

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति जी, भारत की सरकार को स्वास्थ्य नीति लागू होने में काफी व्यय की आवश्यकता है और इसमें समय लगेगा । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार भारत के सभी नागरिकों को एक हेल्थ कार्ड बना कर दे दें जिससे साल में एक दफे सबके स्वास्थ्य की परीक्षा हो सके । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ऐसी नीति बनायेगी जिससे लोकल अस्पताल या डिसपेंसरीज़ में देश के सभी नागरिकों के स्वास्थ्य की साल में एक बार जांच हो सके ?

SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR : Sir, this is a very good suggestion. We are aiming at that. But immediately it will not be possible. We are trying to achieve this; our aim is this. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सभापति : जवाब दे दिया कि बनायेंगे । 65 करोड़ के लिए बनाने के लिए टाइम लगेगा ।

Foreign Minister's Visit to Bangladesh

*463. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR :†
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited Bangladesh this year from 15th to 18th August, 1980 ;

(b) whether issues of bilateral interest concerning the two countries were discussed during the visit; and

(c) if so, the nature of the talks and the outcome thereof ?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri mati Amarjit Kaur.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) I paid a visit to Dacca from 16th to 18th August, 1980 at the invitation of the Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

(b) and (c) I had wide-ranging discussions with Bangladesh leaders on bilateral matters in which we covered important aspects including the Land Boundary, the Maritime Boundary, Farakka, illegal infiltration and transportation links. A schedule was drawn up for further action on some of these issues. We also discussed the question of expanding cultural co-operation and it was agreed that "a programme of cultural and academic exchange between the two countries would be signed shortly". The two sides further agreed to intensify their efforts for "increasing co-operation in the Economic, Commercial, Scientific and Technological fields".

My visit to Bangladesh enabled both sides to achieve a better understanding of each others point of view and thereby provided a further impetus to Indo-Bangladesh relations.

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR : Is it a fact that the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission had handed over the responsibility of evolving a solution, to augment the dry season flow of the River Ganga at Farakka, to the Foreign Ministries of both India and Bangladesh for a political solution ? Have both the Governments since collaborated and come to any conclusion ? If not, when will this subject be taken up by both the Governments for a final political solution ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, the stage to which the hon. Member has made reference is almost at hand. The J.R.C. is going to have its meeting, and as far as we could see, since it has not been able to come to an agreed solution in regard to the long-term augmentation, they are going to report to their Government

that this has not been possible, and then it will be for the Governments to take whatever further appropriate action they deem necessary.

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR: Has the Governments of India agreed to separate from the scope of delimitation of maritime boundaries of the two countries the issue of the newly emerged islands in the bay of Bengal? If so, why?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the discussions on the maritime boundary are going on and they are at a crucial stage. I would not be in a position to say categorically about these islands. The question of the islands is also there.

So far as our claims are concerned, we are absolutely clear that these islands belong to us and we have given them the information that is in our possession. The matter is still under consideration and we hope that it will be concluded in our favour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have got four names and I won't have any other name.

श्री रामानन्द यादव : सभापति जी, भारत और बंगलादेश के बीच में बे आफ बंगाल में निकले हुए आईलैंड को लेकर के, बंगलादेश द्वारा नेपाल सरकार को जाइंट रिवर कमीशन में शामिल करने और लगातार बंगलादेशी असम में जो आकर के गलत ढंग से बस रहे हैं, उसके संबंध में और बंगलादेश लगातार गैस हिन्दुस्तान को जो देना चाहता था, उसके खिलाफ बंगला देश में अनेक पार्टियों द्वारा जो ऐजिटेशन हो रहा था और बंगलादेश द्वारा पृथक्तावादी आंदोलन करने वाले जो सिसेशनलिस्ट यहां हिन्दुस्तान में हैं उनको मदद, इन बिन्दुओं पर हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने बंगला

देश सरकार से बात की। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन बिन्दुओं पर किस स्तर पर बंगला देश की सरकार ने आपके साथ समन्वय करने की कोशिश की और कहां तक आप दोनों में विभिन्नता रही?

श्री पी०वी० नरसिंह राव : सब बिन्दुओं पर जब बातचीत होती है, तो उस बातचीत के दौरान ही कोई अन्तिम फैसला नहीं होता, एक दूसरे के दृष्टिकोण को समझने की कोशिश की जाती है और मेरा विश्वास है कि कई बातों पर हमारी बातचीत होने के बाद हम अपने दृष्टिकोण में पहले से ज़रा निकट आए हैं।

यह एक ऐसा सिलसिला है जो जारी रहेगा, जिसका कोई अंत नहीं होता है। जब तक किसी बात पर पूरा फैसला नहीं होता, हमको बातचीत करनी पड़ती है और इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारी बातचीत आशाजनक रही है।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister...

