

# RAJYA SABHA

*Friday, the 24th March, 1972) the 4th  
Chaitra, 1894 (Saka)*

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

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### UPGRADING OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN NORTH VIETNAM

♦211. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :  
SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL :f SHRI  
M.K. MOHTA : SHRI K.C. PANDA :

Will the Minister or EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be  
pleased to state :

(a) whether India and North Vietnam have  
recently upgraded their diplomatic missions to  
embassy level, and if so, the factors leading to the  
Government of India upgrading the diplomatic  
relations with North Vietnam ; and

(b) whether the South Vietnamese Government  
have protested against this decision of the  
Government of India, and if so, the reaction of the  
Government of India thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY  
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA  
PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The decision was taken  
keeping in view India's national interests and the  
reality of the situation prevailing in the Democratic  
Republic of Vietnam.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of South Vietnam  
has not only formally protested against this decision  
but has also allowed many anti-Indian demonstrations  
to take place and initiated discriminatory measures  
against the Indian Delegation in the ICSC with a view  
to bring pressure on India. The Government of India  
feels that such pressure tactics would be of no avail  
and would, in fact, adversely affect the bilateral  
relation\* of the Government of South Vietnam with  
us.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Sir, is it a fact  
that the Government of North Vietnam has always  
been opposing India whenever the

+The question was actually asked on the floor of  
the House by Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel.

Kashmir question has been raised in the United  
Nations ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Perhaps the hon.  
Member is not aware that North Vietnam is not in the  
United Nations, and therefore there was no question  
of North Vietnam opposing Indian position on the  
question of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I have not yet  
had the honour of being included in the delegation  
that the hon. Minister leads, like many other  
Members of the House. Has the Government of North  
Vietnam ever spoken for us anywhere else, in any  
other platform ? And what was the reason for  
upgrading the Mission at this stage when the situation  
is such and our policy has been a policy of non-align-  
ment ? Does this show our non-alignment, or does  
this show our alignment ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, there have  
been several occasions when the position taken by the  
Government of North Vietnam has been consistent  
with our position. With regard to the second question,  
it has to be remembered that in North Vietnam there is  
only one Government and there is no dispute about  
the authority of that Government. But I am sorry I  
cannot say the same about South Vietnam. Even the  
Americans who are talking to North Vietnam and  
South Vietnam, have allowed a representative of the  
P.R.G. at the conference table in Paris.

SHRI M.K. MOHTA : The hon. Minister has not  
replied to part (a) of the question fully where it talks  
of the factors leading to the Government of India  
upgrading the diplomatic relations with North  
Vietnam. Unless that reply is given how can we ask  
supplementaries ? I may ask the hon. Minister to first  
clarify that original reply. Then I will ask my  
supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN ; You put your question.

SHRI M.K. MOHTA : Supplementaries will arise  
from the main reply,

MR. CHAIRMAN : You kindly put your  
question. He will reply to both the things.

SHRI M.K. MOHTA ! May I ask the hon.  
Minister what exactly are the factors leading to the  
upgrading of diplomatic relations with North  
Vietnam while maintaining the same old

lower level of diplomatic relations, namely Consulate-General, with South Vietnam when there is a conflict between the two countries and when India is the Chairman of the I.C.C., which places a great responsibility on the Government of India to maintain impartiality between the two ? Secondly, Sir, I would like to know what exactly are the criteria for having diplomatic relations with any country ? Why is it that we are having diplomatic relations at such a level with North Vietnam whereas we are having no diplomatic relations with a country like Israel where, as the hon. Minister says, the realities of the situation have to be faced ? There also we are to face up to the reality of the situation. What exactly are the criteria ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, the reasons have been given in the second line of the reply to part (a), and the hon. Member may have a second look at this. The fact that we are the Chairman of the International Control Commission has placed responsibility upon us to assess the situation correctly. We have assessed the situation correctly and we are firmly of opinion that whereas the Government of North Vietnam is firmly established, there is no other disputant and, therefore, the requisite yardstick for upgrading our level of representation is there, the same is not the position with regard to South Vietnam. The hon. Member has asked why we do not have representation in Israel. As you know, we do recognise Israel. There is no doubt about it. But the fact that we recognise a country does not necessarily mean that we should have an Ambassador in each such country.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : India is the Co-Chairman of the ICC, along with two other members, Britain and France. May I know whether you have ascertained the opinion of the other Co-Chairmen regarding shifting the ICC office to Hanoi ? If any other arrangements are being made may I know whether Hanoi, where we have already got an office of the ICC, is considered more suitable in view of the atrocities committed on Indian nationals in Saigon ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : India is the Chairman of the ICC and not Co-Chairman. Britain and the USSR are the only two Co-Chairmen of the Conference. The ICC was a

