

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: While replying to a supplementary by Mr. Samantha, the Minister mentioned that the Naga rebels were not only misguiding the people, but also they have written letters to the voters not to vote. May I know how many such people who were going around misguiding the people were arrested by the Government?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it already.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I said, we have not arrested.

Shri P. C. Borooah: From the pace of military preparation that of Naga hostiles are carrying on with the help of the Chinese and Pakistanis and in view of their taking recourse to firing on voters going to the polls, do the Government think that a large number of Naga hostiles are not in favour of continuing any negotiations for a settlement within the framework of the Indian Constitution? May I know what drastic steps Government propose to take to put down the activities of the Naga hostiles?

Shri Dinesh Singh: No, sir; it is not the assessment of the Government that a large number of people do not want a peaceful solution. On the other hand, we feel that a large number of people do want a peaceful solution.

भारत-पाकिस्तान संघर्ष के बारे में अमरीकी प्रतिरक्षा सचिव का वक्तव्य

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* 572. श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :
श्री प्र० सं० बरभ्रा :

क्या वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान सीनेट विदेश सम्बन्धी समिति के समझ अमरीकी प्रतिरक्षा सचिव श्री मैकनमारा द्वारा दिये गये इस आशय के वक्तव्य की ओर दिलाया गया है

है कि भारत पाकिस्तान संघर्ष बुनियादी तौर पर हिन्दू मुस्लिम संघर्ष था ;

(ख) क्या उनका ध्यान उन के इस वक्तव्य की ओर भी दिलाया गया है कि संघर्ष अमरीका के दबाव के परिणाम स्वरूप ही समाप्त हुआ था ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) We were naturally surprised at Mr. McNamara's statement and took up the matter with U.S. Authorities in Washington and with U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi.

We consider that the views expressed by the U.S. Defence Secretary are his personal views and not the views of the U.S. Government.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : क्या वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री से मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि न केवल श्री मैकनमारा ने एक ऐसा वक्तव्य दिया जिससे भारत पाकिस्तान सम्बन्धों पर बहुत असर पड़ सकता है बल्कि ऐसी सूचना भी प्रकाश में आई है कि उस के पीछे अमरीकी सरकार की सूचना का ही आधार नहीं था बल्कि ऐसी सूचना भी मिली है कि सी० आई० ए० ने पाकिस्तान को भारत पर हमला करने के लिए भड़काया और उस की योजना बनाई, यदि ये बातें सच हैं तो इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार ने अमरीका सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर खींचने के लिए क्या किया और अमरीकी सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया रही ?

Shri Swaran Singh: With regard to the two points mentioned in (a) and (b), I have clarified the position that he did make that statement and we took up the matter with him. I could not follow the hon. member. Is he

suggesting anything beyond what is mentioned in (a) and (b) of his question?

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद: श्रीमन् मंत्री ने यह सवाल पूछा था कि श्री मैकनमारा ने जो बक्तव्य दिया जिससे भारत पाकिस्तान सम्बन्धों पर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ सकता है उस के पीछे अमरीकी सरकार की सूचना या ही आशय नहीं था बल्कि ऐसी सूचना मिलना है कि सी० आई० ए० ने पाकिस्तान का भारत पर हमला करने के लिए भ्रमदायक उसकी योजना बनाई, यदि ये बातें सच हैं तो इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार ने अमरीकी सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर खींचने के लिए क्या किया और अमरीकी सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया रही ?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not accept the presumption upon which the question is based. We have no information that there was any hand of any foreign power in this unfortunate conflict between the two countries.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Do Government agree with the view expressed by the U.S. Defence Secretary that the only basis of relationship of Pakistan with China is Pakistan's dispute with India on the Kashmir issue; if so, may I know what steps Government have taken to dispel this idea from the mind of the U.S. Government?

