

has taken place and with the capacity of our scientists.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Sir Kalpakkam being the only plant having no foreign technical collaboration, may I know the cost of production per unit of atomic energy produced in Kalpakkam? How does it compare with that produced in Tarapur and that produced in Rana Pratap Sagar and how do these rates compare with international cost of production per unit of atomic energy?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Now, as far as the Madras Atomic Power Station is concerned, we are charging 41 paise per unit. As far as the Tarapur atomic power plant is concerned we are charging 34.89 paise and Rajasthan, we are charging about 34 paise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the cost of generation?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: These costs are in proportion to the costs which we have incurred in establishing them. As far as my information goes, it is between 50 and 60 paise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question. 42.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: He has not answered the question as to how does it compare with international costs.

### Sri Lanka-Tamil Meet in Thimpu

\*42. DR. H. P. SHARMA:†

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the initiative of the Government of India, talks were held between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Groups in Sri Lanka in Thimpu in the second week of July, 1985, to resolve the ethnic problem of Sri Lankan Tamils; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) With the co-operation and assistance of the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India arrangements were made for talks to be held in Thimpu between the Sri Lanka Government on the one hand and the TULF and representatives of Tamil militant organization on the other. The talks were arranged in keeping with India's policy of providing its good offices to Sri Lanka to facilitate a political solution to its ethnic problem.

(b) It is understood that the talks were exploratory in nature. It has been announced that talks between the two sides will be resumed on August, 12.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: Sir, the Thimpu initiative of the Prime Minister, wherein the representatives of the Government of Sri Lanka and the various representatives of the Lankan Tamils were brought together to the negotiating table, has been acclaimed as one of the most imaginative and this—one hopefully thinks—might turn out to be one of the most fruitful initiatives of the Prime Minister.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri H. P. Sharma.

We have taken a principled stand on the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of Sri Lanka. At the same time, our objective has been that the legitimate demand of the Lankan Tamils for the devolution of autonomy to an extent that will satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils, whereby they can live in peace and honour, shall be acceded to by the Sri Lankan Government. I do not want to enumerate the many difficulties that we can foresee. But perhaps, the chauvinistic stand of the Sinhalese hawks might turn out to be one of the biggest hurdles in the resolution of this problem. While we realise the technical nature of the talks and our country's unobtrusive role, its low profile etc., in the light of the Prime Minister's remarks to the Press during his last visit to Madras, wherein he has said that he has not seen first-hand reports...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is up. You must put the question within two minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: This is his maiden question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have my time here.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: The Prime Minister's assurance is there that he would be able to say more when he gets back to Delhi. In his discretion, if the Prime Minister has something more to inform the House, we would request him to do so.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, both the parties were meeting the first time and they had exploratory talks. These talks lasted for about 4 days. Now it is a hopeful sign that they are going to meet again on 12th August. I would only request the hon. Member to wait and have some patience.

DR. H. P. SHARMA: I will try to be short this time. Again I will refer to the Prime Minister's public address in Madras. There he assured

that no solution with compromise on the rights of the Tamils could be acceptable to this country. All that I want is that he may reassure the House that this is still the basic and minimum stand of this country.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: What the Prime Minister said in his public meeting there, we stand by it and this is the Government's policy.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Sir, as a matter of fact, there is not much of scope to ask for details on this issue since it is an internal matter of Sri Lanka and all problems have to be sorted out between the Tamils and their Government of Sri Lanka. That is there, but we cannot but rejoice over the fact that the two warring sides came to the negotiating table largely because of the persuasive skill of our Government after the meeting of the Prime Minister and President Jayewardene. At the same time, Sir, people are also aware of the fact that in this issue also the Prime Minister came out with the same maturity, realistic grasp of the situation and humanism that characterised his approach to all problems. In this context all I ask from the Government is whether the Government is in a position to give its overall assessment of the talks that took place in Thimpu, whether they have received any report in this regard and the reaction thereto. If you could allow me because today is a very special day for us, something happened yesterday, a historic decision...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. (Interruptions). No, please, your question is over. Please answer, Mr. Minister.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN: Sir, I would answer the hon. lady's question in one word, 'hopeful'.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today is the 25th July, the second anniversary of the tragic vellikade prison massacre where Tamils were slaughtered inside the prison

cell in Sri Lanka. While paying homage to the glorious martyrs, I would like to know whether the proposals which were presented in Thimpu were the very same proposals which were placed before the all-party conference and which were rejected in toto even by the moderates. I would like to know whether the main four demands put forth by the Tamils in Thimpu are not to be accepted by the Sri Lankan Government according to the official spokesman of Sri Lankan Government. While the talks in Thimpu are going on, the Jayewardene Government is purchasing war planes from Italy and battle ships from China just to prepare for another onslaught. That is why the ceasefire agreement has been violated. Even two days back Tamil civilians have been killed. We also know that the Sri Lankan Government has never honoured the agreement or assurances. From this experience, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will indicate to the Sri Lankan Government side that India is not for building up relations with its neighbour at the cost of the Sri Lankan Tamil rights.

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** I would request the hon. Member at the moment to forget the past and look forward. Here I would like to mention that the talks are exploratory talks and when the talks begin like this, normally the position is that one party asks for the maximum while the other starts with the minimum, but surely because they are meeting again on the 12th August, I hope the talks will be continued and they will be fruitful.

**SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:** Well, there is a sunshine everywhere. Even in regard to the very dark clouds in Sri Lanka we find that at the initiative of our country the talks have started. Two things are important, that the talks have not failed and they are going to be resumed. There are only four demands of the Tamilians to re-

cognise their citizenship and to provide them security. I would request the hon. Minister to let the House know whether the same imaginative and magnanimous initiative which this Government has shown towards Punjab can be seen in these talks in regard to the solution or only four demands of the Tamilians.

