

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Mariswamy, you can continue tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, he is finishing. In five minute he will finish.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, Sir. On a point of Principle, it is 6 O'clock. *(Interruptions)* I tell you why. It is going to be released both...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : By this time he would have finished. You sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You kindly listen to me. Normally in Parliament when a...

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : I am not here tomorrow. Why don't you sit down?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is finishing in five minutes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You have not understood my point. I am not objecting to him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I have understood your point.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The statement is going to be released at 6 o'clock and it is but proper that it should be simultaneously released in Parliament also. It is a matter of principle.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : By this time he would have finished.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You will never understand the obvious.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have taken more time. Now you sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : When you say 6 O'clock...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : All right, Mr. Mariswamy you can continue after the statement. Mr. Surendra Pal Singh will make the statement now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. You kindly listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : According to you 6 o'clock is 6 o'clock. There is no point of order. He is making the statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then you have conceded my point.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER *RE.* NEW DELHI TALKS BETWEEN THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, as the House is aware, a Delegation led by the Special Emissary of the Prime Minister of India, Shri P. N. Haksar, visited Rawalpindi and Islamabad and held discussions with the Pakistani Delegation led by Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Pakistan's Minister of State for Defence and Foreign Affairs from 24th to 31st July, 1973. During the course of these talks questions relating to simultaneous repatriation of the three categories of persons mentioned in the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Declaration of April 17, 1973, were discussed in full detail. The Pakistan side acknowledged, the fact that the Joint Indo-Bangladesh Declaration, which had separated political considerations from the humanitarian issues, was a step forward and paved the way for an early resolution of these issues. Some progress was made in defining these issues and it was agreed between the two Delegations that a point had been reached where further consideration by both sides was necessary. In pursuance of this decision, the discussions were resumed at New Delhi from 18th August, 1973 and continued till the 28th August, 1973. These discussions took place with the full knowledge of and in consultation with the Bangladesh Government.

As a result of these talks, an agreement was signed yesterday, the 28th August, 1973, between the Governments of India and Pakistan. I lay on the Table of the House a copy of this Agreement.

The Agreement provides for the resolution of the humanitarian problems resulting from the conflict of 1971. The Agreement envisages the simultaneous repatriation of all Pakistani prisoners of war (except 195), the repatriation to Bangladesh of all Bangalees in Pakistan and initially a substantial number of Pakistanis now in Bangladesh to Pakistan. The time-schedule for the completion of repatriation of these three categories of persons will be worked out by India in consultation with Bangladesh and Pakistan as the case may be. It is further agreed that the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Pakistan or their designated representatives will thereafter meet to decide what additional number of Pakistanis in Bangladesh may be permitted to return to Pakistan. Bangladesh has made it clear that it will participate in such a meeting only on the basis of sovereign equality.

The immediate implementation of the solution of these humanitarian problems is without prejudice to the respective positions of the parties concerned relating to the case of 195 prisoners of war. In the meantime, these 195 prisoners of war shall remain in India and no trials shall take place during the entire period of repatriation. It is further agreed that Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in a tripartite meeting will arrive at a settlement of the question of these 195 prisoners of war.

In arriving at this Agreement all three countries, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, made constructive contributions. It is our earnest hope that this Agreement will be one more step towards the goal of establishing durable peace in the sub-continent.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, we heartily welcome the

agreement which has been signed. It goes to the credit of all the parties who have discussed this matter and come to this conclusion which our people, the people of Pakistan and the peace-loving countries as a whole were anxiously awaiting. In particular, naturally on this occasion we must congratulate the Prime Minister of India, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, whose direct intervention or interest in this matter has resulted in this very beneficial and constructive approach to the problem and also to the conclusion of the agreement. Sir, I think it is a big step forward towards the implementation of the Simla Agreement, thereby clearing the path for a durable peace in our sub-continent. I must also, in this connection, congratulate the actual negotiators of India and Pakistan and especially Mr. P. N. Haksar who played a very useful part. He has not only played a very wise and statesman-like role in this country, but he had also himself gone to Bangladesh for mutual discussion. We are very happy that one of our old friends played such a useful part. I also congratulate his counterparts who came here and played their part. Finally, before I sit down, I think here is an occasion for us to extend all our goodwill, sympathy and support to those people who are working for a durable peace in the sub-continent. This agreement, like the Simla Agreement which had been the harbinger of such measures, will inspire us. Finally, I say that those who felt that the Simla Agreement was dead should realise that the spirit of the Simla Agreement is unconquerable and shall continue to live and brighten the path of peace and progress in the sub-continent. Once again, I wish everyone good luck.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : I join with others in welcoming this pact arrived at between Bangla Desh, India and Pakistan. I must admit—when the Simla Pact was arrived at, I did not feel enthusiastic about it. But so far as this pact is concerned, I really feel that this is

