

डा० रफीक जकरीया : साहब, आपने  
बराहमखराह चोट फेंका दो।

श्री सभापति : आप भी बराहम-  
खराह बोच में क्यों पड़त है? क्वेश्चन  
481।

### Resolving of differences between India and Bangladesh

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481. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:  
SHRI MURLIDHAR  
CHANDRAKANT BHAN-  
DARE;

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India  
and Bangladesh have lately been  
successful in resolving most of the  
differences existing between them,  
including the one relating to the New  
Moore Island;

(b) if so, what are the details of  
the issues resolved and on what terms;  
and

(c) whether Bangladesh Foreign  
Minister proposes to visit New Delhi  
shortly, if so, what precise issues are  
proposed to be discussed with him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA  
RAO): (a) to (c). Consistent with  
our desire to maintain and promote  
friendly relations with all our neigh-  
bours, including Bangladesh, we have  
been discussing bilateral issues at  
various levels, including the highest  
levels, with the Government of  
Bangladesh. Although relations bet-  
ween India and Bangladesh have been  
traditionally close and friendly, there  
have been differences over some is-  
sues, including over New Moore  
Island, as is sometimes the case bet-

ween two neighbouring countries. At  
times, these differences have even  
caused temporary tension. The two  
governments have, however, agreed  
that these problems can best be solv-  
ed by peaceful bilateral negotiations.

The effort for resolving our diffe-  
rences is part of an ongoing process  
of bilateral consultation and discus-  
sion, carried on in a spirit of mutual  
accommodation and good neighbour-  
liness. The recent visit of the Bang-  
ladesh Foreign Minister to New Delhi  
from the 11th to 13th September  
forms part of this regular process  
which was given momentum follow-  
ing my visit to Dacca in August,  
1980. The two Governments have  
reiterated last week that they are  
committed to continue the dialogue  
and search for acceptable solutions to  
all these issues, including the issue  
of New Moore Island. A copy of the  
Joint Press Statement issued at the  
end of the visit which outlines the  
major points of agreement is placed  
on the Table of the House.

There has been forward movement  
on several issues in the past year or  
so. It is hoped that, following the  
decisions arrived at during the recent  
talks, further progress would be made  
for the peaceful resolution of the  
outstanding issues to the mutual satis-  
faction of both sides.

### INDO-BANGLADESH JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

New Delhi, September 13, 1981

At the invitation of Shri P. V.  
Narasimha Rao, Minister of External  
Affairs of India, His Excellency Pro-  
fessor Muhammad Shamsul Haq,  
Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, paid  
a visit to India from September 11-  
13, 1981

During his stay, H. E. Foreign  
Minister of Bangladesh called on  
Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, the Pr  
Shri M. Hidayatullah, the V  
sident and Shrimati Indira

†The question was actually asked  
on the floor of the House by Shri  
Dinesh Goswami.

the Prime Minister of India. He also called on Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs.

The two Foreign Ministers assisted by their respective sides held several rounds of talks in resumption of their earlier talks held during the visit of His Excellency the External Affairs Minister of India to Bangladesh in August, 1980. These talks were held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. During the talks, the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and also discussed regional and international matters of mutual interest.

The two Ministers recognised that friendly and good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India were clearly in the larger interests of the peoples of the two countries and also of peace and stability in the region. The two Ministers also expressed their firm belief that the foundation for building good neighbourly relations lay in mutual respect, trust and goodwill. The two Ministers agreed that some of the unresolved problems between Bangladesh and India were acting as a source of irritation and strain on the relations between them and that an early and peaceful resolution of these problems was clearly dictated by the larger interests of the peoples of the two countries. They, therefore, agreed that both sides would constantly endeavour to resolve any outstanding problems between them, peaceful in a spirit of mutual understanding and good neighbourliness.

Both sides agreed to intensify efforts for completion of steps already agreed upon at the Indo-Bangladesh Secretary-level talks at New Delhi in October 1980 towards early implementation of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement. The two sides confirmed their respective Government's acceptance of the delineation on map, by their survey officials, of the territory to be leased at Tin Bigha. It was agreed that a meeting at the level of

Foreign Secretaries would be held in October, 1981 to resolve all outstanding problems related to the Land Boundary, including finalisation of the terms and conditions of the lease-in-perpetuity of the Tin Bigha Corridor. Pending finalisation of the terms of lease, conditions would be created to ensure that necessary facilities of access which have been provided in the past would continue to remain available.

The two Foreign Ministers reviewed the progress achieved in the resumed talks on the delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between Bangladesh and India in Dacca from December 2—5, 1980 held in pursuance of the decision taken at their meeting in August, 1980. They reiterated that the question of delimitation of the Maritime Boundary should be resolved by mutual agreement in a spirit of understanding and good neighbourliness and that another meeting be convened at a mutually convenient and early date.

