

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 :†
SHRI M.K. MOHTA :
SHRI K.C. PANDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and North Vietnam
have recently upgraded their diplomatic mis-
sions 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 Govern-
ment 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 initia-
ted 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 relations 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 ques-
tion 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 supplemen-
taries.

MR. CHAIRMAN ; You put your ques-
tion.

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 BHUPLSH 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 MAHAVIR : 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. YADAV :
 SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of India and Bangla Desh have decided for the export of their traditional items like jute and tea 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 Bangla Desh 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 Bangla Desh' that has appeared in today's Times of India wherein it is reported that the border with Bangla Desh 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 hard currency

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