[Shri N. G. Goray.]

a step in the right direction and I welcome the prospect of friendship among the three countries and peace in this sub-continent.

Sir, two points are worth noting. One is that though there is no regular recognition of Bangla Desh, by implication it is very clear that Pakistan has recognised Bangla Desh, and henceforward there will be bilateral talks between Bangla Desh and Pakistan.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Also trilateral.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : India, of course, will be there. But so far, Pakistan had always been hesitant in having direct dealings with Bangla Desh or to recognise that Bangla Desh was a separate entity. It is very clear from this pact that Bangla Desh is an entity, which is recognised by Pakistan.

I would like to congratulate particularly the leaders of Bangla Desh because it is they who suffered the most, and it was in response to the popular feeling there that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had said that they would try these people for genocide and other offences. It really adds to his glory and greatness that he has made it possible for us—all the three countries—to arrive at this settlement which really should be satisfactory to all of us. Sir, I wish to congratulate Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for the maturity that he has shown and the cooperation that he has extended to Pakistan and India from his side. Therefore, I again say that this is a step forward and I hope that many more steps will be taken in this direction and that ultimately in this sub-continent there will be peace, progress and friendship.

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, यह जो पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान के बीच में समझौता हुआ है, इसका मैं हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूँ। शिमला एग्रीमेंट के बाद यह दूसरा

बड़ा कदम उठाया है तीनों देशों ने, बंगला देश, हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान ने, हमारे इस सब-कॉन्टिनेंट में शांति स्थापना की तरफ। जैसे गोरे साहब ने कहा यह सही है कि शेख मुजीबुर्रहमान साहब और भी ज्यादा बधाई के पात्र हैं; क्योंकि उन्होंने उदारता का परिचय दिया इतनी परेशानियों में से गुजरने के बाद भी। इसी वजह से यह जो समझौता हुआ वह और भी आसानी से हो सका।

श्रीमन्, इसी मौके पर मैं अपने देश की प्रधान मंत्री, बंगला देश के प्रधान मंत्री और भुट्टो साहब को भी इसके लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूँ; क्योंकि उनका भी बहुत ही रियलिस्टिक एप्रोच रहा जिससे यह समझौता संभव हो सका। काफी मेहनत के बाद यह समझौता हुआ है और सभी संबंधित व्यक्ति बधाई के पात्र हैं। अब मैं आशा करता हूँ कि जिस स्पिरिट के अंतर्गत यह समझौता हुआ है, उसको आगे भी बनाये रखा जायगा और इससे जो सद्भावना उत्पन्न हुई है वह आगे भी कायम रहेगी। अभी बंगला देश को मान्यता नहीं मिली है, लेकिन मैं आशा करता हूँ कि वह भी शीघ्र ही मिलेगी। मैं समझता हूँ कि बंगला देश, हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान तीनों मिल कर इस सब-कॉन्टिनेंट की सेवा करेंगे और इस सब-कॉन्टिनेंट को शांति और समृद्धि की तरफ आगे बढ़ावेंगे।

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am afraid I cannot share the exuberance of my colleague, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta. He was as exuberant even in his praise of the Simla Agreement—he has praised it even to-day—whereas I feel that the voice of dissent that we sounded then has come to be more valid than the words of praise that were showered on the Simla Agreement. Sir, to the extent that to-day's Agreement would resolve the humanitarian issues of the problems that we are faced with, to the extent that it would enable millions of hapless Bengalees living in Pakistan in a very pathetic plight

to go to their homeland, or even to the extent it would enable people in Bangladesh who would like to go to the land of their choice, to go to Pakistan, it is welcome. To that extent, it is a step forward. But I would like to sound a word of caution about this exuberance. This Agreement has nothing to do whatsoever with the problems of durable peace which should really be the objective of all Indo-Pak negotiations, and in respect of which it has been our firm conviction that a piecemeal approach or an *ad hoc* approach is not a suitable solution to the problem. An approach should be made on a comprehensive basis and a sort of package deal, which the Prime Minister had spoken of before the Simla negotiations took place, should have been our objective. This is the first point that I want to make.

Another important point which strikes me that this Agreement is supposed to deal with the humanitarian problems arising out of the 1971 conflict. It is somewhat intriguing to me and very distressing to me that the Government of India does not care for the humanitarian problems arising out of the conflict which should affect India most, because it concerns us directly—the problem of 60,000 refugees from Chhamb who are today homeless, who have no place to go, and the problem of about one lakh refugees from Sind who are spread over parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, without a home and hearth, with a very bleak future before them. This is a humanitarian problem which arises directly from the 1971 conflict. Surprisingly the Government of India does not care for them. For the Government of India, this problem does not exist. Of course, the problem of Bengalees living in Pakistan is a humanitarian problem. The problem of Pakistanis living in Bangladesh is a humanitarian problem. The problem of POWs is a humanitarian problem. But the problem of refugees from Chhamb and Sind is also a humanitarian problem arising out of the conflict of 1971. But it figures nowhere in the talks. The

Government of India has not even tried to consider it. The Government of India might say that the solution that I suggest is not acceptable to them. But at least they should have a solution for them. And the Government of Pakistan cannot disown responsibility for whatever has happened to these 1,60,000 people.

One last point and that is, in respect of POWs. I would like to know one thing from the hon. Foreign Minister who is present here. On the question of POWs or the 195 POWs who are to be tried by Bangladesh, do we have a positive stand in that regard? Do we feel that here is a crime against humanity that has been perpetrated by certain people and for that they should be tried? Of course, if Bangladesh decides not to try them, perhaps we might acquiesce in it. But have we taken a positive stand on this? Or do we say that we are not concerned with it, it is the entire look-out of Bangladesh and we are not all concerned with it? Till now the impression given by Government spokesmen is that this problem does not concern us; if Bangladesh says, "We decide to drop the matter", well and good and if they say, "We want to try them" then we have no option but to stand by them. This is the kind of helplessness that the Government is showing, which is unfortunate.

Lastly, I sincerely hope that the reference to Bangladesh's sovereignty, its sovereign status, means that we have succeeded in securing from Pakistan a commitment that tomorrow, if not today it is going to recognise Bangladesh and it will enable Bangladesh to participate in all further negotiations as an equal partner. Thank you.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, while associating myself and my Party with the sentiments expressed by my colleague, except of course Mr. Advani, I congratulate our Government and also the Government of Pakistan and

[Shri S. S. Mariswamy.]

the Government of Bangladesh for having arrived at such a historic agreement. This is a right step in the right direction. The people who fought for the independence of this country are still alive. Before the time is over, we must see that a cordial atmosphere of good neighbourliness is developed between our country and Pakistan as we find in the good neighbourliness between America and Canada. If we go to Niagara Falls, on one side is America and on the other side is the Canada border. By paying ten cents one can walk into the Canadian side and so also one can come to the American side. That type of relationship should prevail between our country and Pakistan. A day should come when a man born in India can walk through Wagah and reach Karachi or whatever place that is there on the other side. I think our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, both of them, as some writer said recently, hail from aristocratic families. Both of them had foreign education. And so far as our Madam is concerned, I know for certain that she has got a liberal outlook. She is a liberal in the sense in which a liberal is known in England, but for political gimmicks, they may call socialism etc., with which I am not concerned. But she had done wonderful thing in having brought about this accord. While applauding our Prime Minister, the Prime Minister of Pakistan and Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, I must also pay our tribute to some of the people who worked very hard to bring about this result. My friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta said that Mr. Haksar had played a very good role. When we give a feather in his cap, we must not fail to give another feather in the turban of our Foreign Minister who also was indefatigable in his efforts in bringing about this accord. Thank you.

SHRI K. C. PANDA (Orissa) : Sir, my Party stands for amity and good friend-

liness between the nations of this sub-continent and I, on behalf of my Party and on my own behalf, welcome the agreement reached yesterday and hope that the humanitarian problems that have been solved will lead to the solution of other problems, smaller or bigger, between the countries of this sub-continent. Thank you.

