

DATE FOR INDO-PAK SUMMIT MEETING

*125 SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO †
DR Z. A AHMAD
SHRI CHANDRA SHIKHAR
SHRI KRISHAN KANI
SHRI D P SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether any date has been fixed for Indo-Pak Summit meeting and

(b) if so, what is the date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) (a) and (b) As mentioned in the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the Emissary level talks, it was agreed that the Summit meeting should be held towards the end of May or the beginning of June. The exact date has yet to be fixed.

INDO-PAK TALKS

*131 SHRI SITARAM KISRI
SHRI IOKANATH MISRA
SHRI CHANDRAMOHI JAGAR
I AMUDI
SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATIL
SHRI K C PANDA
SHRI RAM SAHAI
SHRI THILAI VILLAIAN ‡
SHRI BABUBHAI M CHINAI
SHRI M K MOHIA
DR BHAI MAHAVIR
SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MA-
THUR;
SHRI OM PRAKASH TIYAGI
SHRI J P YADAV.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether a meeting of the emissaries of Pakistan and India was held recently with a view to preparing ground for a meeting of the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan, and

(b) if so, the outcome of the preliminary talks held?

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

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gulam Nabi Untoo.

‡The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Thillai Villalan.

(b) The text of the joint statement issued at the conclusion of the talks is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The special Emissaries of the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India met at Murree and Rawalpindi from April 26 to 29, 1972. Shri D P Dhar, Special Emissary of the Prime Minister of India was assisted by Shri A S Chib, Joint Secretary, Shri P L Sinu, Director, Shri S P Jagota, Director, Col A J M Homji Staff Officer, Shri J N Bhat, Press Officer, Shri N Dayal, Under Secretary and Shri R K Kapur, Senior Research Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

Mr Aziz Ahmed, Special Emissary of the President of Pakistan was assisted by Mr Rafi Raza Special Assistant to the President, Mr Ifikhar Ali, Foreign Secretary, Ambassador Sajjad Hyder, Mr Aftab Ahmad Khan Director General and Mr Abdul Sattar, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan. This was the first occasion on which representatives of India and Pakistan were able to meet and communicate directly with each other on behalf of their Governments since the tragic developments of last year.

The Special Emissaries held several sessions. These were marked with cordiality and a readiness on both sides to appreciate each others' point of view.

Mr D P Dhar also called on His Excellency the President of Pakistan. He conveyed to the President greetings of the Prime Minister of India and took the opportunity to thank him for the gracious hospitality accorded to him and members of his delegation.

The Special Emissaries have accomplished the task entrusted to them. They have settled the modalities for the forthcoming meeting between the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India and have defined the subjects to be discussed by them. In this connection they considered several matters including in particular those bearing on the establishment of durable peace in the subcontinent.

The two Emissaries wish to place on record their satisfaction that ground has been prepared for a meeting between the President of

Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India. The meeting will be held towards the end of May or the beginning of June at New Delhi. A mutually convenient date will be announced in due course.

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO : Sir, the expected date, as has been stated, was the end of May or the beginning of June. Now, after the hostile posture of Pakistan as we have observed in the Tithwal sector, and the intention of Pakistan President to go abroad, may we take it that the date will be either end of June or beginning of July?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I will not try to make a guess about the dates. We are in touch with the Government of Pakistan, and a mutually convenient date is sought to be settled between the two countries. The exact date, I cannot at the moment indicate.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Is there any move by Pakistan to get this date postponed?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : No, Sir.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon. Minister said there is no move by Pakistan to postpone the date because the first reports said it will be some day towards the end of May or the beginning of June. But then, Mr Bhutto is going abroad. Does the Government of India find that some big powers are trying to influence Mr Bhutto not to have a meaningful dialogue with India, and does he connect the action of naval blockade in North Vietnam with Mr Bhutto dilly-dallying and trying to postpone the date by his going abroad to West Asian countries? Is big power politics playing a role to come in the way of the relations between India and Pakistan?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would not like to confirm what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon. Minister may not confirm my view, but may I know what is his view, of the matter?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : You have not asked it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : What is your view of the change or postponement of the meeting and other relevant developments?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have not received any proposal from the Pakistan Government about the postponement of the date of the summit because no date has been fixed yet. The dates were being settled by mutual consultation. The question of postponement arises only if a date has been fixed.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : But the time had been broadly fixed. The time is end of May or beginning of June.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That was expected.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : If by mutual agreement any date is convenient to both the parties, that is something which should be treated as a matter which ordinarily happens. The convenience of two Heads of Governments or Heads of States has to be taken into consideration.

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGARLAMUDI : Due to the continuous violation of the ceasefire line by the Pakistan Government, do the Government of India have any doubt regarding the sincerity of the Pakistan Government about these talks?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : In international matters sincerity goes up to a point and each country has to see what is in the mutual interest. We believe that it will be in the mutual interest of both India and Pakistan to work for achieving durable peace and our efforts should continue to achieve that objective.

