

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 24th April, 1986/4

Vaisakha, 1908 (Saka):

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Opening of a new Institute of Guerilla warfare by Pakistan

*41. **SHRI F. M. KHAN** :†

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 7th April, 1986 under the caption "Another Pak School for terrorists" to the effect that Pakistan has set up another institute of guerilla warfare at Aliabad in the Hajipur bulge in the Pakistan-occupied area of Jammu and Kashmir and that this institute has been established with the US assistance so as to impart guerilla training; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and Government's reaction in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) :

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Government have seen press reports to this effect. However, no confirmation is available regarding Pakistan having set up a high altitude institute of guerilla warfare at Aliabad in the Hajipur Bulge in the Pak occupied area of Jammu and Kashmir, with U.S. assistance, to impart guerilla training.

SHRI F. M. KHAN : I would like to know if the Government tried to contact the press from where they got the information and if so, what are the details and what action has been taken?

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

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : The Government has tried to get information on the subject but as I have said we have no confirmation of the existence of an institute for guerilla warfare in this area.

SHRI F. M. KHAN : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to press reports today that U.S. Government has reported that they want the support of Indian Government to suppress terrorism I would like to know the stand taken by the Government I would also like to say that India is known for non-violent means. Has the Government got any new plans and non-violent means to fight terrorism? If so, what are the details? Any amount of latest technology has failed to protect the lives of the leaders. Mahatma Gandhi lost his life; Kennedy lost his life, and Mrs. Gandhi lost her life. Is the Government thinking on the lines of any non-violent methods because the new technology has not been able to save the lives of the leaders in the country?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Any non-violent method of dealing with this question would be actually to educate and organise public opinion and get the general support of the people as a whole against the exercise of violent terrorist methods. We have been trying our best on this approach, and that is why we have tried to arouse public opinion all over the world as well as appealed to the Governments concerned to fight this new menace of international terrorism.

SHRI F. M. KHAN : Sir, he has not answered my first question about the U.S. stand. What is the position that the Government wants to take as per the press report? U.S. Government has asked for help from the Indian Government to curb terrorism, and it has come in today's newspapers.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : We have pledged our help not only to the U.S. Government but every government in the world and will participate and co-operate to fight against terrorism. But we do not share the view that

every liberation movement is terrorism or every attempt to stand independently in the world is an act of terrorism.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADA SWAMY: Sir, there are many irritants between India and Pakistan. Terrorism seems to be an important weapon in the armoury of Pakistan to destabilise India and upset peace and stability in the neighbourhood. It is known, Sir, that Pakistan has been training terrorists and guerrillas since long time past, perhaps with a view to wreaking vengeance against India after the secession of Bangladesh from Pakistan. May I, therefore, know whether the Government of India is looking at this problem, that is, Pakistan's encouragement of terrorism and guerrilla activities against India, in a larger perspective and this matter is discussed threadbare between the Prime Minister of India and his counterpart in Pakistan so that the SAARC which has been set up may survive and may be strengthened and peace and stability in South Asia can be strengthened further?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: Sir, we have a larger perspective and that is why, we have put forward the proposal for a treaty of friendship and co-operation with Pakistan, as well as promoted co-operation in the SAARC institution to overcome the factors which work for this kind of terrorist support that Pakistan is giving to Indian dissidents. Specifically, Sir, we have drawn the attention of Pakistan to the various instances we have with us of their training Khalistani terrorists in Pakistan. The Prime Minister himself has raised this matter with President Zia. We have raised this question at the level of Foreign Ministers also, giving them concrete evidence that we have of their support to some of the Khalistani dissidents in Pakistan and asking them to put a stop to this kind of training and support.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Sir, Question Nos. 41, 42, and 44 relate to the same issue, the hidden hand of foreign forces in terrorism in India. I am one of the worst suffer-

ers of terrorism in Punjab. On 24th September, 1985, the car in which I was travelling and which was parked was blasted and blown into pieces by a very powerful magnetic plastic bomb, in Batala town in the Amritsar Parliamentary Constituency of Gurdaspur District of Punjab. Three children who were playing near my parked car died instantaneously on the spot because of the impact of the bomb blast. I escaped a cruel death by a bare three minutes; minutes more in the savagely destroyed car and I would have been blown into pieces. Of course, my death would have been mourned in the Rajya Sabha by my colleagues and they would have had some relief from their gruelling sitting of the august House. I can never really forget that tortuous and tension-ridden moment, of my being narrowly and miraculously snatched away from the hands of death.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: What about the question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should have some sympathy for him.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Sir, there is absolutely no doubt that there is foreign hand in terrorism in India with a clear-cut participation by Pakistan as well as by the U.S.A. Possibly, China and Britain also. Perhaps, the Britishers have not forgotten India and the Indian led revolt against British imperialism throughout the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, for the question.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Sir, the U.S.A. is a very powerful country and because of their resources and capability, they can do anything they want in the world. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a news item published in the Indian Express today, on page 1, columns five and six, that the U.S.A. is soliciting the support and help of India in curbing terrorism. Since the American

citizens are falling prey to terrorism, the U.S.A. now realises what harm terrorism can do

Sir, I wish to ask the Government whether it is a fact that the USA has approached India for help in curbing terrorism in the world. (*Interruptions*). If yes, what is the response and if no, why have we failed to take advantage of this opportunity?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The sum and substance of the question is whether the USA has sought assistance of India in curbing terrorism, and if so, your response to it.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : First of all may I say that we all rejoice in the fact that the hon. Member is here this morning?

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL : And that too alive and in one piece.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : The answer to the question is, we have also asked the United States to cooperate with us in curbing terrorist activities against India emanating from that country.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the contributory difficulties to a more effective combating of international terrorism is the absence of a universally acceptable or accepted definition of it. Therefore, in the light of what the hon. Minister has said in reply to the previous questions, I would like to seek one or two clarifications.

Does the Government of India have for itself formulation of terrorism which it is advocating internationally as the definition of it? If it does not have a formulation, yet, what however, are your views on the definition of international terrorism because that is the single greatest difficulty in building a universal plank against it? Secondly, has the Foreign Minister or the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan recently on the occasion of the visit to NAM or in the past made any proposal for a joint Indo-Pak action against terrorism,

guerrillas, hijacking, smuggling, etc.? What are the details of this proposal and what is the Government of India's reaction to it?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Sir, about universally acceptable definition of terrorism, I am afraid we have not or the international community has not come to any rigid definition, but we do know when terrorism takes place. It is extra-constitutional method, it is direct violent action to eliminate an opponent or even innocents in order to achieve their objectives. I do not know the definition and if I may be permitted to say, when I was a student I had been told by my Logic Professor that if you try to define a subject, sometimes it becomes more unintelligible. He had said, Aristotle has defined a man as a rational being, you know what a man is but we do not know what a rational being is. So, without a definition sometimes things can be perceived, things can be understood because the whole world knows what terrorism is. I am not saying that we should not attempt to arrive at a definition acceptable to all, but the more urgent task is to deal with the conspicuous, indisputable manifestations of terrorism which happens in the world.

As regards Pakistan, whether there was a proposal for joint action against terrorism, Sir, I am not aware of any definite proposal for joint action against terrorism advanced by Pakistan.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, apart from the newspapers reports, efforts were made for getting specific information from our Mission about such a school which they claim has been set up for training the terrorists and also what action Government of India has taken for training our people in anti-terrorist activities to curb these people.

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : We have made enquiries with our Mission in Pakistan about this. Of course, there are two aspects. The

question is actually about an institute for training in high altitude guerilla warfare. This is one thing. But the other aspect is camps or schools for training people in terrorism. So far as such camps are concerned, I have said earlier that we had information from those who have come to India and whom we have arrested and interrogated that there is such camps in Pakistan for training Khalistani terrorists and we have taken up this question again and again with Pakistani authorities.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : On the specific question of training of terrorists in Punjab, we find that they are well trained in cold-blooded killing. If you look at the other side of the country—in the North-East region—you will find that there also the terrorists are killing and they are well trained in cold-blooded murder. At the same time we know that in certain countries like the U.S.A., Canada and West Germany, certain schools are being run for giving training to terrorists of other countries in the most sophisticated art of killing people. In the circumstances, I would like to know from the Government whether it feels that the killings that are taking place and the terrorist activities that are taking place, either in Punjab or in the North-Eastern region, are being master-minded by these foreign countries which are imparting training to international terrorists—like West Germany, Canada or U.S.A.—using Pakistan and Bangladesh as their bases to destabilise India. Has the Government any reason to believe this, or do they feel that it is so ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : We all know that very sophisticated schools for training terrorists exist in foreign countries. The House knows about the school in the U.S. and the people trained in these schools participate in some of the terrorist activities in India and elsewhere in the world. We are well aware of this menace of training people for terrorist killings and we have taken up