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI (West Bengal) : Sir, I welcome this agreement and congratulate the architects of this agreement, particularly the Foreign Minister and his team who are here and I am happy at the outcome and I hope this will lead to a lasting peace in the sub-continent.

श्री श्याम लाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश)
मान्यवर, जहाँ तक समझौता हुआ है तो मुझे आशा है कि जो उद्देश्य लेकर वह हुआ है उसकी पूर्ति हो सकेगी और उद्देश्य, मान्यवर, यही है कि भारत और पाकिस्तान में सद्भावना हो, जिसके फलस्वरूप दोनों देशों में मुक्त आवागमन हो सके और निर्बाध रूप से व्यापार हो सके, जिससे कि एक स्थायी शान्ति हो सके।

इस समझौते का विवरण तो, मान्यवर, प्राप्त नहीं हो सका है और केवल एक बात मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि बंगला देश से जो पाकिस्तानी वापस जाने को हैं पाकिस्तान उसमें वह मुसलमान जिनको बिहारी मुसलमान के नाम से पुकारा जाता है और जिनका बंगला देश से थोड़ा मतभेद रहा है वहाँ पर जिस तरह की स्थिति थी, उसमें तो उनके सम्बन्ध में क्या व्यवस्था इसमें रखी गई है ? आया वह पाकिस्तान वापस जायेंगे या क्या होंगे ? क्योंकि उसका बहुत व्यापक असर है और बहुत चिन्ता है।

श्री महावीर प्रसाद शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मान्यवर, मैं इस अवसर पर अपनी प्रधान मंत्री को सर्वप्रथम बधाई देना चाहता हूँ, जिन्होंने युद्ध में विजय प्राप्त करने के बाद इस भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप में शान्ति पर विजय-प्राप्त

करने के लिये कदम बढ़ाया है और उसमें यह दूसरी कामयाबी उन्होंने प्राप्त की है। वास्तव में मेरा ऐसा विश्वास है, वह ऐतिहासिक रोल जो हमारी स्वाधीनता के पूर्व नेताओं ने प्राप्त करने में सफलता नहीं प्राप्त की, वह उत्तरदायित्व हमारी प्रधान मंत्री के ऊपर पड़ा है और उनकी उन कामयाबियों से हमें यह विश्वास है कि इस उपमहाद्वीप में वह सपना साकार हो सकेगा कि ये तीनों देश—भारत, बांगला देश और पाकिस्तान—एक ही उपमहाद्वीप में आपस में मिल कर शांति से रहने का सकल्प करेंगे और इन तीनों देशों की गरीब जनता की जो आवश्यकता है उसकी ओर, इन तीन देशों के जो आज के नेतागण हैं, शेख मुजीबुर्रहमान, श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी और श्री भुट्टो जिनको अपने-अपने देश की जनता का पूर्ण समर्थन और बल प्राप्त है—वे जनता के उम बल को लेकर इस उपमहाद्वीप में स्थायी शांति की स्थापना की ओर और आगे बढ़ेंगे और इस देश पर बदनजरे रखने वाले जो दूसरे लोग हैं उनको अलग करने में कामयाब होंगे। मेरा पूरा विश्वास है कि यह जो समझौता हुआ है, यह इतिहास का एक नया पन्ना जुड़ा है हमारे देश में उस बांगला देश की स्थापना के बाद और आगे हमारे जो कदम होंगे वे और भी हमको एक दूसरे के नजदीक लाएंगे और शांति की तरफ ले जाएंगे, साथ ही तीनों देशों के संयुक्त विकास की ओर कदम बढ़ाने की ओर ले जाएंगे ताकि इस उपमहाद्वीप में अग्नेजो के शासन में मुक्ती के बाद का जो सपना था, वह साकार हो सके।

SHRIBABUBHAI M CHINAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, I was a little unhappy and distressed to listen to my friend, Mr. Advani, on such a happy occasion. When we have been able to iron out differences among the three countries, we heard a voice of dissent. It was in Simla when the talks were failing that our Prime Minister intervened and there was an understanding. On this occasion also from whatever reports we have read, if they are true, and I am sure they are true, when we were at a standstill, our Prime Minister inter-

vened and negotiations continued and ended on such a happy note. Therefore while no doubt the cooperation of the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and Bangladesh was there I must say that the astute political wisdom which our Prime Minister showed, has brought about this happy ending, and I congratulate all of them.

