

[Shri Shridhar Wasudeo Dhabe]

politics than in trade union movement, who might not have been consulted. I am sorry, the hon. Member has said that the Government has concern only for the millowners. Is it why I have constituted, Government have constituted, this committee? We have asked this committee to report on three important questions, namely badli, house rent allowance and conveyance allowance". IS it for the millowners? Is it not for the warkers? The Hon'ble Member has asked why a wage committee has not been constituted. I am surprised that this is being asked by a person who is in the trade union movement. I am surprised that a trade union leader should talk of this concept of wage committee at this stage when we are talking of bipartite and tripartite committees. I have costituted a tripartite committee in which all the representatives will be there and they will consider the entire thing. Therefore, I am not prepared to accept such trade union leaders who talk about things which had been there about twenty years back, who talk about wage committees and so on. This Government is for the progress and welfare of the workers and not for such friends who talk about wage committees and so on. Therefore, I would like to say that we have given no threats. The very fact that in the last two years, industrial production has gone up from—1 per cent to about ten per cent and the very fact that the production in the fields and farms has gone up to 130 million tonnes shows that the workers have full faith in this Government and we have also feeling for them. Now, the hon. Member has made the suggestion that we should give them Rs. 500. I would like to ask the hon. Member, at this stage, is it a practicable suggestion? He has mentioned about the chemical industry and he has said that the workers in the chemical industry are getting Rs. 1200 and compared with them, the workers in the textile industry are getting very less. It is true. But you should also remember that

whereas the chemical industry can pass on its burden to the textile industry, the textile industry can pass on its burden only to the consumer. The one is a labour-intensive industry and the other is not so. That is why, as I said, this committee will go into this question and will recommend what increase should be given. Sir, the hon. Member has said that this will go on endlessly. It is not like that. This is a time-bound thing. The report may come in two months, in six months or in one year. When the report comes, the Government are committed to implement it. Therefore, this general talk that this will go on endlessly is not proper. This is not a wage committee. This is a tripartite committee with a time-bound programme.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN; The Calling Attention will continue after some time. Now, the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement.

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Crisis in Lebanon

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the House is aware of the tragic situation that has developed in West Asia. Our Government have consistently reaffirmed their stand through the years. We have always supported the cause of the Palestinians and, in fact, even when Mahatma Gandhi was there, he and my father and other leaders had realised the consequences of displacing the Palestinians from their homeland.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: As early as in 1919 we raised it.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Well, that was almost before my time. So our stand continues to be the same. Now the situation has become much more dangerous and much more

threatening to us as well as to the values and the ideals and the policies for which we have stood and for which we have worked. Now I shall read the statement.

Statement

The unprovoked Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the brutal killing of thousands of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians has aroused deep anguish and revulsion in the entire world community. This Israeli action is a flagrant violation of all canons of international law and behaviour. It is indicative of an arrogance which has shown callous disregard for the rights of other nations and peoples.

Since the invasion on June 6, the efforts of the international community to secure vacation of aggression have made no progress, as Israel continues to defy counsels of restraint. It has callously ignored the unanimous Resolutions adopted by the Security Council and the Resolution adopted by the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Israeli blockade of West Beirut is now being further tightened. Many hundred thousand residents are totally deprived of essential supplies of water, electricity, food and medical assistance. The entire civilian population is being starved out. The cease-fire, such as it is, is fragile and precarious. Beirut could well be totally destroyed and its population annihilated. This unabashed use of force is totally contrary to all norms and tenets of international behaviour. Israel's cynical and contemptuous disregard of international opinion, its continuing aggression and its use of military means to seek political objective provide a very sad precedent for the future.

At a time when there were hopes for some progress in the resolution of the Palestinian problem, Israel has chosen to exacerbate it, thus imperilling the possibilities of long-term stability in the sensitive and strategic

West Asian region. Israeli attempts to wipe out the Palestinian Movement cannot succeed in the long run. A popular movement, based on the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, cannot be put down by use of arms. History is replete with instances of the failure of military force to crush popular movements. Israel will ! be well advised to pay heed to the growing worldwide vocal concern, including the voices of thousands of its own people who have demonstrated against this invasion of Lebanon.

