

# RE SITTING OF THE HOUSE ON THE 14TH NOVEMBER, 1974

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA) : Sir, yesterday when there was a meeting with the Leaders of the Opposition of Lok Sabha, they requested the Speaker that 14th should be declared as a closed holiday for Lok Sabha . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : 15th also . . .

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI OM MEHTA : So, Sir, 14th will be a closed holiday for Rajya Sabha.

## MOTION RE: EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE RE- PORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE PREVENTION OF FOOD ADUL- TERATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1974

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Prevention of Food Adulteration (Amendment) Bill, 1974, be extended up to the last day of the first week of the Ninety-first Session of the Rajya Sabha."

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

## REFERENCE TO ALLEGED ENTRY OF US NAVAL TASK FORCE INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, I wish to invite your attention and, through you, the attention of the House to a rather serious development, namely, the entry of US Naval Task Force into the Indian Ocean. Only a few days ago, the US Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, visited our country. And according to the joint communique issued at the end of the talks we find that the question of the Indian Ocean zone, with special reference to the presence of US Navy in Diego Garcia base, was discussed, and the

Americans made it known that they agreed with our point of view. Now, Sir, hardly has he returned home—Mr. Kissinger—than we have heard the news that an American Naval Task Force consisting of 84,000-tonne air-craft carrier Constellation, three Destroyers—Camden, Ocharane and Borkegy—an escort ship, etc., are entering into the Indian Ocean. Now, this has to be taken rather seriously. I expected the Government today itself *suo motu* to come forward and make a statement, because it has aggravated the grave threat to the security of our country and to other littoral countries. This also shows what kind of gun-boat diplomacy and duplicity the US Secretary of State, Mr. Kissinger, has indulged in when he visited this country.

I should like to know from the Government whether Mr. Kissinger, during his talks here, made it known to the Central Government or during his talks with the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister or other Ministers that they were contemplating to send US Task Force into the Indian Ocean. If he had not done it, then he has insulted our country and he has grossly misused the opportunity that was offered to him for having talks with the leaders of the Government here. Sir, this itself is a very serious matter.

Then, Sir, it is not an accident step, but it should be viewed against the background of American aggressive actions, namely, their threat to the oil-producing Arab countries that the Americans might even militarily intervene in order to force the oil-producing Arab countries to submit to the US terms. Recently, Sir, only a few days ago, certain papers have come to light—Jack Anderson papers, the latest series, Jack Anderson is by no means a progressive; he is a conservative correspondent. He revealed in the latest series of his papers that America is contemplating military intervention. Earlier in September last, both President Ford and Mr. Kissinger, had virtually threatened that the US interests might impel them to take military action against some oil-producing Arab countries. Recently, in the United Nations they have been supporting the

cause of the racist regime in South Africa.

I am mentioning this because they are a part of the movement and the Naval US Task Force should not be viewed in isolation.

In 1971, at a critical moment in the history of this sub-continent, the U.S. naval task force, led by 'Enterprise' came towards the Bay of Bengal in order to threaten us and to suppress, if possible, the liberation struggle of Bangladesh. Now, in the wake of Kissinger's visit to our country, we find again that the U.S. naval task force is entering the Indian Ocean. We are told that 47 American war-ships have visited the Indian Ocean between November, 1973 and August, 1974. It only shows how they are trying to activate these particular zones. President Ford has ordered that the Diego Garcia base should be extended so that it could tackle B-52 bombers. As you know very well, our Cape-Comorin is only 1200 miles away from the Diego Garcia. All these things are going on. Arab people are being threatened. Iran is being asked to give them naval facilities in the Gulf of Persia which we call 'Arab Gulf'. At the same time, some regimes are being encouraged by the Americans. All these things are being done in violation of the United Nations resolutions and charters.

Sir, I would, therefore, request the Government to make a statement. Mere mention will not do. I am mentioning it on the very first day in order to bring it to the notice of the House. We have given a Calling Attention notice. This week, an international conference is going to be held here of the countries of the Indian Ocean zone with a view to discussing amongst themselves as to how best they could secure the implementation of their common declaration that the Indian Ocean should be made a zone of peace. Therefore, the Government should make its position known either on this Calling Attention or otherwise.