श्री सीताराम केसरी (बिहार) उपसभा-पति जी, दुनिया में शांति बनाए रखने के लिये एक बहुत बड़ा बुनियादी कदम हमारी सरकार ने, बांगलादेश की सरकार ने और पाकिस्तान की सरकार ने उठाया है। इसलिए ऐसे समय में जब कि इस उपमहाद्वीप में शांति की नितांत आवश्यकता थी, उस आवश्यकता को पूर्ण करने के लिए जो यह समझौता हुआ है उसमें हमारा सिद्धान्त भी पूर्ण रूप से विकसित हुआ है। आज से 25 साल पहले इसी सिद्धान्त के लिए महात्मा गांधी ने अनशन किया था। आप सब को मालूम होगा, उस सिद्धान्त को जो मूल रूप दिया इन्दिरा जी ने अपने नेतृत्व में और मिस्टर हक्सर की बौद्धिक विचार धारा ने और उनके अथक परिश्रम ने, इसके लिए मैं उनको बधाई देते हुए, मैं शेख मुजीबुर्रहमान को भी बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने भी इस ओर फौलादी कदम उठाया और मिस्टर भुट्टो ने भी फौलादी कदम उठाया।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस संधि का, समझौते का हार्दिक स्वागत करता हूँ।

DR. VIDYA PRAKASH DUTT (Nominated) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I join my distinguished colleagues in welcoming this Agreement. I also join them in offering my felicitations to the Prime Minister to her indefatigable and preserving Foreign Minister, to all her other colleagues and also to our chief negotiator, Mr. P. N. Haksar, whose dynamism and persistence have borne fruit. I think all of us are agreed that all the sides to these negotiations, especially Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh and also the

[Dr. Vidya Prakash Dutt]

Pakistani negotiators have shown good sense and a very emotional issue has been resolved creating conditions for further negotiations for promoting the process that the Simla Agreement had initiated. In this connection I would just like to mention very briefly...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, you cannot take too much time.

DR. VIDYA PRAKASH DUTT : I am only taking just one minute.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : After one minute, I will stop you.

DR. VIDYA PRAKASH DUTT : I am just ending. All I would like to say is that we must remember—I have had the occasion to mention this before, but I would underline it—that in the last 25 years in this country there has been a historic struggle for the ending of, for the elimination of and for keeping out, foreign intervention and for the settlement of the affairs of this sub-continent by the people of this country themselves. Simla agreement was the first step in that connection and this agreement carries that struggle one step forward. I welcome it in that spirit.

Finally, the people of the three countries—Bangla Desh, India and Pakistan—have the same problem—massive poverty—and they are partners in the same struggle for the establishment of a democratic, secular, progressive and socialist society and I am sure that in the coming few years they will continue to come closer together.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am overwhelmed by the sentiments expressed by the leaders of the various parties in this august House and this is the greatest encouragement for all those who have worked hard to bring about this agreement and this also is a source of great satisfaction that the

country's mind is in favour of the establishment of durable peace in the Indian sub-continent. There could not be a clearer proof of the desire of the Indian people to live in good neighbourly and friendly relations with our neighbour, Pakistan and I am grateful for all these.

I am thankful to Shri Bhupesh Gupta who not only supported this agreement, but also reminded us that the Simla Agreement which provides a good basis for development of friendly relations between the three countries in the sub-continent is a document and agreement which provides the basis for further co-operation and we should do everything possible to implement the remaining clauses of that agreement.

Shri Goray was good enough to notice the positive features of this agreement and I am sure that the whole House will be with him when he expressed the sentiment that congratulations should be conveyed to the Prime Minister of Bangla Desh for the great foresight and wisdom shown by him at this point of time, as he has been saying, in giving a new shape and new strength to the friendly country, Bangla Desh.

Shri Nawal Kishore, my friend opposite, who is usually constructive, has added another dimension to his generally constructive approach and I am grateful to him.

Shri Mariswamy and Shri Parda, representing DMK and Swatantra Party respectively, have both welcomed the agreement as providing a basis for establishment of further friendly relations between the countries in the sub-continent.