On behalf of my Government, I j should like to call upon nations who are in a position to influence Israel j to take immediate steps to lift the siege of West Beirut and withdraw it« troops to its own territory. After this immediate objective is achieved, negotiations must begin for a just, comprehensive and durable solution, acceptable to all concerned. Such a solution must ensure the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Lebanon and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to an independent nation-state.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So many Members have given their names to put questions. But I think the statement is quite clear. It does not require much clarification. But I i will call one Member from each party, not so many persons from each party, Mr. Shahabuddin. Please be brief.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDTN (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I welcome the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the Government. I think India has gone much farther than many other States which have sometimes in the past vouched friendship and solidarity with the Palestinian cause but which today have been found wanting. Sir, I have got one point for clarification. The hon. Prime Minister has mentioned that the UN. Resolution stand unimplemented.

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

Now, the entire UN machinery stands paralysed today. It needs to be activated. The non-aligned bloc has been trying its best to activate the UN machinery. I think a stage might come when, to enable the United Nations to perform its due role a peace-keeping operation in Lebanon may be necessary before the negotiations can take place, as envisaged in the Statement. The Government of India has to participate in such a peace-keeping operation. So I would like to know whether the Government of India will at that stage be prepared to participate in the UN peace-keeping operations.

Also a reference has been made to "nations who are in a position to influence Israel". I think the time has come when a spade should be called a spade. The nations and the States which are behind this genocidal, barbaric, action of Israel must be named and identified. I know that the Prime Minister is soon going to the United States. I think she will exercise all the influence at her command to bring to bear on the policymakers of the United States that they withdraw the extensive support that they have always extended and the encouragement that they have given to the Government of Israel.

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR (Maharashtra): One sad fact about the whole situation is that, apart from the total failure of the United Nations machinery and complete paralysis of that machinery, earlier in Iran-Iraq war and in this sad event it seemed that the influence of the non-aligned nations has failed to achieve or make any significant dent by way of resolving the crisis. I believe this is one of the aspects of the situation which we should very carefully examine, because, if the non-aligned movement for which we all stand together in support, fails to register its presence and mould events, then, I believe the situation that has come about is very dangerous. I would, therefore, like to

know from the honourable Prime Minister whether, in view of this experience, sad experience, the Government has thought of any measures that would strengthen the non-alignment movement and make it more effective so that it could really act as an instrument in resolving crisis situations that develop in the world.

श्री अशोक प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश): प्रधानमंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में ठीक ही कहा है कि देश की सहानुभूति फिलिस्तिनियस के साथ है। मगर मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सहानुभूति और सहायता की सीमा क्या है? एक तरफ अभी मांग उठाई जा रही है कि इजराइल के कॉन्सुलेट को बन्द कर देना चाहिये, वह तो सरकार के विचार करने का प्रश्न है लेकिन यह भी समाचार पत्रों में छपा है कि कुछ भारतीय पी० एल० ओ० की तरफ से युद्ध कर रहे हैं। तो पी० एल० ओ० की तरफ से युद्ध करने के समाचार भारतीयों के हैं क्या सरकार को इसकी जानकारी है। क्या सरकार इस बात को उचित समझती है कि भारत के लोय मरसिनेरी के नाते से भाड़े पर युद्ध करने के लिए पी० एल० ओ० के साथ जाएं और क्या सरकार इससे आगे बढ़ कर सहायता उनकी करना चाहती है? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसकी सीमा क्या है?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Sir, I have given my name...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I told you, one person from each party.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: On what basis did you choose the names? I wanted to seek some very important clarification. How did you make the choice between us?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. I have called Mr. Nirmal Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, after listening to what the Prime Minister has to say, I am happy to the extent that it criticises the Israeli forces and to the extent it underlines the painful situation that it creates for the Palestinians.

