

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 19th May, 1972/the 29th
Vaisakha, 1894 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

*266. SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :
SHRI CHANDRAMOULI
JAGARLAMUDI :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : †
SHRI K.C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Govern-
ment of India has been invited to a
report published in the "Hindu" dated
the 10th April, 1972 to the effect that
China was no more eager to improve
relations with India ;

(b) whether the Chinese Charge-d'-
Affaires in Delhi who went to Peking for
consultations long back has not returned
back to Delhi as yet ;

(c) if so, the implications of his long
absence from New Delhi ; and

(d) whether Government of India have
assessed the latest Chinese attitude
towards India ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the
report.

† The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Lokanath
Misra.

(b) The Chinese Charge-d'-Affaires has
not returned to Delhi but there is an
acting Charge-d'-Affaires in his place.

(c) There is no special significance
attached to it.

(d) Government of India's policy is to
normalise relations with China. There
has, however, been little response so
far.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I
know whether for normal diplomatic rela-
tions, the absence of a particular officer
of a status for a pretty long time is
not considered as downgrading the status
of the diplomatic relations and if so does
not the functioning as Charge d' Affaires
by the First Secretary of the Chinese
Embassy for over six months really mean
that the Chinese are not very keen about
improving their relationship with India ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH ; I have
already given the reply to the operative
part of the question in (d).

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : He has
given the factual position there. I wanted
the interpretation of it. What does it
mean in diplomatic relationship ? I
wanted that to be made clear.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have
said already in (d) that Government of
India's policy is to normalise relations
with China. There has, however, been
little response so far. This is the ques-
tion you are asking in the operative
part.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I am
not asking whether there is response or
not. That is something passive. I wanted
to know whether actively the absence of
the Chinese Charge-d' Affaires meant that
the Chinese did not want the Charge-d'
Affaires to go back and join his normal
post as Charge-d' Affaires, but wanted a
person in a lower staff to officiate for him
for more than six months. Does not
that mean that the Chinese Government
want to hurt the feelings of the Indian
Government thereby ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do not place that construction on this act of the Chinese.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published on the 14th May in Indian Express which says :

"The Chinese Prime Minister Mr. Chou En lai and other Chinese leaders told the visiting U S Senators recently that they had terribly strong feeling against India. They do not like India said the Republican Leader, Mr Hugh Scott at a Press Luncheon while reporting on his recent visit to China..."

Has the Minister's attention been drawn to it ? Subsequently there has been another development. I saw in today's newspaper that the relationship between USSR and China is going to be normalised or at least improv ng. In view of that, is there any possibility of India coming closer to China through negotiations and other things ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I think the hon Member at one time was terribly opposed to any such move on our part. I am glad he is being slowly converted to that view. Maybe it is one of the side-effects of President Nixon's visit to Peking

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I just wanted facts President Nixon's visit or Sardar Swaran Singh's visit to China is the same to me I am least concerned with M Nixon's visit or any of his actions or inaction But what I wanted to know is, in view of the normalisation.

MR CHAIRMAN : All that you have stated

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : But the reply does not come. I may talk for half-an-hour But, if no reply comes from the hon Minister, then what to do ? You are here, Sir, and you should kindly enforce the discipline in the House of the Minister's replying to my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. Mr. Minister, would you like to add anything ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, we keep a very careful note of what the great Senators of the United States say after their visit to Peking and we also keep a very careful note of the Chinese attitude and after an assessment of all these factors, the validity of what I said in para (d) continues to hold.

MR CHAIRMAN : Mr. K.C. Panda. Not here Yes, Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, something was said in reply to a similar question on the floor of the House and the honourable Foreign Minister indicated that the Government of India may unilaterally raise the status of the Head of Mission at Peking. I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether the Government of India still keeps this idea under consideration or has abandoned the idea.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, when I abandon the idea, I will take care to inform the House.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : श्रीमन्, कुछ दिनों पूर्व मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि हमारे जो वहा चार्ज-डि-अफेयर्स है वे माओ से मिले थे और समाचारपत्रों में आया था कि माओ की मुस्कान से उन्होंने समझा था कि चीन की भारत के प्रति नीति बदल रही है। उस दृष्टि से उनके बाद कोई डेवलपमेंट हुआ या नहीं हुआ ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : कोई खास नहीं हुआ।

MR CHAIRMAN : Yes Mr. Alva.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA : Sir, since 1959, Russia and China had not been having very friendly relations and the present Vietnam crisis seems to have brought them nearer advancing towards some kind of relationship. May I know

whether there has been any possibility of our talking about Vietnam with the Chinese, at least as a starting point? What can we do about Vietnam all together? Our own Charge-d'affaires there was received kindly by Mao. So, Sir, I want to know whether there is any possibility of our talking to China about Vietnam and what help we can do on this issue, at least as a starting point.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, I do not think that we can usefully talk with any distinct advantage to the Chinese about the Vietnam question. The Chinese are the next-door neighbours of North Vietnam and the Chinese are supporting North Vietnam in their fight for liberation and freedom and it is very difficult for me to understand what precisely is in the honourable Member's mind when he is putting the question as to whether we can talk to the Chinese on the Vietnam question. It is not quite clear to me in what context he wants me to talk to China.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Yes, Mr. Sanyal.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: My question has been answered already, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Shahi.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : चीन के साथ अपने देश के सबंध सुधरना देश के हित में होगा, परन्तु मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सबंध को सुधारने का आधार वे अपने पुराने वादे को रखेंगे कि भारत चीन से अपनी खोई हुई भूमि को वापस लेगा ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, all our interests will also be kept in view in any move that we make for improvement of our relations with China.

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय : श्रीमन् क्या यह सही है कि इधर कई देशों में जब चीन के नए राजदूत आए तो वे विशेष रूप से भारतीय राजदूतों से जा करके मिले और उनसे मीठी-

मीठी बातें की, इस तरह की बातें की कि हम हिन्दुस्तान से फिर अपने संबंध अच्छे करना चाहते हैं, फिनलैंड और कैरो तथा कई देशों में ऐसी बात हुई ? क्या यह बात सरकार को विदित है और क्या उस दृष्टि से सरकार अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन कर पीकिंग अपना राजदूत भेजने की बात सोच रही है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, about the operative part I have already given the reply.

Sir, about the calls of the Indian Ambassadors in the third country capitals on the Chinese ambassadors or the Chinese Ambassadors' calls in the third country capitals on our Ambassadors is a normal diplomatic courtesy and there have been such contacts in several capitals of the world between our Ambassadors and the Heads of Missions of the People's Republic of China.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know whether in recent times any effort has been made to restore ambassadorial relations, that is to say, exchange of Ambassadors between the two countries—whether any such proposal has been discussed or any move, directly or indirectly, has been made in order to restore that kind of relations by exchanging Ambassadors again.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: In this respect I clarified the position some months back—I think in this House or in Lok Sabha—when I said that the two countries have missions in the capital of each other and either of the two countries can take a decision to raise the level of representation. I am not quite sure as to whether even any agreement or prior discussion in that respect is necessary.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What I wanted to say was our Ambassador is not there in Peking and they do not have an Ambassador in Delhi. Has any proposal been mooted or discussed to remedy that situation.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Not recently, Sir.