

श्री दिनेश सिंह : जी हां, जो सम्पर्क स्थापित हुआ वह बातचीत का हुआ जो कि इस सम्बन्ध में समझता हूं कि खत लिखने से ज्यादा अच्छा रहा क्योंकि जो और बातें उठीं उस पर भी उन्होंने मिल कर विचार किया ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, क्या यह सच है कि श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री के निधन के बाद युनाइटेड अरब रिपब्लिक के साथ भारत के सम्बन्धों में कुछ ठंडापन आ रहा है और क्या सरकार ने इस बात का प्रयत्न किया है कि भारत अपनी स्वतंत्र विदेश नीति पर चलते हुए युनाइटेड अरब रिपब्लिक के साथ अपने सम्बन्धों में किसी तरह का ठंडापन न आने दे ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है, सभापति महोदय, कि माननीय सदस्य ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि हमारे सम्बन्ध अरब गणराज्य से मजबूत रहें । मैं उनको विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूं कि हम निरंतर इसके लिये कोशिश करते हैं और हमारे सम्बन्धों में कोई ठंडाई नहीं आई है ।

SHRI G. MURAHARI : I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether India is still following the so-called policy of non-alignment and, if so, what non-alignment is this, because, on the one hand, we are aligned with the United States for food, for planning, for all our economic programmes, and on the other, we are aligned with the Soviet Union for foreign policy matters.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put your question.

SHRI G. MURAHARI : I am putting the question. Therefore, I would like to know in What matters the Indian Government is non-aligned and with whom it is non-aligned.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I am afraid, in referring to the question of food and other matters, the hon. Member has missed the main point of non-alignment. Non-alignment does not mean that we shall not

receive assistance or co-operation from other countries. Non-alignment means that we reserve to ourselves the right of independent action in foreign affairs in keeping with our national interest.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Since our roles and parliamentary conventions permit questions by Members to Members may I know why the hon. Member who has tabled this question, and who has been always advocating that we should give up non-alignment and align ourselves *Vo* a particular block, takes umbrage at these reports in Egyptian papers ?

(Interruption)

AN HON. MEMBER : Why should we object to it ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAEYEE: We have been advocating all along that India should follow the policy of non-alignment. That is not all. But non-alignment should be dynamic, purposeful, and it should not go against our own interest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा पकड़े गए भारतीय नागरिक

***7. श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हाल के भारत-पाकिस्तान के संघर्ष के दौरान पाकिस्तान द्वारा कितने भारतीय नागरिक पकड़े गए;

(ख) उनमें सरकारी कर्मचारी कितने थे ;

(ग) अब तक पाकिस्तान द्वारा कितने नागरिक तथा सरकारी कर्मचारी लौटा दिए गए हैं ; और

(घ) शेष नागरिकों तथा कर्मचारियों को रिहा करवाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं ?

†[INDIAN CITIZENS CAPTURED BY PAKISTAN

*7. SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian citizens captured by Pakistan during the recent Indo-Pakistan conflict;

(b) the number of citizens and Government employees amongst them;

(c) the number of citizens and Government employees so far returned by Pakistan; end

(d) what steps are being taken by Government for securing the release of the remaining citizens and employees ?]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) According to available information 553. Indian civilian citizens were captured from operational areas by Pakistan during the recent Indo-Pakistan conflict.

(b) The information available does not indicate that civilian Government officials were captured by Pakistan from operational areas.

(c) Pakistan has so far returned 458 of these captured Indian citizens.

(d) Of the remainder Pakistan reported 42 persons having died while still in Pakistan. The question of release of 53 persons who are believed to be still in Pakistan has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan.

‡[विदेशिक कार्य मंत्री (सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह) : (क) सुलभ सूचना के अनुसार हाल के भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष के दौरान पाकिस्तान ने लड़ाई के इलाकों से 553 भारतीय सिविल नागरिक पकड़े थे ।

(ख) सुलभ सूचना से यह पता नहीं चलता कि पाकिस्तान ने लड़ाई के इलाकों से सिविल सरकारी कर्मचारी पकड़े थे ।

(ग) पाकिस्तान ने इन पकड़े हुए भारतीय नागरिकों में से अभी तक 458 व्यक्ति लौटाए हैं ।

t[] English translation. t/
] Hindi translation.

(घ) पाकिस्तान ने रिपोर्ट दी कि बाकी में से 42 व्यक्ति पाकिस्तान में ही मर गए । जिन 53 व्यक्तियों के बारे में यह ख्याल किया जाता है कि वे अभी पाकिस्तान में हैं, उनकी रिहाई का सवाल पाकिस्तान सरकार के साथ उठाया गया है ।]

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी : यह जो परिवर्तन हुआ है भारत के नागरिकों और कर्मचारियों का इसका तात्पर्य समझते से कोई सम्बन्ध है क्या ? और क्या जितनी संख्या इधर से जायेगी उतने लोग उधर से लौटायेंगे, इसका भी कोई प्रोपोर्शन तय किया है क्या ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: This is a human problem which should not be looked at from the point of view of proportion or counting of heads against heads. There was an agreement that such persons should go back to their country, and this is what we are attempting to implement.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी : ये जो लोग अभी तक रह गये उनको वापस लाने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं और जब तक ये वापस नहीं आते तब तक इनके कुटुम्ब के लोगों को किस प्रकार की सहायता देने की व्यवस्था सोची जा रही है ।

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have already said that we are taking this matter up with the Pakistan Government. The hon Member will appreciate that that is the only way to resolve this, and in the mean time I am not aware if any compensation is being given or any relief is being given to the members of their families or if there are any members of their families who are still in India.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The hon. Minister said just now that 42 persons have died in Pakistan. I did not remember the Government having made this fact public in any form of press announcement. May I ask whether these persons have not died as a result of torture in Pakistan or they were given proper treatment before they expired ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I must confess that I am not aware if any press note about this has been issued or not. I cannot really confirm or contradict it. Regarding this information there is nothing secret about it. About the number of persons also we have been going on the reports that have been received about persons who are missing or who have not been traced, and we presume that they might be in the custody of Pakistan. We are in touch with the Pakistan Government through diplomatic channels, and we are doing our best to get out such people who might be in Pakistan's custody.

SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA : The hon. Minister has just now stated that he is not aware of the existence of the relations of those who were taken away in Pakistan: Am I to understand that if the names of the relations of those unfortunate persons are supplied to Government, Government will be in a position to render all possible help to those left here ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, in respect of relations of those who even lose their lives in such commotions, some sort of relief on compassionate grounds is granted. Regarding those who might be missing or in other people's custody, I am not aware of any request having been made. If the local Government is contacted, I think they will take some appropriate action.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether the agriculturists or the Santhals of the West Dinajpur district of West Bengal have recently been forcibly taken away by Pakistan ? If so, what steps the Government proposes to take to bring them back ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : That is a separate question not connected with those who were taken prisoner at the time of the conflict. If a separate question is tabled, I will collect information.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : राजस्थान में 54 व्यक्ति पाकिस्तानी अपने साथ ले गये हैं जिनमें अभी तक एक व्यक्ति वापस

किया गया है और 53 व्यक्ति पाकिस्तान की गिरफ्त में हैं । मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि इन 53 व्यक्तियों को वापस लाने के लिये क्या प्रयत्न हुए हैं और जो व्यक्ति पाकिस्तान में रह गये उनके साथ कैसा व्यवहार किया जा रहा है, क्या वह प्रिजनर्स आफ वार हैं ? क्या सरकार ने इस बात का पता लगाने की कोशिश की है कि उनके साथ पाकिस्तान किस तरह का बर्ताव कर रहा है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, about these persons which the hon. Member is mentioning, I could not really confirm because according to the information in my possession the number that I have given, the total number who are not accounted for, is less than the number he is giving. About Rajasthan I will make enquiry and will inform the hon. Member about the latest position. The information that is in my possession I have already given. Now, about the treatment of these persons, there have been reports that they were not properly treated. Now most of them have really come over to our side.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : My question has not been replied to. My question was whether the Indian citizens are being treated as prisoners of war or otherwise. Let a categorical answer be given.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The hon. Member knows that there was no declaration of war as such but according to the convention relating to these people each country is expected to treat them as persons who are in custody and who have to be repatriated. There is no such definition in a situation like this. But on the whole, these people have been returned; we have also returned their persons. There we have not gone into the definition of it as to whether they are treating them as prisoners of war. But if they were not, then they need not have returned them. The fact that they have returned them shows that each country is trying to observe the normal convention

in such cases that the persons who are arrested at the time of the conflict, they can go back to their country

SHRI A. D. MANI : On a point of order. The question has been raised whether they are treated as prisoners of war. The hon. Minister does not reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A reply has been given.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलायेंगे . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : He said that there was no declaration of war.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Even soldiers who have been captured have been treated as prisoners of war. Let the hon. Minister not take shelter behind the legality that there was no declaration of war. Is it not a fact that our persons have been maltreated by Pakistan ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have already said about the fact that there have been complaints that they have not been properly treated. Now, this is not the only occasion in which Pakistan has thrown to the winds the normal conventions. Any amount of excitement does not help the situation

श्री जगत नारायण : पिछले दफा लोक सभा के सेशन में यह सवाल उठाया गया कि 40 लड़कियां फिरोज़पुर की सरहद से पाकिस्तानी उठा ले गये । तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे लड़कियां वापस मिल गई या नहीं ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I think, Sir, the information was supplied that they had come back, that they had been sent back to India.

श्री जगत नारायण : डैफिनिट जवाब दीजिए कि वापस आ गई या नहीं ?

श्री देवी सिंह : माननीय मंत्री जी ने फरमाया कि आदमियों की गिनती के अनुसार

अदलाबदली नहीं की गई । तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारी सरकार ने पाकिस्तान के साथ समझौता किया, क्या कारण है कि अभी तक हमारे भारतीय नागरिक उनकी कैद में पड़े हुए हैं और उन्हें छोड़ा नहीं गया है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : इसी वजह से तो हम कह रहे हैं कि जरूर वापस होने चाहिये और कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि वे लोग वापस आ जायें ।

ATOMIC REACTOR FROM FRANCE

*8. SHRI M. C. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether as a result of the recent visit of the Prime Minister to France, there are any chances of getting an atomic reactor from that country under the joint technological and scientific cooperation agreed to by both countries ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : I did not raise the question of specific aid for any project from France during my recent visit to France. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Department of Atomic Energy to obtain an Atomic Reactor from France.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : May I know if after the visit of the Prime Minister to France, the French Government is sending some technical mission to India to explore the possibilities of co-ordination for Indian economic development ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, we have asked for financial assistance from France for the Atomic Power Station proposed to be set up at Kalpakkam near Madras. I am not sure whether this technical team is coming or not. Certain proposals were made. But I am not sure of the details.

SHRI M. C. SHAH : May I know (he approximate cost of that power station to be put up and whether there may be any