I am happy that to this extent our Government has been able to take a stand. I am, however, surprised to find that there is no mention about the foremost instigators behind the Israeli forces and there is not any mention of the role of the United States in this statement. In fact I consider this invasion by Israel on the Palestinian forces as no less dangerous than the stationing of U.S. troops in Diego Garcia. I am surprised at the silence maintained in this whole statement about the role of the United States. I do not intend to assert and that may or may not be a fact, but I wonder whether the IMF contribution does not come in our way of mentioning it.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): The statement made by the hon. Prime Minister will be received with great satisfaction by people all over the world believing in the right of the people to live independently and peacefully without any interference from the imperialists.

I am happy to note that the Government has realised the seriousness of the situation and, also in expressing their sympathies to the Palestinian people and the civilian population in Beirut. This is not enough. Today's news clearly shows that the American imperialists are trying to send additional forces into Lebanon, and apart from being the original instigators they are further accelerating the process of war. It is a danger not only to the people of Lebanon, but to the people of Arab countries, but to the Asian region.

The President of the Soviet Union, Com. Brezhnev has clearly stated the real meaning of this attack. It is not only directed against the Palestinian people, and it is not only against the people of Lebanon, but it is against the forces of peace in this region. India has a great role to play in this situation.

I had been recently to some of the socialist countries for treatment of my illness and I have watched how the people of those countries—not only their Governments—look to India and the Government led by Shrimati Indira Gandhi to play a very effective and important role in preserving peace in the world and to check the imperialists. That is why I am a bit concerned when there is no mention about the U.S. imperialism which is behind this. Not that I mean that our Government is afraid of U.S. imperialism. But why should they hesitate in calling a spade a spade?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, while we welcome the statement which has been made, there are two questions I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister.

We understand that during his recent visit to Delhi, Yasser Arafat made a mention of the impending invasion and in fact it is generally believed that he had come to our Prime Minister in order that she may intervene personally and see that some preventive measures were taken to avoid a war because he had advance information of what was to come. I would like to specifically ask whether this was the reason of Yasser Arafat's recent visit.

I would like to know, whether he had made any such plea to the Prime Minister to intervene and, if so, whether we have responded to it in any way at all.

The second part of my question really deals with the humanitarian aspect of the whole problem. The

[Shrimati Margaret Alva]

veto of the United Nations' Resolutions have made it impossible for any international action to be taken, the non-aligned movement seems to be standing by, the United States is actively involved and, of course, the socialist countries also seem to be only passive observers in the present crisis while the civilian population, particularly the women, children and the wounded are dying daily and many people are dying of hunger and starvation. I would, therefore, like to ask the Government of India whether we have at least made any effort to see that the international humanitarian organisations like the Red Cross, the World Health Organisation and others, who in such events should be completely involved, are mobilised through our efforts to see that at least this kind of large-scale dying of innocent people is prevented by action which is immediately needed.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the honourable Prime Minister's statement will undoubtedly be acclaimed widely not only in this country, but also in the international sphere as a whole because what is happening today is shocking beyond words. The whole city is being attacked and innocent people are being killed. But the crisis, I consider, is not a crisis only of the Middle-East, but is a crisis of peace and a crisis of the United Nations Organisation itself because people's confidence in the UNO is being shattered daily as Israel has continued to defy the resolutions of the United Nations and the appeal of the international community with impunity. A feeling has also grown among the Palestinians, which has been expressed by the important members of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, that they have been betrayed by many of their friends in their moments of crisis. There is also a feeling among them that the Arab world has not come to their help to the extent to

which it ought to have come, that the socialist countries have also not played an active role which they ought to have played and the non-aligned nations also have not played any decisive role, at least not with that active vigour with which they had acted in the 1956 Suez crisis. In fact, Sir, when the honourable External Affairs Minister was replying to a question this morning, he was giving an indication that the non-aligned nations are going to act. But time is of the essence and, therefore, I would like to ask one question: Why not India take the initiative immediately of not only calling a conference of the non-aligned nations, but also of bringing together the Arab nations to create sufficient pressure so that the Palestinians may feel that they have not been betrayed, that the world has stood by them, not by words, but with all their might?

PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, while we are all happy at the unequivocal condemnation of the Israeli invasion—we should call it a genocide—over the PLO and Lebanon—I would perhaps have to the same point once again that our silence on the question of the source of inspiration of this blatant act of aggression on the part of Israel. Israel, we know, shattered the Iraqi nuclear installation and it has gone scot-free again and again after doing many such crimes under the international law, the latest example being its act in Lebanon. However, the statement of the Prime Minister, whose opinion on Israel's role is well known, ends perhaps with an appeal, both to Israel and those who can influence Israel's opinion, in other words, the instigators. We know the importance of normal diplomatic relations with other countries. But, without jeopardising that, we must call a spade a spade, as Mr. Shahabuddin has said, and pinpoint the source of these misdeeds of Israel so that a real solution can be found to the present problem.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the statement made by the Prime Minister will be internationally welcomed. But the remarks made by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur and the question asked by him are perhaps the effect of Mr. Moshe Dayan's visit to New Delhi during the Janata regime.

But I would like to know from the Prime Minister...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: I am very sorry that the hon. Member has made such a remark. I only asked, what are the limitations, in what ways we are... *(Interruptions)* Such remark is not necessary.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: For such humanitarian purposes, is it not possible for the Prime Minister and the Government of India to offer our own troops in lieu of the Americans which the PLO is refusing?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Shri Chakraborty.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, really -we are happy to hear the statement made by the Prime Minister, condemning the Israeli attempt on Lebanon. We would have been happier if the hon. Prime Minister had mentioned about the role of countries which are practically instigating, the foreign forces... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Prime Minister, *(Interruptions)*

SHRI J AS WANT SINGH: Sir,... *(Interruptions)*

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : जो परम्परा रही है उस का पालन करिए ।

श्री उपसमापति : जो परम्परा है उसी का पालन कर रहे हैं । (बयवधान)
यह जनरल बहस नहीं है । मैंने शुरू

में कहा कि इतने नाम आये हैं । पार्टी के विषय का यह काम है कि एक नाम दे ।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : पचासों आदमी बोले हैं ... (बयवधान)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I will not permit. Hon. Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am only speaking to the Prime Minister to... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, I am sorry. I cannot deviate from that.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am requesting the Prime Minister... *(Interruptions)*.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will make only two points. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please. Hon. Prime Minister.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am glad that all Hon'ble Members who have spoken have supported the statement. Some of them have a ked to me to name the instigator. Now, frankly, Sir, I do not think that Israel needs to be instigated. They have their hawks. We know their policy and we know how they have been proceeding. It is true that they are emboldened by the support they get from powerful elements outside.

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: America?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: America, certainly. Some weeks ago I wrote to President Reagan on ¹-his issue. I have written also to President Brezhnev and to President Mit-terand, I thought that these people could do something about *he matter. We are also in touch with other Heads of States and our Foreign Minister is

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

in touch, through diplomatic channels, with others. The Non-aligned group is as active as it can be. They are having a ministerial level meeting, for which the date, the venue, etc. are being discussed. This is a situation when I feel sorry that we are not more powerful. We are doing whatever we can, what is in our power to do. We were the first, and may be, even the only country which immediately sent a medical team, as soon as we learnt about the casualties and injured. But already, at that time, it was difficult for the team to enter the areas of Beirut where medical help was most needed. However, they were able to render service to the wounded who were just outside Beirut or who had been evacuated to Syria and to other parts. We also sent, to the extent of our capacity, blankets and medicines which the PLO had asked for. We have heard that the International Red Cross is not allowed to go there. There is nothing much more that we can do, except to approach and persuade, and this we have been doing. The Indian Red Cross has sent a gift of 10 surgical units, each comprising 3 to 5 tonne, of equipment. These are being airlifted to Geneva and to Cyprus from where they will go to Lebanon. These gifts are made over to the Palestinian Red Cross and the Lebanese Red Cross for use by their medical teams.