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** We hope that they will take inspiration from us.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Beautiful answer.

**SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM:** Contrary to our expectations, the outcome of the Thimpu talks was much disappointing. It was a meeting of authorised persons rather than a conference of responsible leaders. On behalf of the Sri Lanka Government, no Minister had come forward to participate in the conference. Consequently the Tamil leaders sent their own representatives.

The Thimpu talks centered on two issues—number one, Cease-fire, and number two, devolution of power. As my friend, Shri Gopalsamy has quoted, the same proposals were placed by Sri Lanka Government which were rejected in December, 1984. During the talks the Sri Lanka Government assured the leaders of Tamil parties that 643 Tamil prisoners would be released. But, Sir, so far no prisoners have been released from their prison. Further, now they have.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please put your question.

**SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM:** Considering all these things, will this Government come forward to ask the Sri Lanka Government to release the prisoners, number one? And number two, will they ask the Ministers personally to take part in the talks to be held in August?

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** Sir, I can only give the assurance that

we will continue to use our good offices in this regard.

**SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:** Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, while arriving at a settlement with the Sri Lankan Government, will the Government try for an accord whereby the Tamils can return to Sri Lanka and live there with dignity when they go back?

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** Sir, naturally when an accord will be arrived at, it will cover all aspects of the question.

**SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:** Sir, it appears from press reports that while participating in Thimpu talks all the militant groups of Sri Lanka were unanimous in their view that the question of devolution of units and devolution of power to the units should be taken up first before taking up other questions for the solution of Tamil Problem. It is also reported that on this vital issue, the representatives of Sri Lanka Government who were present at the Thimpu talks said that on this question they would have to go in for a referendum. I would like to know whether it is true that even if they come to an amicable settlement of the problem at Thimpu, the proposed settlement will have to be sent for referendum in Sri Lanka for its being finally ratified by the Government of Sri Lanka. Is there any such proposal or thinking in the mind of Sri Lanka Government?

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** The talks are continuing. How can we come to any conclusion at this stage?

**SHRI THINDIVANAM K. RAMAMURTHY:** Sir, the Thimpu talks have not thrown any light on the problem of rehabilitation of Tamil refugees. Will the hon. Minister enlighten us whether the Tamil refugees' problem will figure in the Thimpu talks and will the Government of India hold separate talks with the Sri Lankan Government to thrash out the pro-

blem of the return of the refugees, as also payment of compensation to the Tamil population of Indian origin who have suffered a very great loss of their personal properties, industries and other things, for the losses suffered by them?

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** In these talks we earnestly hope that all aspects of the question will be considered and a settlement will be arrived at which will be acceptable to all the parties concerned.

**SHRI THANGABAALU:** Sir, even after declaration of the official cease-fire, the Sri Lankan military is killing often and often. From the Tamil movement, the Tigers also issued a statement day before yesterday that if the Government is doing the killing, they will also try to attack again. Therefore, the condition is worsening again. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government knows about the recent killings even after the cease-fire and, if so, what steps have been taken in this regard.

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** Sir, we earnestly hope that peace will be maintained and, naturally, any sort of breach or infringement of the peace will not be desirable at this stage. We would use all our good offices in this regard.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Next question.

**SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:** Sir, I want to put a question.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Aladi Aruna of your party has put a question. Please sit down.

**SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:** Sir, for the first question you have allowed two persons from my party. As leader of the party I want to raise some questions.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please sit down.

**SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:** Sir, from the Congress Party, Mr. Thangabalu and Mr. Ramachandran put questions. I am from Tamil Nadu.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All right. You will now put a question. Come on.

**SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister, while giving his answer to the questions raised by some hon. Members here, has said that one party was asking for the maximum and another party was asking for the minimum and said, let us forget the past. I don't think the Tamil representatives are asking for or taking the maximum advantages. They only want citizenship rights, proportional representation and equal rights because they have shed their blood, sweat and tears for the development of Sri Lanka. I want to know specifically from the Minister what exactly are the reasons preventing the Government of Sri Lanka from giving all these rights to the Sri Lanka Tamilians. I also want to know whether all these things were discussed during the last meeting and, if not, whether there is any proposal to discuss all these things during the August, 12 meeting.

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** Sir, when I mentioned about maximum and minimum, I mentioned a convention only. I wasn't sitting at the conference table myself. But I earnestly hope that when they discuss it, all the aspects of the question will be discussed and only then a political solution will be found.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question No. 43. I think we have had all the discussion on this.

# **Reopening of the Indian Consulate in Lhasa**

\*43. **SHRI NAND KISHORE**

**BHATT;†**

**SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has invited India to reopen its Consulate in Lhasa; and

(b) if so, what is India's reaction in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN):**

(a) and (b) The Chinese Government have proposed the re-establishment by China and India of Consulates General in each other's countries. The Government of India are carefully studying the proposal.

**SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:** Sir, we are happy that as a result of the dynamic approach of our Prime Minister there are gestures from our neighbourly China, to improve and promote age-old good neighbourly relations based on the principles of peaceful co-existence. There are disputes in the eastern sector and the western sector but, at the same time, the fact cannot be ignored that whatever line has to be developed in this regard cannot be done in isolation but in line with India's overall China policy. May I know, Sir in this background, whether the initiative of China is to settle all the outstanding issues it is limited to reopening of our Consulate-General offices in Lhasa and Shanghai to facilitate the traditional land trade and, if the latter is the case, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how do we reconcile and what are the proposals of the Government.

**SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN:** Sir, we already had about five meetings with the Chinese representatives and various matters were discussed

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt.