

registered as commercial vehicles, if they are not used for private purposes?

SHRI T. A. PAI: I do not think we have given any instructions, but some of the State Governments have been doing it on their own. There has been a suggestion that they should be allowed to be run as private vehicles and the matter will receive our attention.

Pak propaganda against India

*242. SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY:†

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Pakistan Radio and Press reports on the eve of the tripartite talks in New Delhi to the effect that India was standing in the way of normalisation of relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and (b) Government had seen reports to this effect in the Pakistan press. However, this kind of speculation was quite contrary to facts. India's desire to bring about normalisation of relations among the three countries of the sub-continent is well known. The successful conclusion of the tripartite meeting between Bangladesh, India and Pakistan is evidence of the sincerity of India's efforts.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: In view of the fact that even after the repatriation of POWs the attitude of Pakistan towards India has undergone little change and this is quite evident from its stand on Diego Garcia. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to put the question?

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: Pakistan does not favour the stand of the Government of India on Diego Garcia. When India wants to keep the Indian Ocean a zone of peace, Pakistan, favouring the base at Diego Garcia, wants that it should be a zone of confrontation. The policy of Pakistan. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you are repeating.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: In view of the policy of confrontation, which Pakistan has not changed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY: What is the expectation of the Government of India regarding the normalisation of relations among the three countries in the subcontinent?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: There are many international issues over which India and Pakistan do not see eye to eye. It is not necessary that they should do so. With regard to bilateral matters, as the House is already aware, our relations have improved considerably and at the end of the tripartite talks there was a joint communique issued in which both India and Pakistan expressed their desire to exchange delegations to discuss matters regarding normalisation of relations. So, it is not correct for the hon. Member to say that Pakistan has changed its attitude or it is bent upon following a policy of confrontation.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA: In the editorial of the Patriot of yesterday—I do not know whether the hon. Minister has seen it—there is a reference that Mr. Bhutto has been telling his people that by his cleverness and wisdom and diplomatic skill, he has induced India to part with all the land and release all the prisoners. But the official journal of Mr. Bhutto's party, Mussawat, has been hammering out the point that India is very busy creating differences between Bangla Desh and Pakistan, and the anti-Indian attitude of the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. R. Choudhury.

Pakistani press continues. In view of that, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will keep this in view in our future dealings with Pakistan? Does he fully rely upon Pakistan? I do not.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: If public statements are to be the main consideration in establishing our relations, there will be plenty of statements which are mutually contradictory. This morning I heard on the radio that Prime Minister Bhutto has paid a tribute to the leaders of Bangla Desh and India for showing wisdom and resolving the problems that exist—among the three countries, and he has further said that this is the best way for normalisation of relations. We should be able to assess the situation rather than go by press statements, friendly or unfriendly. The press can make its own comments, and the objectives before us should be clearly understood and appreciated. We want to forget the past confrontation, and want to build normal relations, good-neighbourly relations, even if they are not very friendly relations. So, this is the objective, and any statements to the contrary appearing in the Indian press or in the Pakistani press are their own opinions, and while keeping all that in view, the objective before us should be clear, as I have enunciated.

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it will be safe for this country to formulate its policies depending on the temperature of Mr. Bhutto's statements?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not think our policy need depend upon the temperature of any individual, not even that of Mr. Bhutto.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether recently the Government of India has made any proposal in terms of the Simla Agreement for implementation under article 3, I believe, of the Agreement? If so, what are the reactions of the Government of Pakistan? In this connection, I would also like to know whether recently the Government has considered any proposal for establishing normal diplomatic relations between

the two countries with a view to having discussions and negotiations through normal channels.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: My colleague has replied already that during the tripartite talks, there was also a bilateral talk between me and the Pakistan Minister. And as a result of these bilateral talks, we have agreed that communications should be restored, namely, postal, telegraph and telecommunications; secondly that travel facilities should be mutually agreed upon and thirdly that pilgrims from one country to the other should be enabled to visit the religious places. And we have been making proposals to implement, as the hon. Member asked, the agreements arrived at and incorporated in the Simla Agreement. The response has been somewhat tardy. For instance, on the last occasion I also suggested that the time has come when we should resume air connections including overflights.

But it was pointed out from the Pakistan side that they will take some time before they agree upon this.