The two Foreign Ministers took note of the understanding reached between them at their meeting in August, 1980 and of the report of the first Governmental Review Meeting and the Farakka Agreement concluded in April, 1981. They agreed that efforts should be intensified to find a solution to the long-term problem of augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganges to the mutual satisfaction of both the countries. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to discuss at an early date further measures to be taken in this connection.

The two sides re-affirmed that efforts should be made to ensure that peace and tranquility are maintained on the border. It was agreed that each side would take effective measures to ensure that their respective territories were not used for hostile activities directed against the other.

Both sides re-emphasised the need to stop illegal movement of people

across the border and to strengthen existing arrangements and cooperation in this regard.

A free and frank discussion was held on the question of the newly emerged New Moore/South Talpatty Island at the estuary of the border river Hariabhanga. The two Foreign Ministers reviewed implementation of steps in defusing the tension over this problem. They reiterated their agreement to take further necessary steps to remove the remaining causes of tension and resolve the issue. For this purpose the two sides agreed to early talks at the level of Foreign Secretaries to examine all available data and report to the Foreign Ministers for further necessary steps to be taken with a view to an early and peaceful resolution of this problem.

The two sides reiterated their willingness to pursue positively all efforts for increasing cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. They noted with satisfaction the signing of the New Trade Agreement in October, 1980, the protocol on cultural and academic exchanges in December, 1980 and the new Telecommunications Agreement in May, 1981. As regards the establishment of railway links between the two countries, both sides agreed to take further positive steps to advance progress on the basis of the talks that have been held between the two Railways in October, 1980.

The two sides also agreed that the momentum of progress in the implementation of the proposal for regional cooperation among the South Asian Countries should be maintained and all necessary steps for this purpose should be undertaken in concert with other neighbouring countries in the South Asian region.

The two countries noted with satisfaction the similarity in their views on many of the international issues and agreed to cooperate closely in the various international forums in up-

holding the principles of the UN Charter and the Non-aligned Movement.

The foreign Minister of Bangladesh expressed his warm appreciation to the Minister of External Affairs of India for the generous hospitality extended to him and to the members of his delegation. He extended an invitation to him to pay an official visit to Bangladesh which the Indian External Affairs Minister accepted with pleasure.

**श्री सभापति :** थोड़ा प्रो-हिस्टारिक हो गया यह कमेंट ।

**श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव :** हां साहब, उन के आने से पहले यह सवाल आया । जाने के बाद जवाब आ रहा है ।

**श्री सभापति :** आप यह कह रहे हैं, आ रहे हैं आ रहे हैं । यह तो जा रहे हैं । वह तो चले भी गये ।

**श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव :** मैंने जवाब में कहा— आकर चले गये । और यही हुआ । आये भी वो गये भी वो ।

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** Sir, I do not know whether because of this the Foreign Minister came from Bangladesh.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Could be.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** Sir, the people of India and the Government of India want to maintain and it is our commitment that we are to maintain, friendly relationship with Bangladesh. It has been our great concern that some differences causing some strains did appear in the recent past on the question of the maritime boundary, on the question of the sharing of the Ganga waters, and the Indo-Bangladesh joint statement, to a great extent, has come in the re-

removal of that misunderstanding. I am sure, Sir, when our Foreign Minister will go to Bangladesh and also when this joint declaration will be implemented, much of the misunderstanding will be removed.

But, Sir, the misunderstanding cannot be removed only by the efforts of the two Governments. The peoples of the two countries must be involved in the whole process. There have been reports that some sort of an anti-India tirade is going on in Bangladesh from some quarters. May I know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs what efforts are being made in the direction of public relations so that we maintain good public relations with the people of Bangladesh and the projection of this country is in true perspective in Bangladesh?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** When the Bangladesh Foreign Minister came here recently, this was one of the points which he raised.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I have noted, Mr. Krishnan, your hand. I have noted every hand mentally. I will give chance to three or four and not more. It has become a little stale, this question.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** This was one of the points which he raised specifically. We had brought to the notice of the Bangladesh Government certain anti-Indian writings, utterances etc. which, we told them, would not be in the interest of our good relations. They took note of these things, and when the Foreign Minister came here, he assured the Prime Minister and me that in spite of the fact that now and then some newspapers and some leaders cannot resist the temptation of making certain statements because they feel there is some political mileage out of it, the Government of Bangladesh completely dissociates itself from such tendencies and stands for friendly relations and that it will continue to stand for friendly relations. So, he told us that despite occasional writ-

ings and utterances like these, we should rest assured, the Government of India should rest assured that the intention of the Bangladesh Government is exactly the same as ours, namely, to improve the relations with them and to be on the friendliest terms with them. This is what happened, Sir, and I am glad that after this explanation, after this assurance, even the frequency of such writings seems to have come down:

