

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Serious repercussions of statement made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs during Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA (Rajasthan): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for permitting me to raise an urgent matter regarding a statement of the Minister of State for External Affairs during the visit of the Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia. As this House is aware that as per the Shimla Agreement between India and Pakistan, both the sides should settle the dispute bilaterally and no third party intervention or mediation is allowed. However, with the purported remark of the Minister, the situation seems to have got blurred; it seems as if the Minister was working more as the U.N. envoy and he had forgotten himself being a Minister of the Foreign Affairs in the Indian Council of Ministers. The hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. I would like to seek a clarification of the hon. Prime Minister on the Indian foreign policy with regard to the Indo-Pakistan relations. It is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. I would like to know whether the statement by the MOS, Shri Shashi Tharoor, has the approval of the Government and whether the foreign policy towards Pakistan has changed diametrically.

I do remember, once I met Boutros Boutros Ghali, the then Secretary-General of the U.N. where he offered to mediate between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. I had promptly told him about India's stand on this, and I conveyed this to the then Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao, who also very firmly refused the offer. It is important to know that these remarks have come just after the Foreign Secretary level talks with Pakistan and the attack targeted at Indians in Kabul. In this respect, he should also not forget the traditional stand taken by Saudi Arabia in OIC vis-a-vis the Kashmir issue. Keeping in mind that the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia visit took place 28 years ago, I hope, your recent visit will further strengthen the ties between the two countries. However, such irresponsible remarks may seriously sabotage the outcome of your visit.

The Minister had given an explanation saying that he did not use the word mediator and that he used the word interlocutor. Sir, the word interlocutor means someone who informally explains views of the Government and relays messages back to the Government. Unlike a spokesperson, an interlocutor often has no formal position within a Government, in any formal authority, to speak on its behalf.

Sir, I would like to know whether hon. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs is very much a member of the Council of Ministers. What is the meaning of when he says, "I wanted to be an interlocutor"

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : महोदय, हम अपने आपको इससे सम्बद्ध करते हैं।

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद (बिहार) : सर, इसका उत्तर तो आना चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान)...

विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री, पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री, प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री, कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण) : सर, विदेश मंत्री जी वक्तव्य देने वाले हैं।

Problems of women street vendors and need of a National policy in this regard

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. Sir, I am very happy that the hon. Prime Minister is in the House because this concerns the policy for street vendors. Among street vendors, a very large section of street vendors of this country, who are around 2.5 per cent of the urban population, are women. और आज भी महिलाएं जो रेहड़ी और पटरी पर सब्जी और फल बेचने का काम करती हैं, उनके लिए कोई जगह निर्धारित नहीं है और वे पुलिस तथा प्रशासन की भ्रष्ट नीति की शिकार बन रही हैं। मैं जानती हूँ कि आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी की एक नेशनल पॉलिसी वेंडर्स के लिए बनी थी, लेकिन उस नेशनल पॉलिसी की क्या हालत है, उसे हम इस बात से समझ सकते हैं कि राजधानी के अंदर भी आज उनको पुलिस के डंडे का शिकार बनाकर, उनको उनकी जगह से निकाला जा रहा है। इस समय जब महंगाई की इतनी जबरदस्त मार है, अगर महिलाएं अपने बचाव के लिए, अपने परिवार के बचाव के लिए सब्जी, फल बेचने का काम करती हैं, उनको यदि हम सुरक्षित नहीं रख सकते हैं, हम उनकी जीविका की सुरक्षा नहीं कर सकते हैं, तो नेशनल पॉलिसी का अर्थ क्या है? इसलिए आज उनका एक सम्मेलन हो रहा है, सैकड़ों की तादाद में वे हिन्दुस्तान के कोने-कोने से आई हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से प्रधान मंत्री जी से अनुरोध करती हूँ कि इस नेशनल पॉलिसी को, जो मॉडल बिल है, उसको लागू किया जाए। अगर उसकी शुरुआत राजधानी से ही हो, तो पूरे देश में इसका अच्छा मैसैज जाएगा। जो औरतें बहुत हिम्मत के साथ इस काम को करती हैं, उनकी इससे सुरक्षा हो सकती है। मैं सदन से अनुरोध करती हूँ कि वह भी मेरी इस मांग का समर्थन करें।

उपसभापति : ठीक है, होल हाउस।

Illegal construction of Dandavati and other projects on Dandavati river in Karnataka

SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Water Resources Ministry the illegal construction of Dandavati Project on the Dandavati river. The water dispute among Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh is before the new Water Review Tribunal, that is, Bajaj Tribunal. At this juncture, Karnataka wants to start a new project on the Dandavati River which is a tributary of sub-basin Tungabhadra violating all the rules and regulations. The Government of Karnataka is constructing this project in Shimoga District with an estimated cost of Rs.300 crores by utilising about 4 TMC water. That water is not allotted by the Bachawat Commission. Now, the new Tribunal is also reviewing the water dispute with regard to Krishna basin. Many economists and environmentalist are also objecting to this, which is a different matter. It is not concerned with Andhra Pradesh, it is concerned with Karnataka. I fail to understand when the Tribunal is inquiring into dispute with regard to the Krishna water, what made the Karnataka Government to construct another illegal dam to the detriment of farmers and other people of Andhra