About the establishment of diplomatic relation, our attitude has been, and continues to be, that some sort of content in the relationship should be established before we establish formal diplomatic relation. By content I mean that we deal with each other in as normal a manner as the situation warrants. Some steps have been taken as mentioned by me earlier. Some more steps should be taken; we are not opposed to establishment of diplomatic relations but we should do it at an appropriate time.

SHRI R. K. MISRA: Will the hon'ble Minister inform the House whether there is any possibility of a meeting between India and Pakistan in the near future and, if so, at what level?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We had a meeting very recently in Delhi and the next meeting is likely to be a meeting at the representatives* level in order to implement the decision taken to restore communications, travelling facilities and the rest.

DR. M. R. VYAS: Has there been any talk about resumption of trade relations between Pakistan and India?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, that is a matter about which no serious talk has yet taken place because a number of other things have to be done before commercial relations can be built up.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : भारत, पाकिस्तान और बंगला देश की पिछली वार्ताओं की सफलता को देखते हुए और इधर हाल में जो प्रधान मंत्री और शेख मुजीब की वार्ता होने वाली है इन सारी बातों की पृष्ठभूमि में क्या भारत सरकार भारत, पाकिस्तान, बंगलादेश, नेपाल, सीलोन, बर्मा वगैरह को मिला कर एक महासंघ बनाने का सुझाव भुट्टो साहब को दे सकती है? क्या भारत सरकार इन तमाम पड़ोसी मित्र राष्ट्रों का एक फेडरेशन बनाने का सुझाव भुट्टो साहब को दे सकती है?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : ऐसा कोई विचार नहीं है और मैं माननीय मेम्बर से बड़ी नम्रता से कहूंगा कि वे ऐसी बात का जिक्र न करें क्योंकि इस से ज्यादा लोगों को परेशान करने वाली और कोई बात नहीं हो सकती।

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यहाँ दिल्ली त्रिपक्षीय बातचीत होने के पश्चात् श्री भुट्टो साहब का एक वक्तव्य आया है वहाँ के रेडियो पर और समाचार पत्रों में भी आया है कि हम ने जो कुछ अपनी इच्छा थी, जो कुछ पाना था, पा लिया है . . .

श्री समापति : यह उन्होंने कह दिया है।

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : मैं एक नयी चीज कहने जा रहा हूँ और उन्होंने कहा है कि हम ने 93 हजार कैदी तो ले ही लिये, उस के अलावा जो 195 कैदीयों को छोड़ना था, जिन का ट्रायल होने वाला था, उन को भी ले लिया लेकिन तान-बंगाली जो वहाँ पर रह गये हैं और जिन के लिए वायदा किया है, उन को हम लेने के लिए तैयार नहीं है और उनके लिए हम ने कोई कमिटमेंट नहीं किया है। इस पर आप का क्या रिएक्शन है?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : ग्राम तौर पर हम प्रेस स्टेटमेंट पर कोई रिएक्शन नहीं देते क्योंकि आज एक प्रेस स्टेटमेंट होता है और कल कुछ दूसरा हो जाता है, लेकिन जहाँ तक बंगला देश में पाकिस्तानी नागरिकों की मौजूदगी का सवाल है इस ट्रिपार्टाइट एग्रीमेंट में उस का जिक्र है और कुछ उस के लिए प्रोसीजर तय किया गया है जिसके मुताबिक ऐसे केसेज को वह देखेंगे और उस के बाद भी मैं आप को याद दिलाता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री और बंगला देश के प्रधान मंत्री जी, जब यह पहला पेज रिवैंड्रियेशन का खत्म होगा तो दोनों मिल कर इस बात का फैसला करेंगे कि और कितने पाकिस्तानी पहले पेज के अलावा बंगला देश से पाकिस्तान जायेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishan Kant, if you can ask a supplementary in half a minute.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Yes, Sir. I will only ask whether we should go by the statement of Mr. Bhutto when he says that he will expect the Prime Minister of India to visit Pakistan for normalisation of relations. May I know whether any official communique has been received from Mr. Bhutto in this connection because the hon'ble Minister had said earlier that we should not be guided by his statement?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, it is a fact that statements have been made from time to time suggesting that the Prime Minister of India should pay a visit to Pakistan.

Of course, I have no doubt that Pakistan would welcome such a visit, although no formal communication has yet been received. It is, however, our view that for a summit meeting to succeed, it is necessary that there should be preliminary preparation for that and, therefore, we have favoured meetings at other levels to prepare the ground so that the summit meeting, when it takes place, may produce satisfactory and worthwhile results.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.