

Thimpu talks on the Tamil issue

*431. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: SHRI
N. E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the reasons for adjournment of the Thimpu talks; and

(b) what additional specific power the Sri Lanka Government are willing to concede to the people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) The first round of talks between the Sri Lankan Government delegation and representatives of TULF and Tamil militants took place at Thimphu from July 8-13. The Sri Lanka Government delegation put forward proposals which were essentially based on those put forward during the All party Conference last year. The Tamil representatives did not put forward any specific proposals for discussion but made a declaration of four principle which in their view should be fundamental for settlement of the ethnic problem. At the first meeting, the talks were mainly exploratory in nature. For this reason, it was decided that the talks would be adjourned on 13 th July for respective consultations and have reconvened on August, 12.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, it is to be highly appreciated that the Government of India is using their good offices to help the Sri Lankan Government to resolve this problem. And it is also a good thing that the Foreign Secretary, Government of India, has visited Thimphu recently. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has suggested any concrete step to bring both the parties nearer to each other.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, the very purpose of the Foreign Secretary's

visit was to bring these people to the negotiating table.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has got any package programme to resolve the long-standing ethnic problem.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: No Sir.

श्री सुरज प्रसाद : महोदय, यह जानकारी हम लोगों को मिली है, जो तमिलिडन है, जिनकी मांग यह है, कोई कम्युनिटी नहीं है बल्कि एक राष्ट्र है, क्या सरकार ने इस संघ में श्रीलंका की सरकार से कुछ बातें की हैं। अगर की है, तो इस संघ में उनकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

श्री खुर्शीद आलम खां : मान्यवर, हमने श्रीलंका की सरकार से यह बात की है कि वे बैठकर आपस में इस सगड़े को निपटाएँ।

श्री सुरज प्रसाद : महोदय, अभी जो थिम्पू की बातें हो रही थी, वह स्थिति हो अभी है। रात को ही जो यह समाचारों में खबर थी कि श्री बण्णारी प्रधानमंत्री से इस संघ में मिला है। तो उन्होंने इस बात को पुनः शुरू करने के बारे में शायद कुछ चर्चा की होगी। तो क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी इस बात को बतावेंगे कि अभी जो थिम्पू की बातें स्थिति हो गयी है, वह पुनः चर्चा होने वाली है ?

श्री खुर्शीद आलम खां : जी हाँ।

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Sir, it has appeared in the papers that a section of the Tamils organisations has already staged a walk-out and there is a stalemate in the talks. What is the position now in the Thimphu talks?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: It is a fact that at the moment there is a stalemate, but all possible efforts are being made to bring them back to the negotiating table.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Suraj Prasad.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, apparently the distance between the four principles stated by Sri Lankan Tamils and the devolution of district council autonomy which the Sri Lankan Government is working on is at present too far apart. Therefore, I would seek three clarifications from the Government. (a) What is the Government of India's view about this current distance? (b) What is the Government of India's information about the recent incidents of violence that have taken place in Sri Lanka? And (c): what is the Government of India's estimate about the date of resumption of talks? Sir, I would request that as the hon. Prime Minister is here, rather than fielding the Junior team, he may handle awkward questions himself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the Ministers to decide. You cannot say who should answer.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I can say, Sir,

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the team we field depends on the opposition we face.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to add anything?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: I would like to assure the honourable Member that the junior team is good enough to face any Opposition.

As far as the distance is concerned, we are trying to narrow down the distance and the differences. As regards the likely position of the talks, we are making all efforts that these talks should be resumed.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA Alias V. ARUNACHALAM: This House is aware of the fact that while the Thimpu talks were going on, Tamil people were being ruthlessly massacred by the Sri Lankan army with the result the Tamil representatives have withdrawn from the talks. In view of this position, will our Government come forward and insist on the Sri Lankan Government withdrawing the army from Tamil areas as a condition to resume the talks? Secondly, it seems that the mission

of Shri Romesh Bhandari is not successful and has caused undue hardship to the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. Since his mission is not at all successful, will the Government remove Shri Romesh Bhandari and ask Shri Parthasarathy to deal with the matter further?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No question of individual's names here.. It is not proper.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: In the first instance I would say that personalities are not involved in these matters. We feel that it is rather unfortunate that there have been breaches of the ceasefire agreement and we hope that these breaches will not be continued. We feel very sorry for what has happened so far. As far as the hardship caused by the visit of Shri Romesh Bhandari is concerned, I do not know how a hardship can be caused to anybody. He has gone, there to bring them to the negotiating table.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Despite the visit of Shri Ramesh Bhandari and despite our best efforts at Thimpu, in violation of the ceasefire agreement Tamils in Sri Lanka have been butchered, massacred, for the past few days. Everytime you are saying that they will come to the negotiating table and they are sending delegations. And all the time the Sri Lankan Government is going on purchasing large quantities of military hardware, war planes and naval ships from South Africa, Italy and Red China. Under these circumstances the Tamils in Sri Lanka are very much frightened to face another blood bath. When they are expecting solace and succour from the honourable Prime Minister of India our sending a cricket team to Sri Lanka has only injured the feelings of the Tamils there. May I request the honourable Prime Minister to take effective steps to protect the Tamils who are looking to the Indian Prime Minister for solace and succour?—

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: As you know, the Prime Minister is very concerned and is taking every step, is doing everything possible to use his good offices to end this problem. But at the same time I would certainly like to submit that

politics and cricket should be kept separate.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: Has the large scale butchering of the Tamil population in Sri Lanka been engineered so as to stall the Thimpu talks and what is the effect of these riots on the Thimpu talks? Is it a fact that the Tamils are now reluctant to continue their dialogue at Thimpu because of the large scale killings which are going on in Sri Lanka?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: I have already said that the breach of the ceasefire agreement is very unfortunate and many innocent lives have since been lost. But still we are making all efforts to ensure that these talks are resumed.

SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA: My question is whether these riots have been engineered to stall the talks. The Minister is only saying it is unfortunate. I ask whether these riots have been engineered to stall the talks.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: I do not have any specific information. If the honourable Member has got that information, he can pass it on to me.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है कि भारत सरकार इस काम्पली केटेड इशू को सुलझाने के लिये गंभीर प्रयास कर रही है और इसमें कुछ दिक्कतें सामने आयेंगी ही और उनका मुकाबला करना होगा। लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि गुड आफिसेज का इस्तेमाल करना एक बात है, लेकिन बातचीत के दरमियान जब श्रीलंका की फौज वहाँ के तमिल लोगों पर आक्रमण कर देती है, हमला कर देती है तो उसका भी विरोध सरकार कर रही है या नहीं, यह भी मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री खुर्शद आलम खाँ : जब हम श्रीलंका सरकार या तमिल लोगों से बातचीत कर रहे हैं तो जाहिर है कि उसमें बहुत बातें आती हैं। सभी चीजों पर बातचीत करना होता है और उनके बारे में कहना होता है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Shyam Sundar Mohapatra.

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Sir, we cannot isolate this issue from the other global issues confronting the people, whether they are in South Africa or Lebanon or Nicaragua. It is the US global strategy to destabilize here and create confusion there. Sir, the issue is such that when we come across incidents like murder, looting, arson, etc. by the army on innocent people, and these incidents shook us to our nerves. May I suggest, Sir, through you to the honourable Prime Minister that the issue has come to such a stage, such an impasse—that it needs a talk between our gallant Prime Minister and the Sri Lankan President, Mr. Jayewardene? Only these two can solve this problem. Mr. Romesh Bhandari is doing quite a good job, I think. But, Sir,....

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Do not equate our Prime Minister with Mr. Jayewardene. * * (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : I object to that, Sir.

DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA : I would like to know whether it can be taken up at the highest level.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Sir, our Prime Minister is already in contact with the President. Mr. Jayewardene, and everything possible will be done to ensure that the talks are resumed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Ray.

SHRI DEBAPRASAD RAY : Sir, is it a fact that the Government is deriving inspiration from the fact that while negotiations were going on between America and Vietnam in France, the war was being waged for 2-1/2 years or so and, finally, the negotiations were agreed to? I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government is feeling hopeful that despite the present difficulties, there will be some solution to the problem tomorrow and the problem will be sorted out.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Yes, Sir.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : You are saying "Ye-."?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : Hopefully.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Miss Jayala-litha.

MISS JAYALALITHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Sri Lanka, it is planned racial oppression which is going on and the same thing is going on to South Africa. Sir, when the Prime Minister himself has condemned the racial oppression in South Africa and has called upon the entire world to boycott South Africa even to the extent of advocating economic sanctions against that country, how are we justified in sending a Cricket Team now to Sri Lanka? (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. This question has already been put and has not been allowed. Ye?, Mr. Sukul.

MISS JAYALALITHA : What is the rep'y of the Minister, Sir? (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Sukul.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, I would like to know whether any safety measures have been taken for the Indian Cricket Team. (*Interruptions*). Sir, I would like to know whether any measures have been taken for the safety of the Indian Cricket Team. • MR. CHAIRMAN : No questions on cricket, please. Next Question. Question No. 429. Mr. Bhardwaj.

Recognition to the so-called Government of Khalistan by the Government of Ecuador

*429. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ:

SHRI S. W. DHABE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Ecuador have recognised the

(The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rama-chandra Bhardwaj.

so-called Government of Khalistan headed by Jagjit Singh Chauhan;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज : मान्यवर, इस तरह के जवाब तो हमें मिलने आये हैं और मिलते हैं

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : और मिलते रहेंगे।

श्री रामचन्द्र भारद्वाज : मगर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि पंजाब का समस्या का समाधान तो हो चुका है और हमारे युवा प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी ने एक झटके के साथ उसका समाधान किया और हम वहां चुनाव कराने जा रहे हैं...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are talking something different. You know what the question is?

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARDWAJ : Sir, I am coming to the question.

ऐसी संभावना तो है कि विदेशों में रहने वाले या कुछ विदेशी सरकारें इस बात को पसंद नहीं करती होंगी कि हम ऐसा समाधान कर पायें। अभी ईक्वेडोर के साथ बातचीत चल रही है और वहां का खतरे सुबहों बन रहा है। यह भी खबर है कि लॉस में मीटिंग हुई। वह प्राइवेट मीटिंग थी...

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.