It is true that the non-aligned movement and the United Nations itself have not been as effective as we would have hoped to be. All we can do is to keep urging them to try to achieve unity amongst the developing countries, amongst the Group of 77 and amongst all these people who believe in the same ideals. In this particular matter, we need unity amongst those who are supporting the cause of the Palestinians. Unfortunately disunity is lessening our effectiveness. Even if we were united, the powers that are against us would still be much stronger. What is emerging—it is still very much at an initial

stage—is world opinion. The general public must be... aroused in all countries. This matter does not concern just the Arabs or the Muslims. Some people have said that our policy is dictated by sectional interests. We are not pressurised by anybody. We have looked at this question from the larger perspective and our party, the Congress Party, and we as individuals were deeply concerned with the plight of the Jews in Europe and for what they had suffered throughout their long history and especially the worst part of it in Hitler's Germany, when millions of Jews were exterminated. They had our fullest sympathy and also admiration, because in spite of that hardship and harassment, so many of them rose to the top in every field of activity. When Israel was formed, our Leaders, Mahatmaji, my father and others, sympathised fully with the Jews. But they realised that the manner in which Israel was brought into being could only lead to conflict and tension. The problem had been a purely European problem. There was no Palestinian problem. The Jews, the Arabs and the Christians were living peacefully and in harmony for hundreds of years in Jerusalem and Palestine. The problem was European one. It existed even before Hitler. The Jews were thrown out of their homes and villages. They were killed and harassed. Suddenly, the powers to be picked this problem up from Europe and transplanted it in an area where there had hitherto been peace and harmony. Now, the Jewish problem has disappeared from Europe but is critical in Palestine, since hundreds and thousands of people were displaced and forced to seek refuge elsewhere. This has created hardship, bitterness and hatred. Mahatmaji and others realized this. The Hon. Member opposite has reminded us. I was only one and half year's old at that time. The reason why we did not support the United Nations resolution was that while sympathising with the plight of the Jews, we felt that it was not possible to solve the problem of one group of people by creating

a similar problem for another group. So, we are trying to do whatever we can by speaking to people and by meeting people. The Ambassador of the P.L.O. here is keeping us in touch with developments.

An hon. Member has spoken about Indians fighting in Lebanon. Perhaps hon. Members have seen the contradiction that was issued immediately. There are Indians in Lebanon. So far as we are aware they are not involved in the fighting. They have gone there for work.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What is wrong there? We have fought in the Spanish Civil War.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is not a question of wrong or right. So far as our information goes, there are no Indian Soldiers. But the hon. Member knows that much of the aerial bombing was on civilian quarters. The bombs have fallen on hospitals, on schools, on the living quarters of workers and others. So, if some Indians have fought in self-defence—this is a guess work on my part:—that is an understandable situa-

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An hon. Member has remarked on his visit to the Socialist countries and informed the House that they were all looking to me to do something. I should like to remind him that the Socialist countries are much stronger than we are militarily and technologically. In any move to solve this critical problem, we shall be glad to help in whatever way it is possible for us. But the Socialist countries themselves should know that while they are looking to me, their friends and allies in India are looking the other way and doing their best to prevent me from functioning effectively.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before we go to the Calling Attention, I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 9th July, 1982, allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows:

Business

Time Allotted

Consideration and passing of:

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| (i) (i) The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 198a..... | a hrs. 30 mts. |
| (a) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill, 1982, as passed by the Lok Sabha..... | 1 hr. |
| (3) The Public Wakfi (Extension of Limitation) (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 1981. | 2 hrs. |
| (4) The Navy (Amendment) Bill, 1982..... | t hr. |
| (3) The Mental Health Bill, 1981..... | 30 mts. [|
| (6) The Rubber (Amendment) Bill, 1982..... | 2 hrs. |
| (7) The Eyes (Authority for use for Therapeutic (Purpose) Bill, 1980, as passed*) by the Lok Sabha..... |) 2 hrs. |
| (8) The Ear Drums and Ear Bones (Authority for use for Therapeutic Purposes) I Bill, 1980, as passed by the Lok Sabha. | J |
| (g) The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 198a. | a hrs. |