

hon. Members here, we cannot treat the whole thing as an award and implement it knowing fully well that there are anomalies, difficulties and deficiencies. Therefore, it is our responsibility to see that every thing is done in a proper and justifiable manner and we are trying to do it.

"524. [The questioners (Shri S. Kumaran, Or.Z. A. Ahmad and Shri Bhola Prasad) were absent. For answer, vide col. 25 infra.]

Meeting between India's Foreign Secretary and U.S.A. Secretary of State

'525. SHRI RAM RAY . Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India's Foreign Secretary, Sri Kewal Singh met Dr. Kissinger U.S. Secretary of State, on the 2nd August, 1974; and

(b) if so, what was the nature of discussions held ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :
(a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The discussions covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest including Indo-US relations, the international situation and India's efforts to promote peace and reconciliation in the sub-continent.

श्री रबी राय : उपसभापति जी, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के विदेश मंत्री डा० किस्सिंजर के आगमन पर भारत सरकार बड़ी उत्सुकता क्यों दिखा रहा है जब कि पहले इस तरह के आगमन पर वह दिनचर्या नहीं लेती थी ? अब भारत सरकार इस आगमन पर दिलचस्पी ले रही है, उसका क्या कारण है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि डॉ०-यू०एस० ए० रिलेशनशिप क्या अभी खराब है और क्या आप यह सोचते हैं कि उनमें कुछ अब सुधार हो रहा है ? अगर खराब है तो कब से खराब है और उन में सुधार आया है तो कब से सुधार आया है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, this matter has come up for mention in this hon. House more than once. It is a fact that during the Bangladesh crisis relations between India and the United States deteriorated. Thereafter when Bangladesh was established as an independent country and was also recognised by the

United States this relations did start improving. And one of the other factors which affected the relations between India and the United States was the Vietnam situation. After the United States stoppage of bombing of North Vietnam and their decision to withdraw their forces from South Vietnam another irritant was out of the way. For all these reasons the relations have taken a turn towards improvement.

श्री रबी राय : उपसभापति जी, दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या मंत्री जी इस बात पर भी ध्यान देंगे कि जब हमारे विदेश मन्त्रालय से कोई सचिव अमेरिका जाते हैं, तो क्या किसिंजर के साथ बातचीत करने के साथ साथ वे इस प्रकार की भी कोशिश करते हैं या करने वाले हैं कि अमेरिका में जो दूसरे कांग्रेस-मेन हैं, जो प्रो० इंडियन हैं, उनके साथ भी बातचीत की जाये ? क्या मंत्री जी ने इस प्रकार की हिदायत उन्हें दी है ?

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जो यू० एस० सेनेटर हैं, जैसे मेरी जानकारी है कि श्री जैक्सन जो एक यू०एस० सेनेटर हैं, वे चीन गये थे और चीनी प्रधान मंत्री के साथ उन्होंने बातचीत की थी और अपना प्रचार किया था । आप जानते हैं कि श्री जैक्सन चीन में सौट कर आये हैं । मेरा कहना है कि जब विदेश मन्त्रालय के सचिव वहाँ जाते हैं, किसिंजर से मिलते हैं, तो इसके साथ ही साथ जो वहाँ पर प्रो इंडियन सेनेटर व कांग्रेस सदस्य हैं, उनके साथ भी भारत जाबी तैयार करने के लिए मिलते हैं या नहीं - अगर नहीं मिलते हैं, तो इस का क्या कारण है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, if any of the visiting dignitaries from India goes for a short period then he can not do everything within the short period of stay that he has in the United States. However, the point that the hon. Member has suggested is valid. Even on this occasion, apart from meeting the United States Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, the foreign Secretary, had an opportunity of meeting some Congressmen also. Our Ambassador is in touch with several Senators and Representatives and also generally with the press and other important elements in the United States set-up, who wield considerable influence in moulding public opinion. So what is in the mind of the hon. Member is already being done.

श्री रबी राय : क्या आप नाम बतला सकते हैं ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : जी हाँ, बतला सकता हूँ ।

श्री हर्षी देव : किन किन कांग्रेस मेंनों के साथ मिले, क्या घाय उनके नाम बतवा सकते हैं ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I speak from memory. One of the legislators was I think Mr. Percy. And I myself have met several Senators, Members of the Foreign Relations Committee and have had fairly extensive discussions with them. So what I want to inform the hon. Member and the House is that this suggestion made by the hon. Member already being acted upon.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : In view of the fact that the Report of the Ministry for 1973-74 states that, there is no conflict of interest between India and the United States as such and the discussions which our Foreign Secretary had with his counterpart in the United States, may I know from the hon. Minister what tangible steps have been suggested by this country to the United States of America in regard to point 3 that he has stated, viz., India's peace efforts in the sub-continent. May I also know from the hon. Minister whether there has been or there has not been any supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan either directly or indirectly in recent months ? I would also like to know. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No third question.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : . . . whether any assurance has been got from the United States that there would be no such supply hereafter.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, the initiative taken by India for establishing durable peace in the sub-continent has received wide support from the international community and the United States also has supported these moves, not only in the course of our discussions at the diplomatic level, but also publicly. About arms supply to Pakistan the United States policy of an embargo on the supply of lethal weapons to Pakistan and India continues. There has, so far, been no change in that policy.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Is it a fact that when President Ford, after his elevation to the high office, received diplomats of as many as 79 countries, our Ambassador was not in that list ? Is it also a fact that the past and present speeches and other reactions of Presi-

dent Ford indicate that the anti-Indian tilt of the Nixon administration continues to this date?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do not think that we should read in the non-presence of India's Ambassador amongst this group of Ambassadors as a continuation of the policy of so-called tilt against India. . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Not only this, but other things also.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : After all, there are 130 members in the Diplomatic Corps and everyone was not there. In fact, this did not constitute even the majority group of the heads of mission of various countries which have resident missions in the United States. In such matters I do not think that it serves any purpose by being touchy. We should take this in its stride, but it is a fact that the next day our Ambassador was received by the Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, and the continuance of the policy which is being pursued by India for establishing durable peace in the Indian sub-continent and the appreciation of that policy was reiterated. I would also like to add that, if the list is perused of the countries whose representatives were received on the first occasion, it would convince any impartial observer that most of the representatives were from countries which are allies in defence pacts with the United States of America. Would you sit-take to be in that group ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : r, Dwivedi.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Excuse me. Sir. I want to say. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have put your question and he has answered it.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : I would beg of you, Sir. The second part of it has not been answered; His past and present speeches are there. President Ford's speech to the Congress says: "We shall continue friendly relations with our friends in Asia and keep their independence." Does it not indicate that he will continue to support Pakistan and the anti-Indian tilt continues ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I do not know to which part of the speech of President Ford, which was delivered to the joint session of the two houses, is being taken exception to by the hon. Member. I have gone

Hi rough the speech very carefully and I did not see any anti-Indian slant in that speech. We should not try to read in speeches something which does not exist therein.

SHRI D.N. DWIVEDI : As the House is aware, our relations with the US have been far from happy all these years and the attitude of the US has always left much to be desired. Our relations reached an-all time low at the time of the Bangla Desh crisis as the hon. Minister mentioned. But subsequently, it was pronounced on behalf of the Government of the United States that India is a major power and probably the United States wants to improve its relations. But unfortunately, a number of people share the apprehension of Mr. Malaviya that the latest pronouncement of President Ford in which he has mentioned a number of countries and a number of regions and areas in the world to which, in his opinion, the United States is going to attach importance, does not mention either Southeast Asia or India. My question is : Is not the omission of India significant in the eyes of the hon. Minister and does it not indicate that Mr. Ford, given his past background, will continue to adopt an anti-Indian attitude ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has already answered.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have already answered that...

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री : मैं दो प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ। एक तो यह कि अभी पीछे श्री मंत्री ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि जिन देशों के पास अणु शस्त्र हैं पाकिस्तान इस बात का प्रयास करेगा कि उन से आवश्यकता पड़ने पर अणु शस्त्रों का प्रयोग करने के लिए किसी प्रकार का समझौता किया जाये। तो क्या हमारे विदेश विभाग के जो सचिव हैं उन्होंने अमेरिका के विदेश विभाग के सचिवों से और किस तरह से बातचीत करते समय इस बात की भी चर्चा की है कि क्या उनके सामने भी कोई इस तरह के प्रयोजन था है ? यदि था है तो उन को इस बारे में क्या प्रतिनिधित्व रहा है ?