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :
बेगम साहिबा भी उधर . . .
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The competition is between 3 ladies. Now, I will drop all men and ask only the ladies after this.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : Sir, if you yourself provoke the ladies' brigade—
हमारी बहुत मुर्खता हो जायेगी

The fair lady from Himachal Pradesh is standing.

श्री सभापति : चलिए क्वेश्चन पूछिए, उनकी भूल जइये।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : My difficulty is that I uttered some words last time and the entire brigade pounced on me in the lobby. Now I want your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should be very happy if they pounce upon you.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : The problem is that the damsel from Himachal Pradesh is sitting here. I am in great difficulty to find my way out.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Better ask the question and go home.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : Let me come to the question. (*Interruptions*) May I know from the hon. Minister in all seriousness this thing? I find from the tenor of the questions which were asked and the way in which the hon. Foreign Minister in his persuasive manner replied, that these discussions go on always and there is no end to these discussions etc. Sir, I am reminded of a drama wherein the late Mr. Atray showed a Finance Minister of a country who was drawing money from the World Bank saying कभी वापिस देता नहीं है । ऐसा ही लेना चाहिए, वर्ल्ड बैंक का ऐसा ही रास्ता है । Please don't reply in that way.

I am more positive, Sir. My own experience in the United Nations last year was that the Bangladesh representatives were not co-operative with the Indian representatives. And that is why I am asking you whether it is in the case of water or in the case of border problem or in the case of shooting or in the case of infiltration into Assam, the Bangladesh is having an intransigent attitude. And I am of the view and I am suspecting

that either China or the United States is behind these moves. So, I want to draw your attention to this. I can understand diplomacy, the diplomatic language. I want to know whether the Government has any policy which will take concrete steps in a time schedule in regard to the security problem and in regard to the problem of water.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, I was not merely practising diplomacy when I was answering I was giving my own impressions since I have had the benefit of talks with the Foreign Minister and the President of Bangladesh.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : Who will talk truth with you ? They were also diplomatic.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I was not giving vague impressions but I have reason to believe that on several matters we made an advance over the past position. Not on all matters, of course.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : What about the big powers ?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : And after my meeting, certain other follow-up meetings have taken place which also goes to show that what we had decided when we met in Dacca has actually been carried further. These meetings have taken place and there is an advance on each of these issues. What I want to tell the House is that these things cannot be clinched over-night. These are matters which naturally are bound up with each nation's internal policy. We have our own position and they have their own. In order to harmonise these positions or in order to narrow down the differences, a good deal of patience, perseverance and goodwill are needed. Now what I want to tell the House is that this goodwill has been generated at the

time of my visit, and I hope that this will stand both of us in good stead in the future.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : What about the big powers?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : No, Sir, I am not prepared to involve the big powers in this. These are bilateral talks going on. And I would like to keep the scope of these talks to the bilateral issues. Whether other powers are there or not, on that I am not prepared to speculate.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it transpires from the reply of the hon. Minister that infiltration was one of the issues figured in the bilateral discussions. In discussing the problem of infiltration from Bangladesh has the Minister made an enquiry as to what the reasons are for that? May it be presumed that due to the promulgation of the Enemy Property Act under which some Rs. 109 crores worth of property has been taken over by them, the minorities there, out of fear, are fleeing that country and infiltrating into the borders of West Bengal and Assam? Did the Minister...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I don't think this question arises out of water.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY : It arises from the Minister's reply, Sir. From the Minister's reply it transpires that infiltration was one of the issues that figured in the discussion of bilateral interests.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He should not have mentioned it.

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY : I want to know whether this question arose at the time of discussions?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I will answer that question,

Sir. The hon. Member, the other day, when I was answering questions on the enemy property issue was quite agitated about it. I would like to place all the facts before him if he could come and discuss with me. But in connection with this question, that supplementary will not arise. I can only say that in regard to infiltration, we have taken firm decisions with consent on both sides that better measures, stricter measures should be taken to stop infiltration. And I am glad to say that in pursuance of our discussions, some action has been taken on both sides. And it is a better position now from the point of view of stopping infiltration.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, now Mr. Pandey, then Mrs. Habibullah and then Mrs. Rajinder Kaur.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : Sir, I have also to ask a question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But I am afraid. (*interruptions*). All right, I will give you a chance before the ladies.

SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY : Sir, may I know from the Minister whether any schedule was prepared by the Foreign Ministers of both the countries, taking into consideration all those points which he has made just now, for holding a meeting here at Delhi with the President of Bangladesh by the Prime Minister of India, in order to sort out the difficult problems so that these all problems on the higher level could be discussed and some way found out?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, in our talks, so far as the subjects are concerned, each one of them was discussed threadbare and we did not expect any questions of such importance as would need a special meeting at the summit level. Naturally our leaders meet from time to time; at the time of the Common-

wealth Regional Conference, they met. So, there is no question of having a special meeting at the summit level to sort out any particular matter. All the matters were gone into. This is a continuing process and no decision was taken on the lines suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mrs. Habibullah and then we finish this question.

SHRIMATI RAJINDER KAUR : Sir, please give me one minute only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, please hurry up. We are one question behind.

SHRIMATI RAJINDER KAUR : I have got only one minute. I want to ask the Minister a very simple question. There are so many Sikh Gurdwaras in Bangladesh pertaining to Guru Nanak Devji and Guru Tegh Bahadurji. These buildings are getting demolished. The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee has written a letter to the Minister of External Affairs in the matter. Will it be possible for the Sikhs to build their historic shrines over there and will the Minister take up this matter with the Bangladesh Government and care a little for the sentiments of a small minority of India ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Although the question does not strictly arise, I allow it.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I will certainly look into it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has promised it. Yes, Mrs. Habibullah, last question.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : Sir, what about me ?

SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR : Sir, please give him some time.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH : Sir, I may inform Mr. Kulkarni that when we had the World Conference of Women in Copenhagen, the women were most friendly and co-operative. The women's delegation from Bangladesh was full of goodwill. Perhaps, it may be that women are full of goodwill, I do not know. I say this to refute what Mr. Kulkarni said whose experience is different. Sir, we have always been reading a great deal about the Farakka and border areas and all other questions that have been asked. I would like to ask the Minister the very basic strength of friendship lies mainly in economic and commercial ties and therefore I would like to know what specific and vital agreements have we had on trade and commercial matters ? Thank you.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : The need to improve the infrastructure for social and economic co-operation, in particular the need to improve the communications links, was also discussed and the Bangladesh Government agreed in principle to examine the proposal to extend railway links so as to facilitate through traffic to the North-Eastern States of India. This is very important from our point of view and for the first time we did have some forward movement, Sir. In pursuance of this, an economic delegation from India visited Bangladesh at the end of October in this connection and came to an understanding regarding the modalities of such traffic. This understanding is expected to receive the concurrence of the two Governments shortly. After this concurrence is received the cross traffic could commence as soon as the technical facilities have been constructed. A technical sub-group has inspected the site for the construction of railway siding and several alternatives are being considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up next question No. 464.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Even though, Sir, the next question stands in my name, I am interested to ask a question on 463.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you take one minute, I will allow you. No lecturing.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: Sir, it appears that the land boundary agreement was discussed in the talks of Dacca. On the land boundary agreement, I know there were talks at Delhi also in the month of October 1980 at the level of Foreign Secretaries of the two countries. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India have agreed to implement the 1974 agreement which aims at solving the land boundary disputes between India and Bangladesh and the question of exchange of enclaves between the two countries fully. Secondly, the Hon. Minister is fully aware of the fact that a portion of Indian mainland, that is, Dhaprahat-Kuchlibari Gram Panchayat in Cooch Behar District—if this agreement is fully implemented—will be fully cut off from the rest of the Indian mainland as Tin Bigha—a land-strip under the terms of this agreement, has to be leased out to Bangladesh in perpetuity so that Bangladesh can maintain a link between Bangladesh mainland and Bangladesh enclaves, Dabasgram and Angarpota. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will kindly consider the difficulties to be faced by the people of Dhaprahat Gram Panchayat and take up the matter with the Bangladesh Government if it has already not been taken up. Thirdly, Sir, if there is no modification to this agreement, I want to know what measures the Government of India are likely to take to solve the problems of the people of this area, *i.e.* about their free access, security etc.? And lastly, Sir, I want to know whether...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have to give up your supplementary in the next question.

SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN: ...whether the Government of West Bengal have made any representation to the Central Government in this connection and whether the Government of West Bengal have agreed with the measures so far taken by the Government of India in implementing the 1974 agreement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In one sentence, cover the whole lot.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Yes, Sir. In the talks on the border issue, the Government of West Bengal are in the picture. So there is no question of not taking their opinion into consideration. So far as this particular question of access to which the hon. Member has referred, is concerned, we are taking care to see that the question of access is satisfactorily settled while giving this lease in perpetuity. Giving of lease in perpetuity will not mean any severance of the access to our people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No isolation?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: No isolation. So, the access part of it will be taken care of.

Meetings of the Reconstituted Zonal and Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committees

*464. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN:†

SHRI AHMAD HOSSAIN MONDAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different Zonal and Divisional Railway

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prajenjit Barman.