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I do not think there is anything very much left after this statement.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI:** Apart from the issue that I find in the declaration, there is another issue which at some point of time our Government will have to take up with Bangladesh. It is immigration of people from Bangladesh. I would like to know from the Foreign Minister whether this issue was taken up in the recent visit or this issue is likely to be taken up in the near future.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** As the hon. Member knows, this visit would have been a normal visit had it taken place originally, on the date it was scheduled, namely, in July. Meanwhile certain tension developed and certain events within Bangladesh had their own effect on these developments. So the visit which we had of the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh recently was in a particular context. It was not a routine visit or a normal visit in the sense it would have been had it materialised in July as originally proposed. So, Sir, our discussions have been necessarily of a limited character, limited to certain issues. There could have been more issues brought under our discussions under normal circumstances. They will also come under discussion. There has been some forward movement on all these and I am quite sure that this process will continue.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I think we better leave it there because this ques-

tion has become a little state. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE: That may be so. Just because the Foreign Minister has come back, it does not become stale. Of course, very rarely you encourage events intervening in asking a question and getting an answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly it is there in part (c). It is certainly out of date.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRA-KANT BHANDARE: There is one more reason for the whipping up of the anti-Indian feelings in our neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh. One of the reasons is that they use it as a diversionary tactics whenever there are any difficulties in their own country. Now, for example, whenever the election are there, the anti-India propaganda gets an edge and is whipped up. And I have a feeling—which many hon. Members may share with me—that even some foreign powers are interested in whipping up this propaganda against us so that it should weaken us. In view of the situation that the elections in Bangladesh have now been postponed, will the hon. Foreign Minister tell us whether he is contemplating some prompt steps to defuse the whole thing before it again gets escalated in the manner I have indicated.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, it has been very clearly stated in the joint statement what we have decided, what we are proposing to do, the time-frame in respect of the most important points. These details are given in the statement. As for the reasons why this anti-India tirade sometimes takes place, sometimes erupts in our neighbouring countries, there are many reasons. We need not go into all the reasons. The only point for us to consider is that we have to live with occasional

outbursts like this, but, at the same time, we will have to continue strengthening our friendship so that that is the best guarantee against such outbursts and then they become out of step with the role of those countries also. That is the very ideal situation which we have to aim at.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give Mr. Mitra a chance. (*Interruptions*) You get chances enough.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: In spite of the fact that we gave our blood for the liberation of Bangladesh, and in spite of the fact that we are trying to maintain the best of relations with Bangladesh, is the hon. Minister for External Affairs aware that immigrations are taking place from Bangladesh into Assam, West Bengal and Tripura almost daily?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I had occasion to answer a specific question on the point raised by the hon. Member. I do not have the figures readily available with me. I had given some figures also. I am prepared to give details to the hon. Member or Members, whosoever wants more figures.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: I would like to have the details because I am from West Bengal and I am vitally interested in it.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I will send him the figures available with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can take figures from him and study them. I am giving only three chances more. This question has become stale.

श्री सदाशिव बागईतकर : श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस बात का जिक्र संयुक्त निवेदन में नहीं है लेकिन जो चीज इमिग्रेशन की है वह विहारी मुसलमानों की समस्या है और श्रीमन् मुझे बंगला देश जाने का मौका मिला है,

मैं तो वहीं रहा हूँ और गुजरे  
... जानकारी है कि खासकर चटगांव  
के इनके में जो माइग्रांटो कम्युनिटी के  
लोग हैं उन में काफी घबराहट है। मेरे  
दोस्त वहाँ रहते हैं। उनके पत्त भी वहाँ से  
आते रहते हैं इसलिये काफी घबराहट है।  
मैं तो जो को यह बताना चाहता  
हूँ कि जो बिहारो मुसलमान बीच में  
काफी उग्र हो गये थे। उन्होंने सत्याग्रह  
जो एतान किया था हिन्दुस्तान की  
संस्था में घुसने का। जो उनका संगठन  
है उनकी तरफ से यह एतान किया गया  
था। क्या मंत्री जो यह बतायेंगे कि बंगला  
देश के जो मंत्री जो वहाँ आए थे, मैं  
आपसे आंकड़े नहीं मांग रहा हूँ, लेकिन  
जो वहाँ का माहौल है वह किस प्रकार का  
है, उनके साथ इस बार में क्या बातचीत  
हुई, इस बार में जग बताने की कृपा करें?