श्री दूसरी बात में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यदि भारत के साथ वह अपना सौदा का हाथ बढ़ाना चाहते हैं तो हमारी स्पष्ट नीति जो हिन्द महासागर के संबंध में है उस में भी वह परिचित है। तो क्या डियंगो गाशिया में जो 232 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर के उस के विस्तार की योजना बनाई गयी है उस के संबंध में क्या केवल सिंह जी की बातचीत हुई थी ? यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में श्री कमिश्नर की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The efforts which are being made by Pakistan to get some nuclear umbrella will continue and we should appreciate the position quite clearly. According to our information, the United States has not been approached by Pakistan for such a nuclear umbrella and therefore the second part of the question which he raised does not arise.

Now, about Diego Garcia, the matter has been explained in this honourable House more than once. Diego Garcia is a base which is being established by the United States in co-operation with the British, the littoral countries surrounding the Indian Ocean are overwhelmingly opposed to the establishment of this base. The establishment of this base—the reasons for which I need not reiterate because this has been done on several occasions—is a matter of grave concern to the littoral countries. And it is for this reason that this matter has been raised by India and by other non-aligned and like-minded countries at the international forums. Our views have been conveyed to the United States in this respect more than once. But we should have some distinction in our mind in relation to a subject which concerns a large group of countries, and our efforts to mobilise opinion amongst the larger group of countries is likely to yield greater results than converting it into a bilateral issue, as between India and the United States. That is our approach, and already international opinion is taking note of this aspect.

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, मेरा प्रश्न तो बड़ा स्पष्ट था कि अभी 232 करोड़ रुपये जो नया खर्चान किया है उन्होंने डियंगो गाशिया के खन्दर हुआई पट्टी के विस्तार के लिए, हमारे विदेश सचिव उसके बाद उनसे मिले हैं। पहले हमारा क्या स्टैंड है उससे देश भी परिचित है। तो यह जो नया बजट उन्होंने खर्चान किया है इसके सम्बन्ध में उन्होंने बातचीत की भी क्या ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, we have taken note that the United States Congress has sanctioned an appropriation for meeting the expenditure of expansion of Diego Garcia. That is there. And there is no doubt that they are going ahead with the development of that base. But our opposition continues as also the opposition of other countries.

SHRI J.S. ANAND : Sir, the hon. Minister outlined two premises when he said that the relations have improved. One was the

changed attitude towards Bangladesh, and the other was the changed situation in Vietnam. I would like to ask the hon. Minister : Is he aware of the fact that so far as the Paris Peace Treaty is concerned, as well as the situation in Vietnam, there have been continued protests by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam as well as by the Provisional Revolutionary Government about repeated violations of the Paris agreement and continued interference by the USA ? That knocks out one premise. So far as the other premise is concerned, the tilt was exemplified at its very height by the sending of Seventh Fleet. Is he aware that now instead of sending the Seventh Fleet once in a crisis, they are trying to establish a permanent base in Diego Garcia which is a nuclear base and which is much worse than sending a fleet ? He should also kindly take note of the fact how the United States overreacted towards our nuclear explosion for peaceful purposes. In view of all this, how does he justify the premise that relations have improved and the tilt is gone, when Pakistan is being otherwise also encouraged by the U.S.A" ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, to a certain extent I would appeal to the hon. Members that they should not place me in a position where I have to defend the U.S. position. This is not my case at all. Some of these questions could well be directed by friends of the hon. Member and others to the U. S. Government. Some of these are valid considerations. But a country has to take an overall view and not base its judgment on differences of opinion on one particular issue. Having said that, on the specific points we do feel concerned about the continued violations of the Paris Peace Agreement. We are strongly in favour of the Paris Peace Agreement being scrupulously implemented by all parties concerned and we have already voiced our opposition to these violations, our criticism of these violations, and we would continue to work for the implementation of the peace agreement. About Diego Garcia, I have nothing more to add to what I have said. It is not merely a fleet visiting the Indian Ocean once or twice but the establishment of a base which is of great concern not only to India but to other littoral countries in the region. And it is for this reason that there is such strong opposition not only by the non-aligned countries surrounding the Indian Ocean but by the non-aligned group as a whole. And to

this opposition has been added the voice of countries like Australia and New Zealand. In this respect our position is quite clear.