SHRI THILAI VILALAN : From the joint statement I find that the Special Envoies have defined the subjects to be discussed by them. In this connection they considered several matters including in particular those bearing on the establishment of durable peace in the sub-continent. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he can give the subjects decided to be discussed by both the Heads of States?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : No, Sir. I cannot give the list of subjects to be discussed.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : May I ask the hon. Minister if the Government of India have conveyed to Pakistan that one of the preconditions for a summit talk should be that any Indian territory which Pakistan has taken after the ceasefire should be returned to India?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH No, Sir We have not made any such suggestion

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : आप ने अभी एक शब्द 'सिसियेरिटी' का प्रयोग किया। पाकिस्तान की सिसियेरिटी तो दूत स्तर पर जो अभी वार्ता हुई थी उसके बाद भी थितवाल पर हमला होने के बाद स्पष्ट हो गयी। इसलिए उसकी सिसियेरिटी पर आप जिस रूप में विलीव करते हैं, उसको आप किस रूप में अनुभव करते हैं इस को आप बताये, लेकिन क्या सरकार फाइनल वार्ता जो कि हेड्स आफ दि स्टेट्स में करना चाहती है, उसके बारे में क्या वह ससद् को भी विश्वास में लेगी, जिस प्रकार से उसने पाकिस्तान से युद्ध के समय प्रारम्भ में ही ससद् को विश्वास में लिया था और जो आश्वासन उस सबध में रक्षा मंत्री ने और आपने दिये थे कि युद्ध के समय जो टेरिटेरी हम ले लेंगे उसको वापस नहीं जाने देंगे और काश्मीर में जो सीज फायर लाइन नहीं बनी है और जिसके सबध में पाकिस्तान प्रयत्न कर रहा है, उसके बारे में सरकार ने जो पहले स्पष्ट घोषणा की थी, उस पर सरकार अभी कायम है या नहीं ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH I will request the hon Member not to ask from the Government the attitude that is to be taken in the course of the summit talks. Summit talks cannot be conducted fruitfully if we were to make public statements on what we intend to do in the course of the summit talks.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India, in the course of the talks that have already been conducted, suggested to the Government of Pakistan that at some stage the Bangla Desh Government would have to be associated in the course of further talks ? May I also know whether the Government of Bangla Desh has been taken into confidence by the Government of India before finalising the subjects for the summit talks ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH Sir, we have made it clear to the Pakistan Government that in any matter in which the Government of Bangla Desh is a necessary party, a settlement can be arrived at only by the association and agreement of the Government of Bangla Desh.

About the second question, we have kept the Government of Bangla Desh fully informed of the nature of our talks with Pakistan.

SHRI B. RAJU There are newspaper reports that the head of the Bangla Desh Government and the head of Pakistan would meet somewhere in Europe. How far is it true, and has the Government of India any information in this regard ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH We have no information with regard to this. But we do have information to this effect that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister of Bangla Desh, has said on several occasions that he has no intention to meet the head of the Government of Pakistan, unless Bangla Desh is recognised by Pakistan.

SHRI I. OKANATH MISRA In view of the two conflicting statements by two responsible persons in the External Affairs Ministry, may I know what the exact position is ? Mr. Dhar who as our emissary went over to Pakistan.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : "Went over" to Pakistan ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : on his return, like the External Affairs Minister of India, gave a Press statement saying that he had a most scintillating 65-minute talk with Mr. Bhutto and that he was completely satisfied about his sincerity and honesty. But then it was contradicted by Mr. F. N. Kaul who said that he was most pessimistic about the outcome of the summit conference. May I know what the hon. Minister feels about the exact situation ? In the meantime, the Tithwal incident from the Pakistan side has come. Therefore, I would like to know the views of the External Affairs Minister as to what he feels about the situation. In view of Mr. D. P. Dhar's statement, who acted as the External Affairs Minister and Mr. F. N. Kaul who equally vehemently made a subsequent public statement, what is his view regarding the matter and also may I know whether he feels that the statements made by the different officials of the External Affairs Ministry are desirable ? Are the statements desirable in the public interest, to be made to the Press ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH In the first place, I would like to say that there was no conflict in the positions that emerged as a result of the statement made by Shri D. P. Dhar.

and the statement which the hon. Member . . . (Interruptions) Please. Did I interfere when you were talking ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not interfering.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : There may be some difference on emphasis. But difference on emphasis is not of a nature which could be described as conflicting views. And in a situation like this, we should not speculate too much about the future. Here is a problem that we face; the problem is a difficult one. And we have passed through an armed conflict between our two countries. The objectives are clear. And our objective is to achieve durable peace. Whether in our effort we succeed, whether we are optimistic, over-optimistic, cautiously optimistic, less optimistic, is a matter of degree, about which there should not be much of speculation. And I would say that in a matter like this, our approach should be to do our utmost to achieve durable peace. There may be difficulties, and there are difficulties, and it would be wrong for anybody to under-estimate those difficulties. But that does not mean that we should give up the effort.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Is it desirable to give a statement without referring the matter to you? You should have made the statement.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Nothing is said unless I know it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Have you not seen these statements in the press ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have seen the statements in the press and even before the statements were made I knew what was going to be said. I take full responsibility for the statements.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : How are you responsible for this statement ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : He is an officer of my Ministry. And if an officer of my Ministry makes a statement I am responsible for it because I am responsible to this House, not the officer.