**श्री पी० वी० नरसिंह राव :** मैं इसके  
पहले निवेदन कर चुका हूँ कि बंगला देश  
के विदेश मंत्री जो अब की बार वहाँ आए  
थे यह एक विशेष संदर्भ में आए। उनसे  
जो बातचीत हुई वह कुछ ही मामलों में  
हुई। वैसे कई और बातें हैं जिन पर हमारी  
बातचीत चल रही है। + वह आंकड़े दे  
सकता हूँ उसको सारो कैफियत दे सकता  
हूँ। + जहाँ तक उनके विजिट का संबंध है  
मैं बताया है कि कुछ ही बातों पर हमारी  
बातचीत हुई। वह भी जाने की जरूरत में  
थे। उन्हें यूनाइटेड नेशन में जाना था।  
जैसे-जैसे उनसे जो बातचीत ... वहीं बातों  
पर हुई जो अभी ... थीं।

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Pandey  
and then Mr. Shahabuddin, and then  
we will finish it.

**SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PAN-  
DEY:** Sir, it is very encouraging  
that the friendly relations between  
India and Bangladesh have been im-  
proved by the visit of the Foreign  
Minister of Bangladesh. It is very

encouraging that the visit of  
the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh  
has smoothened many of the contro-  
versies which were just creating a  
situation which was going to be tense  
but which was stabilised by that visit.  
And the joint statement also was very  
encouraging because it has stated in  
one para that "each side would take  
effective measures to ensure that their  
respective territories were not used  
for hostile activities directed against  
the other."

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** That is all very  
satisfactory. But what is your ques-  
tion?

**SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PAN-  
DEY:** Sir, my question is whether  
the Government of India in the near  
future would like to send a team of  
officers who may sort out all those  
problems which were discussed and  
will try to resolve at the earliest all  
those problems.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:**  
Sir, the joint statement very clearly  
states the time-frame within which the  
matters will be taken up for fur-  
ther discussion and I think that  
should satisfy the hon. Member that  
nothing has been left to chance or  
to indefinite future. We have spelt  
out a certain time-frame for all mat-  
ters on which we thought a time-  
frame was important.

**श्री सभापति :** एक मिनट आप ठहर  
जाइय आपको चांस दे दें ताकि जरा चैन हो।  
आप पहले बोल लें ताकि आपका किस्सा तो  
खत्म हो।

**PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-  
CHARJEE:** Mr. Chairman, I am not  
going to put a stale question but a  
question which is....

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Put a question.

**PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTA-  
CHARJEE:** I am just coming to that.  
I have not even started. You allow-  
ed some persons to talk for five minu-  
tes. The question is not at all stale  
in West Bengal. In the Indo-Bangla-  
desh joint communique an issue has

been referred to which is creating problems in West Bengal, which is a State on the border of Bangladesh, as you know. In West Bengal everybody is interested in very peaceful and friendly relations with Bangladesh because we have an emotional affinity, as you know. But in regard to the question of Tin Bigha which has been referred to in the Indo-Bangladesh joint communique, it has been said:

"...the two sides confirmed their respective Government's acceptance of the delination on map, by their survey officials, of the territory to be leased at Tin Bigha in perpetuity to Bangladesh...."

Now the question I am going to ask of the hon. Minister is not what exactly they propose to do but whether the alternative suggestion in respect of Tin Bigha, the question of some corridor for the Bangladesh enclave in some other form may come up for discussion in future discussions amongst the officials and at the ministerial level between the two Governments so that tension may be eased there.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** Yes, Sir. This has proved to be a rather difficult question, but we have fortunately been able to outline a solution to it. Now there are going to be talks on how to remove the difficulty which is going to face either side. We have to have the imagination to see that the solution has something for each side and whatever difficulty they would be facing would be removed in advance. We have to do this kind of futuristic planning....

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It is hypothetical.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** It is not hypothetical; it is very real. But I would like to assure the honourable that all these difficulties have been anticipated and they will be taken care of.

**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** We know the special reason for the visit

of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, and I would like to felicitate the honourable Minister for the results that he has achieved. We are all happy that the situation on the New Moore Island has been defused and further steps are being taken by the two Governments to improve the situation. But the problem remains with us. The maritime boundary between India and Bangladesh has not been delineated, and to my mind the question of sovereignty over the New Moore Island is integrally connected with the question of the delineation of the maritime boundary between the two countries. I can not really understand the rationale of Bangladesh's demand as has been reported many a time that they want a joint survey. Now, unless there is a line, what is the point of a joint survey?—whether the New Moore Island is on the right side of it or on the left side of it or cuts across it. In the absence of a line, a joint survey does not make any sense. Therefore, my question is if the two questions are so integrally linked with each other why is it that in the communique here one has been dealt with in one paragraph, paragraph 6, and the other has been dealt with in another paragraph, paragraph 10? Is it deliberate?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** Yes, Sir. It is deliberate to some extent, because we did not want to start with the axiom that both are interlinked necessarily. There is a link. But I would like to assure the honourable Member that we are making progress on both fronts.

#### Computerisation of Railways

\*482. **SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY:**†

**SHRI KALPNATH RAI:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Narsingh Narain Pandey.