The third point was about overreaction to our nuclear blast. I do not think that that statement will be factually correct. There was not overreaction in the United States, although there was overreaction in certain other countries. I do not think that our explosion of the nuclear device for peaceful purposes created any overreaction in the United States.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :
Shrimati Chundawat.

SHRI SARDAR AMJALJI AUI : As I am as I could follow the hon'ble Minister made two points in his statement; one was the improvement in relations with the United States and the other was the change of attitude on the part of the U.S. Government after the establishment of Bangla Desh after they recognised the independent government of Bangla Desh. But, Sir, after this I would refer to two incidents. One, the establishment of the naval base at Diego Garcia and the other...

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : It was not after. It was before.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : This is one thing. Secondly, in today's Financial Express there is a report about the Ford Government signing an anti-India Bill. From these two particular points, may I know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Ministry of External Affairs in our country is appreciating that the whole development is not very congenial so as to conclude that there is not much improvement in our relations ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would like to assure the hon'ble Member that I will never take a hasty view. I will take into consideration these facts and several other facts which are not even known to the hon'ble Member.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : The pro-American slant in India's foreign policy is well known. Sir, the Minister in his reply has taken refuge in the fact that conditions in Vietnam have changed and that certain other interna-

lational relations are changed. I would like to ask him whether the recent shift in the policy favourable towards America is a reflection also of the domestic policies, that is, the need for the Government of India to rely increasingly on American foreign capital, private capital and collaboration and their open-door policy so far as the American Government is concerned and whether the new honeymoon between India and America is a reflection of this domestic policy ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I am sorry to hear from the hon'ble member on what he has chosen to describe as pro-U. S. policy slant. I hope that such slangs would be avoided.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : He said slant.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I said such slants should be avoided. I mean both slang and slant. I would like to say that our policy has at no stage been governed by our domestic situation. We always have tried to develop friendly relations with all countries and this should kindly be appreciated.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : You should stand for anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The hon'able Member in his excitement has not thrown up any new point. India's policy against colonialism, against racist regimes is well known. I think he was over-agitated when he made such a reference. We can never compromise with colonial powers in any case. Therefore, our opposition to the colonial rule, ending of colonialism, ending of racist regimes apartheid regime is well known. Not only our stand but the positive help that we have rendered to the freedom movement in all these regions is well known. I had occasion to mention this at the time of the last debate here on international relations. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon'ble Members not to find adjectives to criticise our policy, adjectives which have no meaning, which are not applicable and which are totally baseless.

Now, the second question that he asked is whether our policy to befriend or try to improve relations with the United States is motivated by domestic consideration. My reply to this is quite simple and quite categorical. We do

wish to improve our relations provided there is mutual desire on the part of the United States; also if this is based on mutuality of approach, and I would like to add to it mutuality of interest. And if by improving relations with the United States or with any other country any benefit can accrue to our country, benefits which should be inkeeping with our policies of economic development, I would not spurn those benefits, and that is the policy of all Foreign Offices, and I presume that is in the best interest of all countries. We improve our relations with countries in order to improve the climate of peace, understanding and goodwill, and we adhere to the pursuit of policies which we formulate for ourselves. If in that process any benefit accrues to our country which is within the framework of our policy, whether it is economic cooperation or any other cooperation, that should be welcomed rather than that it should become a matter of criticism. So I thought I should explain this position so that there may not be any doubt about it.

♦526. [*The Questioners (Shri Bhola Prasad, Shri S. Kumaran and Dr. Z. A. Ahmad) were absent. For answer vide col. 25 infra.*]

*527 [*The questioner (Shri Niren Ghosh) was absent. For answer vide col. 26 infra.*]

♦528 [*The questioner (Shri Jairamdas Daulatram) was absent. For answer vide cols- 27 infra.*]

Third Wage Board for Working Journalists

♦529. SHRI V.K. SAKHALECHA :
SHRI B.S. SHEKHAWAT :
SHRI D.K. PATEL : SHRI
SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) since when the question of appointing a Third Wage Board for Working Journalists has been under Government's consideration:

(b) what are the reasons for not appointing a Wage Board so far:

(c) whether Government have taken any decision for giving representation to the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Subramanian Swamy.