श्री नवल किशोर : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ। मैं मंत्री जी की इस बात से सहमत

हूँ कि बड़ा सीरियस मैटर है और इसके अन्दर बहुत रेस्ट्रेंट की जरूरत है, बहुत रेस्ट्रेंट के साथ बात होनी चाहिए और उनकी बड़ी उदारता है कि हर बात की रिसर्पासिबिलिटी अपने ऊपर ली, लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब इतना डेलिकेट मैटर है तो फिर ऐसा क्यों है कि श्री टी० एन० कौल साहब भी अपना स्टेटमेंट दे दें और धर साहब भी अपना स्टेटमेंट दे दें, ऐसे मौके पर यह विदेश मंत्री या प्राइम मिनिस्टर पर ही क्यों नहीं छोड़ दिया जाय कि वह वस्तु स्थिति पर सोच समझ कर स्टेटमेंट दें। हर एक आफिसर को जो शौक हो गया है स्टेटमेंट देने का वह बन्द होना चाहिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a suggestion.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : This is a suggestion. But there are practical difficulties in implementing that suggestion. For instance, I would very much like that I am not questioned about these things in this House. But I cannot avoid if hon. Members put questions. If an officer goes to foreign countries and press people, including the world press people, ask him questions, he has to make a statement. He cannot say that it is only the Foreign Minister of India that can make the statement. That will be the difficulty. And it is not likely to yield dividends in public relations. While dealing with the press that is the difficulty and practical difficulty which we have to face in an open society with free press and democratic institutions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Yadav, last question.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सदन और देश को विश्वास में लेने के लिये क्या मरी में जो बातचीत हुई है उसके ऊपर कुछ प्रकाश डालेगी। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि सरकार ने यह दुहराया है कि ताशकन्द की पुनरावृत्ति नहीं होगी लेकिन यह कहना तो ठीक है कि ताशकन्द की पुनरावृत्ति नहीं होगी किन्तु जो लक्षण दिखाई दे रहे हैं उनसे लगता है कि ताशकन्द की पुनरावृत्ति होगी। इसलिये सदन और देश को विश्वास में

लेने के लिये वहाँ जो बातचीत हुई उसके बारे में सरकार मक्षेप में बतायेगी।

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH The Government will take the responsibility of carrying on these negotiations. It will not be wise to discuss it in the House before the negotiations start or when the negotiations are going on.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव जब सरकार बात करती है तो रिसपासिबिल रहती है रिसपासिबिलिटी का सवाल नहीं है, सवाल यह है कि देश के बीच और पाकिस्तान के बीच चार-चार, पाच-पाच बार गम्भीर लड़ाई हो चुकी है तो उस लड़ाई की पुनरावृत्ति नहीं हो इसके लिये देश भी जागरूक रहे और सदन भी जागरूक रहे और वह जानकारी में रहे कि आप ताशकन्द की तरह का कोई दूसरा समझौता भी तो नहीं करेंगे। उदाहरण के लिये . .

श्री सभापति : आपके सवाल का जवाब हो गया।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव श्रीमन्, एक शब्द रिसपासिबिलिटी का कह दिया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मरी में क्या बातचीत हुई, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस आधार पर समझौता करने जा रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति : आपका हो गया। समझौता किस तरीके से होगा यह अभी नहीं बताया जा सकता है।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जो हुआ है वह तो बता दे। उनको बताने तो दीजिये। फिर दूसरा ताशकन्द समझौता हो जायगा और फिर देश अनजाने में पड़ा रह जायगा।

श्री सभापति आप मेहरबानी करके बैठिये।

*126 [The questioner (Dr. Phan Mahavir) was absent. For answer vide col infra.]

STEEL PLANT IN ORISSA

*127 DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI |
SHRI PRANAB KUMAR
MUKHERJEE
SHRI KRISHNA BAHADUR
CHETTRI :
SARDAR AMJAD ALI :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Orissa Government have submitted any proposal along with a feasibility report on the establishment of a steel plant at Navigarh/Paradip in Orissa,

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have examined the report and if the answer be in the affirmative what is the reaction of Government to the proposal

(c) whether Government have received such proposals from any other State and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES
(SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) This proposal will be considered along with other studies being made for raising steel production

(c) No, Sir. Location studies for integrated steel plants are taken up from time to time by the Government of India

(d) Does not arise

STEEL PLANT IN ORISSA

*142 SHRI D. K. PATEL
SHRI O. P. TYAGI
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAG-
ARLAMUDI §
SHRI K. P. SINGH DFO

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Orissa Government have assured the Central Government that they would produce the cheapest

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Rajat Kumar Chakrabarti

‡ Starred Questions 127 and 142 were taken up together

§ The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandramouli Jagarlamudi.