Shri Ganguli representing CPI(M) has also welcomed the agreement. Shri Yadav representing BKD did raise a query for which the answer is in the statement read out by my colleague and when he studies the agreement he will find the

reply to this. I have placed copies of this agreement in the Notice Box. I will request hon. Members to collect copies.

This is mentioned in the statement also wherein it is mentioned that it is further agreed that the Prime Minister of Bangla Desh or their designated representatives will thereafter meet to decide what the additional number of Pakistanis in Bangla Desh may be permitted to return to Pakistan and before that also it is mentioned that initially a substantial number of Pakistanis now in Bangla Desh will be repatriate to Pakistan. So, this is provided for in the agreement and briefly referred to in the statement also.

Sir, my colleagues from our own party, senior colleagues like Shuklaji and Kesrji and Dr. V. P. Dutt, have given cogent reasons in support of the agreement arrived at and I am grateful to them.

Shri Babubhai Chinai, apart from welcoming it, has also noted the little note of dissent that the Jana Sangh leader Shri Advani, thought it fit to register. I agree with him that perhaps this was an occasion when this could be avoided particularly when he has supported the agreement itself insofar as it settles the humanitarian issues and provides for the repatriation of all the three categories back to their own countries. While he has supported this solution of the humanitarian problem, Sir, he thought it fit, however, to register his dissent, not on this agreement but on something which took place earlier. We know that they were not happy when the Simla Agreement was concluded and by that I mean the Jana Sangh and its leaders, and the conclusion of this agreement, if anything, is something which clearly shows that the Simla Agreement was a good agreement which provided the basis for the future relationship between the two countries, namely, that they resolve that all the matters between the two nations will be settled by mutual agreement and discussions and also peacefully and this agree-

ment is the whole basis of relationship between the two countries. The fact that in spite of all the difficulties and in spite of all the set backs in the process of negotiation the two sides had agreed that they will settle all problems between the two countries peacefully and by mutual agreement, it a matter of great satisfaction to us. It is also a matter of great satisfaction to us that notwithstanding the differences and notwithstanding the difficulties, none of the three parties gave up the hope but continued the discussions and, what is very important, without involving any outside power, friendly or unfriendly, were able to arrive at an agreement which is accepted by all the three countries and this is not a small achievement. When something is accepted by Indian, by Pakistan and by Bangla Desh, it passes my comprehension as to why it is not acceptable and it is not satisfactory to the great Jana Sangh leader. I cannot with all the objectivity which I am capable of showing, find any reason whatsoever for disagreement on something on which all the parties concerned have agreed. So, it is amazing and it passes my comprehension that there should be a voice of disagreement.

Sir, he has mentioned the problem of the displaced persons from Chamb and from Sind. He will readily agree that his own party is not in favour of the type of agreement which we could negotiate, for instance, with Pakistan. I will be quite frank. What can be the basis of negotiation. That the Sindhis should go back to those areas. That the persons who have been displaced from Sind should go back to those territories. I am not sure whether the Jana Sangh is supporting that. In fact, all the time they are asking us to straightaway absorb all these persons in our society and treat them as belonging to our society and if that is the attitude, what is to be negotiated with Pakistan? I can understand the stand of his party was, that we should insist, as I believe we should, that Pakistan should create conditions so that these people can return

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

there in safety and in honour, well, I might have said that this was perhaps something which could be arguable.

But if his approach is accepted, there is nothing.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : It is their responsibility...

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : But you are not in favour of insisting that they should take these people....

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : Not forcing them back. But the cost that we have to incur it is their responsibility to bear....

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The hon. Jan Sangh leader has been taken by surprise by the terms of the agreement and also by the spontaneous support and response from others.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : The same thing happened in Simla also.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have sympathy for his party, because he is the leader and President of Jan Sangh, for the splendid isolation in which Jan Sangh finds itself. I would still appeal to him that he should not create these castles of isolation around him. We are prepared to win his cooperation also....

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Simla spirit upsets him. What can you do...? (Interruptions).