creation of the main Conference. India is the Chairman and the other members of the Commission are Poland and Canada. This is only to set the record straight. The question of shifting the headquarters of the International Control Commission from Saigon to Hanoi is there before us. The possibility is there, but we have not taken any final view in this respect. We are in touch with the other members of the ICC, namely, Poland and Canada and we may also have to talk to the Co-Chairmen, i.e., Britain and the USSR.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the Government of North Vietnam really represents the will and aspirations of the people of Vietnam as a whole and whether this is not a factor in leading the country to upgrade our diplomatic relations with North Vietnam ? The hon. Minister stated that there is a firmly established Government and that was a factor leading to recognition at a higher level. May I know whether the same policy would be pursued in respect of GDR ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : With regard to the first part, our position is that the present Government of North Vietnam is a well-established Government in North Vietnam and we do not recognise the Government of North Vietnam as the legitimate Government in both North Vietnam and South Vietnam. That is why we have a Consulate-General in South Vietnam. With regard to the second part, we have already a representative in GDR. He is a Consul General and we upgraded him to this level some time ago. The question of raising this level of representation is also under consideration and we will consider it favourably.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Minister whether, in view of the realities of the situation as he says, namely, North Vietnam has come to stay and we have given recognition virtually and very rightly, India should not take a positive stand and withdraw from the ICC ? This Commission is doing no work and is wasting UN money to which we are making contribution. What is the function that we are going to perform now as Chairman when the South Vietnamese Government is challenging our Credentials and ill-treating Indian nationals ? I want to have some reply to this because there is no point in our continuing. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, I want his reaction to this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is, whether a rethinking is not necessary.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is a suggestion for action ; I have noted it.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, two reasons have been adduced for the decision taken. One is our national interest. May I know if it is not a fact that the North Vietnam Government took a rigid, pro-Chinese attitude when, on the occasion of the Chinese aggression against India, it described the events as an attack by India on China, and also stated that China had taken appropriate measures to repel Indian aggression ? If that attitude was there how does it reconcile with our concern for our national interests in respect of this decision ? Secondly, when you talk of realities, there is a reality in the form of Taiwan which has existed for about 23 years . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You cannot go about mentioning Taiwan.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Why not Sir, if Israel can be cited ? You should not have a different standard . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thus, you will cover the whole world.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, if question about Israel can be asked because it is in regard to a decision which has been taken . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Mahavir, I appeal to you.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir. I would have finished ... •

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Shejwalkar is standing to support you. You cannot yourself support.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I am only supporting myself.

Sir, is it not more relevant when the previous supplementary has already been replied to ? What I am asking is, there is a reality in

the form of a country by name of Taiwan. It is a friendly country with a population that is larger than that of 80 member-countries of the United Nations.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. As far as India is concerned, there is no Taiwan as a separate country. It is a part of China. The Indian Parliament is being used to advocate an attitude which even the Americans have given up.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, please sit down.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The forum of Indian Parliament is neither to be used for the propagation of Taiwan nor for the propagation of the viewpoint of any other foreign country. That should be noted by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please finish your question.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: If India recognises the realities, then why do we not recognise the reality about Taiwan, when we have recognised it in respect of Israel ? I want to know the Government's view on these two points, firstly, our national interest and, secondly, reality about Taiwan.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The hon. Member has mentioned about the attitude that North Vietnam took in 1962. We have recognised North Vietnam not in 1962 but now. *[Interruptions]* The situation in the World has changed. *(Interruptions)* We have upgraded our level of representation now and so we cannot quote what happened in 1962.

*[Interruptions]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Mahavir, please sit down.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, this not the way. If you are going to shield meaningless answers . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please. Let him complete the answer. If there is anything left, I will permit you to put it again. But allow him to say.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: He is going off the track.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Please sit down. You cannot say that he has gone off the track unless he has completed the answer.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : With regard to Taiwan, the hon. Member must realise that the Government of Taiwan have been claiming that they are the legitimate Government not only of Taiwan but of the whole of the mainland. And we recognise only one Government, that is the people's Republic of China, which is the legitimate Government. Neither Taiwan nor Peking have ever claimed that there are two Chinas, and it is for us to decide which is real China and our decision in this respect is very clear.

DR. BHAI MAHAVTR : Sir, you said that if there is anything left, you will permit me. I asked a simple question about the attitude of North Vietnam in such a matter as Chinese aggression against India and the answer that he has given is, we have recognised North Vietnam now, not in 1962. It is not a reply to my question. The question is about the attitude of the Government of North Vietnam and the answer that is given is this.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You asked about its attitude in 1962. The answer is ...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir, the Minister in the course of his reply has stated that there is an element of doubt about the authority of the Government which is ruling South Vietnam nowadays and in view of the fact that the South Vietnam Government has resorted to certain atrocious measures against the Indian citizens therein may I know from the Minister whether the Government has any idea to recognise the PRG which has some substantial authority in that state and if so by what time will the Government take a decision ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I did not follow the last part of the question.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : The Minister in the course of his reply has stated that there is an element of doubt about the authority which is ruling South Vietnam and therefore the United States of America is also consulting the PRG. In view of the fact that certain atrocious measures have been

taken by South Vietnam against Indian citizens residing in Saigon as retaliatory measure to our upgrading diplomatic relations in North Vietnam may I know from the Minister whether the Government have any idea of recognising PRG in South Vietnam and if so by what time will the Government take a decision ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Not at present.

#### TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BANGLA DESH

\*212. SHRI K. C. PANDA :+ SHRI M. K. MOHTA : SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : SHRI J. P. VADAV : SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India and Bangladesh have decided for the export of their traditional items like jute and leather to get the maximum benefits for the two countries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the joint efforts are likely to improve our foreign exchange earnings ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c) The question of a decision would arise when the Bangladesh Government have evolved their trade and development plans in the light of their short-term and long-term requirements,

SHRI K. C. PANDA : May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a news item 'Likely shape, of trade with Bangladesh' that has appeared in today's Times of India wherein it is reported that the border with Bangladesh cannot be sealed—it ought to be so in view of the most friendly relations—and they propose to allow Rs. 50/- worth of things to be taken from this side to that side and vice versa by individuals. In view of these facts may I know whether the Government proposes to have a trade agreement with Bangladesh on hard currency

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. C. Panda.