agreement on non-attack of each other's nuclear installations. I am happy to inform the House that great progress has been made in the direction of this agreement, that there is practically a consensus and agreement on substantive part of this understanding and there are only some procedural aspects and technical aspects to be discussed.

403 R.S.—2.

**SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:** The honourable Minister has said that he is drawing the attention of the United States Government. Up to now all our efforts seem to have been futile. In view of that I want to know (a) whether our Government is thinking of any new measure which has not yet been taken to see to it that the United States Government pulls its strings behind Pakistan, and (b) what the perception is of other countries about the nuclear capability of India.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:** Well, as far as part (a) of the question is concerned, since negotiations are in progress, the honourable Member will understand that the details of the negotiations and how we intend to go about it may not be made public at this stage. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, regarding India's nuclear capabilities, we have said that our capability is of a high standard and we have ourselves, in spite of our nuclear programme, thought not to develop a nuclear weapon. As I have said earlier, we hope and pray that we would not deviate from this policy which is in the interest of this country, which is in the interest of this region and which is in the interest of world peace.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Mr. Salve.

**SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:** Sir, my supplementary relates to the second part of the question regarding confrontation with India. Sir, with some degree of knowledge, I in my question want to submit that the people of Pakistan do not, repeat, do not want any war with India and that is because they cannot afford a war and they know that that would be the most disastrous thing to go in for. At the same time, Sir, the Pakistani authorities have acquired nuclear weapon capability which is also absolutely known to the whole world. They have acquired this capability and just as you cannot

unscramble an egg, they have acquired the capability and they are not going to throw it away. In view of the fact that the people of Pakistan are entirely with the people of India and that they do not want any confrontation in any area, may I know from the honourable Minister whether, ignoring this fact—ignoring in the sense of realising that they have full capability and they have full preparedness about it—there are not areas, unrelated to this, where you can have massive co-operation with Pakistan?

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:** Sir, it is not just the people of Pakistan and the people of India who want friendship between the two countries. The House knows, and I will also reiterate, that the Government of India and the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, personally and his Government are committed from the very beginning of this Government to improve the relations and, in fact, to normalise relations with Pakistan. But then one cannot clap with one hand and so, we need response from the Government on the other side of the border. There are areas where co-operation is possible and in these areas we are working. There are areas in the cultural field, there are areas in the economic field and there are areas in the field of sports with which the honourable Member is connected and in these areas we are doing all that is possible to see that they from there contribute towards this process of friendship between the people of these two countries.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Mr. Chitta Basu.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** Sir may I know from the honourable Minister whether it is not a fact that the United States has suggested having bilateral talks with Pakistan on the issue of nuclear weapons system? May I also know whether it is the perception of the Government that, with the waiver of the Symington

Amendment with regard to Pakistan, the United States has a duality in approach and duality in character in relation to Pakistan and India and, if so, what are the comments of the Government of India with regard to this?

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:** Sir, we are talking to the Pakistan Government at all levels from President Zia and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to the level of Foreign Secretaries, and the dialogue is going on. But I am afraid that the response from the Pakistani side has not been as sympathetic and as positive as we would like it to be, Sir. As far as the United States' Administration tilting towards Pakistan is concerned, the honourable Member is aware of the fact that Pakistan has been the only country against which the Symington Amendment has been invoked and the only country in regard to which a waiver of the Symington Amendment was sought by the United States' Administration and is being sought again. The Congress has not yet replied to this request and demand of the United States' Administration at this point of time.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All right. Next Question. Question No. 187. Mr. Khan.

#### **Drug smuggling across Indo-Pak borders**

**\*187. SHRI M. S. GURUPADAS-WAMY:**

**SHRI F. M. KHAN:†**

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

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to intensify efforts against drug smuggling and terrorist activities across their borders which had assumed serious proportions during the last couple of years; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House, by Shri F. M. Khan.