this question with the U.S. Government and the other concerned governments urging that this sort of technology of terrorism which is being imparted to people should be stopped.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : The act of training terrorists, the act of encouraging them, the act of aiding them are acts of hostility towards our country. I am glad that the Government has recognised it. I am also happy that the hon. Minister has stated that he has placed before the Pakistan Government the concrete evidence which we have collected about these activities of hostility. It is a serious matter because on the one hand they profess friendship and on the other hand they indulge in these acts of hostility. But may I know from the hon. Minister what is the response of the Pakistan Government to our giving them the concrete evidence about these activities of aiding, encouraging and training the terrorists in Pakistan ?

SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : Sir, with regard to the concrete cases...

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Concrete evidence.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is right.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : With regard to the concrete cases that we have brought to the attention of the Pakistan Government, they have told us that they would look into them. But we have, for example, told them that there are 66 known terrorists who are trying to enter Pakistan in order to indulge in their nefarious activities in India.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Trying to enter or already there ?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Already there are about seven people very reputed terrorists.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Are terrorists reputed ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He meant disreputable terrorists.... (Inter-ruptions)...

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Well, everybody has some sort of reputation. Here it is reputation in terrorism. I did not use it as a complimentary term but quite objectively.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Ill-reputed.

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN : Yes, ill-reputed; I correct it. Sir, about this they have told us that they have held all manner of inquiries and these seven people are not there. But we have information that they are there and we have again given them the evidence we have at our disposal. They have promised to look into it and we are awaiting a responsible reply from them.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Sir, one question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Twenty minutes have been spent on this question. Question No. 42.

Reaction of the Foreign Secretary of State of U.K. to Indian concern over terrorists operating from British soil against India

*42. **SHRI SHANTI TYAGI :**
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.K. Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe, during his recent visit to India was apprised of the general concern in this

country to the effect that effective action was not being taken by the U.K. Government against terrorists operating from the British soil against India ;

(b) if so, what was his reaction in this regard and whether he has given any assurance to deal firmly with the terrorists; and

(c) whether the draft extradition treaty was also discussed; if so, the progress made in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The British Minister had assured the Government of India that the U.K. laws will be implemented with the utmost vigour to prevent U.K. from being used as a base for attempts to destabilise others.

(c) Yes, Sir. The UK Minister indicated that the second round of meetings between the legal experts of India and the UK can take place shortly.

श्री शान्ति त्यागी : माननीय सभापति जी, इंग्लैंड में खालिस्तानी उग्रवादियों और आतंकवादियों को भारत के खिलाफ साजिश करते हुए लम्बा टाइम बीत गया है और वहां भारतीय नागरिकों पर कातिलाना हमले हुए हैं और इन उग्रवादियों को इंग्लैंड में हर तरह की सुविधा प्राप्त है। वहां म्हात्रे की हत्या की गयी। अकाली दल के संतार सिंह संघ की हत्या का प्रयास किया गया और पिछली जनवरी में तरसैम सिंह तूर की हत्या की गयी। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह स्वीकार करेंगे कि उग्रवादियों की कार्यवाहियों पर भारत सरकार ने कई बार जो प्रोटेस्ट किया और जो नाराजगी का इजहार किया बरतानिया सरकार से, जो क्या वह स्वीकार करेंगे कि उस का कोई नोटिस उस सरकार ने नहीं दिया? आप इतनी मजबूत सरकार के विदेश मंत्री हैं जिस का नेतृत्व आदरणीय राजीव गांधी जी कर रहे हैं, तो आप फरियाद के अन्दाज में प्रोटेस्ट क्यों करते हैं? और मैं यह भी जानना

*The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shanti Tyagi.