Sir, before I sit down, I would say that the Government should have made a statement today on Mr. Kissinger's visit, if not for any reason, at least in the light of this grossly perfidious, insulting and menacing move in our region. They have not guaranteed or even given any assurance whatsoever that they would stop supply of arms to Pakistan. Diego Garcia is there. They are going ahead with the building of the American base there. There is this naval task force entering the Indian Ocean and also there is indirect supply of arms by America to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and other countries. Saudi Arabia, Iran and Israel are being armed. This is the situation. I think in the light of this situation the Government should make a statement.

I strongly protest against the manner in which some people, especially Mr. T. N. Kaul, our Ambassador in the United States, is behaving. We are told everyday that our relations have improved. Mr. Kissinger says that a dramatic improvement in the Indo-U.S. relations has taken place. At the same time, we see that the U.S. naval task force is entering the Indian Ocean and they are going ahead with the construction and equipping of the Diego Garcia base which the former External Affairs Minister described in this very House as a very great threat to our country.

Before I sit down, I would suggest that Mr. T. N. Kaul should not be sent as the Indian Ambassador to the U.S.A. Even the results of Mr. Kissinger's visit have proved that what he had been telling us had no basis. Mr. Kissinger might create all kinds of illusions about us. But why should we be a party to this kind of thing? The Indian Ocean is being made an area of conflict by the United States of America despite the protests not only of our country but also the other littoral countries.

Sir, here is a great occasion for the Prime Minister herself to take note of it and make a statement in the Parliament.

DR. RAM KRIPAL S'NHA (Bihar) : Any other name also you want to suggest ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I am suggesting the name because he has been the Ambassador of our country in the United States of America. If you want to support him support him. I am saying what he had been telling. Mr. Kissinger's visit itself has belied it. Well, he came here to block the country from progress. Our country has advanced far today. We are strong anti-imperialists. The national sentiment and the national pride is too strong in our country. And he could not go very far. Therefore, I say that this pact of Indo-U.S. Joint Commission, Indo-U.S. collaboration, Indo-U.S. cooperation, dramatic improvement of relations between our two countries, and all these things should stop. We should take serious note of the American duplicity and aggressive policies which are directed against us. If, today, there is detente in Europe, it is because America was forced to retreat. We have to force them to retreat from our continent by our struggle and by our vigilance. This is what we need. And I would ask our Minister for Parliamentary Affairs who has now become the Minister of State for Home Affairs also, to look into this aspect of the matter. I think the issue is serious. Sir, you have allowed discussion on Bihar. Very good. We are not objecting to it. I would request, why should not there be a short duration discussion on this very subject? If Mr. Kissinger can behave in this manner and the Americans can behave in this manner, it is also our duty, when the Parliament is meeting, to express our national feelings and national sentiment in an appropriate way when we all agree on this matter.

Once again, Sir, I am grateful to you that I have been permitted to speak. But I hope this is taken as only a reference. Ministers will not say anything. I know that. If they say, I can understand. But I have given a Calling Attention notice. I think it is coming up during this week. When the Conference of the Indian Ocean countries is taking place on our soil, it would be fit and proper that the Calling

Attention motion is taken up. And our guests coming from outside can see how deeply the Parliament feels about this matter and how deeply the mood of the nation is expressed in this Parliament. Hence I would request before I sit down to have at least Calling Attention admitted, if not a general discussion for a day, on the subject during this week. I think Wednesday and Thursday have been taken out. We will be left with Friday only. On Friday this matter should be taken up in this House . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now Mr. Raj Bahadur will introduce a Bill . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, I condemn the American action. It is a cowardly action on the part of the American imperialism. And the American Embassy should be told how they are behaving. It is not only not decency but it conforms to the standard of cloak and dagger and gunboat diplomacy which continues in the United States of America today, even under the new administration of General Ford.

#### THE TOKYO CONVENTION BILL, 1974

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the Convention on offences and certain other acts committed on board aircraft.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned till 2.45 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at forty-four minutes past one of the clock.