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : There, for, I have nothing more to say, except to thank the House. I will end by saying that in this respect the leader of the Pakistan delegation and their Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Defence, Mr. Aziz Ahmed, and his other colleagues deserve our appreciation and our congratulations for persistently trying to find a solution. I am fully conscious of the many problems and many difficulties that arose. But as laid down in the Simla Agreement,

whereby both sides had agreed to settle differences bilaterally. It was possible to arrive at an agreement. I would also like to say that without the ready instructions which we always got speedily from the Government of Bangla Desh and in which the Foreign Minister of Bangla Desh, Mr. Kamal Kussain, took personal interest, it would not have been possible for us to pursue these negotiations. Let us not forget that this was, from the very nature of negotiations, one of the most difficult that I have ever come across during my long experience in international negotiations. Here we were negotiating an agreement which should be acceptable to Bangla Desh. And we know the stand of Bangla Desh, which we fully appreciate that they are not prepared to discuss anything unless they are recognized by Pakistan. So it was an act of great foresight when this question was kept aside, was scuttled, and an effort was made in the joint declaration made by India and Pakistan to arrive at a satisfactory solution of the humanitarian problem. And I would say that if it is carefully examined, the public stand taken in the joint declaration, which was issued in April last, has been amply vindicated, because all the essentials of that have been accepted, thanks to the very laborious negotiations carried on by our team led by Mr. Haksar, who devoted long hours and then he spent time in briefing us and taking instructions from us and also keeping Bangla Desh all the time informed and in getting instructions from them. So I would like to say that the persons directly concerned belonging to all the three countries, Bangla Desh, India and Pakistan—I have mentioned them in the alphabetical order—deserve our congratulations and high appreciation. It was easy to argue a case when a third person has to decide; you can argue in an extreme manner. But to settle something is different from arguing. And there were occasions when we took the attitude that having heard the argument who will decide. We had to decide and it was in

that spirit that every body thought that they are not to argue, not to talk, but to decide things. This was the basis which provided us the happy opportunity when such a difficult, highly emotional issue has been satisfactorily settled to the entire satisfaction of all the three countries.

I would appeal that this unity which has been demonstrated here, should become our cardinal principle so that there is satisfaction amongst the people of Bangladesh and Pakistan that the great Indian people with democratic and peaceful traditions and their distinguished representatives are in favour of friendship in this sub-continent, that they are desirous of leaving behind them the age of confrontation and conflict and that they want to live as good neighbours in peace so that we might be able to progress. Thank you very much.

THE INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 1973—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes Mr. Mariswamy, you can finish your speech.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY : The difficulty in speaking extempore is that we do not know where we were when interrupted. I was enumerating the delays that an entrepreneur has to encounter. For a capital goods licence, it takes one year. With foreign collaboration, it takes another year. Then if you want the capital goods to be imported, you send the application to the Capital Goods Committee and there it takes 390 days either to approve or to disapprove the application. The funniest thing is that in the Capital Goods Committee, the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports is also a Member and it takes 50 days to communicate a decision from one office to another office, i.e. to communicate a decision of the Capital Goods Committee to the Chief Controller. This is according to the study made by his own Department. There are unimaginable things. The Minister should apply his mind to see that this sort of

avoidable delay does not take place. It is not that the Minister is incapable of doing this. I know his dynamism. He is an intelligent Minister. He is a dynamic person and if he makes up his mind, he can bring about a revolutionary change in the entire set-up. But, unfortunately, the present trend of the Ministers is that they do not devote enough time to the work which they are entrusted with. They have their extra-curricular activities. I would appeal to the Minister in charge of Industrial Development to see that he spends all the available time in his Department so that the delays are eliminated.

I quote a small incident. I was in Singapore in 1970. There was a party to which I was invited. Our then High Commissioner, Shri Prem Bhatia, was also one of the invitees. A young man of 25 or 28 years, an Indian settled in America and employed in an American Engineering firm, was also invited. Shri Prem Bhatia introduced me to that gentleman. I asked him about his experiences in Singapore in getting an industrial licence there. This young man had arrived on Thursday morning at about 10 O' clock or so. He wrote to the Industries Minister there asking him to give him permission to study whether the off-shore area of Singapore had got oil under the sea. He belonged to some engineering firm. I have forgotten the name of that firm. They had devised all the machines whereby to find out whether there is oil below the sea near the shore. He sent his application on Thursday afternoon. The application reached the Minister on Friday. They don't work on Saturdays and Sundays. The Minister saw that application and he was very much impressed with the way in which the application was written. The applicant had written :

"We will do the exploration at our own cost. If we find oil we will pay