Shri Swaran Singh: We do not accept any such view and, as I have said on all these issues, when we took it up with the U.S. Government we came to the conclusion that this is not the U.S. Government's view.

Shri P. C. Borooah: I want to know what steps Government have taken to dispel this idea from the mind of the U.S. Government.

Shri Swaran Singh: The statements that are made here, on the floor of this House and also outside, are the greatest contradiction of any such feeling that might prevail anywhere.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Sir, a little while ago the hon. Minister said that Mr.

McNamara made this statement on his own and it was not the view of the U.S. Government.

Shri Shinkere: That is what we consider, he said.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Then he said, after making enquiries from the U.S. Government he got the impression or the Ministry of External Affairs got the impression that that was not the view of the U.S. Government. May I know, when this Government got this impression, did the Government make positive enquiries from the U.S. Government to know what was their reaction to the statement made by Mr. McNamara?

Shri Swaran Singh: The reaction was what was conveyed to us, that they accept that India is a secular country and there is no question of any conflict between Hindus and Muslims being the main cause of conflict between India and Pakistan.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: There are two questions pertaining to this. May I know whether the U.S. Government has made it absolutely clear to them that it was not because of their pressure but because of our own free will that the cessation of hostilities was there and that this vitiating view about the Hindu-Muslim business, which is not only the individual McNamara view but the view that is prevalent there—is the view which is being given all the colour, whereas the U.S. Government's clear view is just to the contrary?

Shri Swaran Singh: The U.S. Government knows fully well that there was not question of exercise of any pressure on us in the matter of economic aid, and we on our side have never been influenced by any such consideration. At the time when the conflict ended, as the House knows, there were proposals made by the... (Interruptions). We know, we responded to the call of the Secretary-

General and of the Security Council for ending hostilities, and this point that was expressed here, we have very strongly told them that this is unfounded and it is not correct. On the other issue, I have already ventured to point out that the real conflict between India and Pakistan is not the conflict between Hindus and Muslims as was sought to be projected in the statement to which reference has been made in part (a) of the question. We have ourselves explained the thing quite categorically and clearly and the U.S. Government representatives also have accepted the view that they accept that India is a secular country and there is no question of any conflict between Hindus and Muslims.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Mr. Speaker, Mr. McNamara is not a private individual. When the question of military pressure arises, he has given this evidence as Secretary for Defence. Let us understand it. Therefore, the Government of USA owes an explanation and an apology to this house and to this country. May I know whether in response to our raising this matter they have clearly repudiated? What their general view formerly was—is another matter. Mr. McNamara as Defence Secretary has said this before a Committee of the Senate. And you from this Government have taken up this matter with the US Government. On both questions or views may we know whether, in response to what you have stated, the Government of USA have expressed their regret, and have given an explanation regarding both the issues? What have they to say?

Shri Swaran Singh: When we took it up with the Government there, their Deputy Assistant Secretary said that they will accept the view that India was an entirely secular country. In a matter like this... (*Interruptions*)

An hon. Member: That is not the question.

Shri Swaran Singh: It should be appreciated that this was a certain

interpretation that one of the members of their Government put to historical events, which we strongly reject and repudiate. We have expressed our viewpoint. After an official of their Government had conveyed to us the view that they have about the Indian attitude, I think we should leave the matter at that, because I do not think we can expect they will formally repudiate such a statement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has any serious assessment been made to what extent this statement represents a high-level ignorance in official circles in the United States and to what extent the inefficiency and ineffectivity of our Embassy and Missions in the United States in the field of public relations, publicity and propaganda, as compared to the Pakistani efforts, is a contributory factor?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think that publicity effort or propaganda has got much to do with it. They have got a Mission here and we have got a Mission in the United States. We are constantly in touch with each other and we convey our views. I myself took it up with the United States Ambassador and he told me quite clearly that this view is not the view of the United States Government.

Shri Ranga: The American publicity offices established in India are impressing upon us the important role that Mr. McNamara plays in the American Government. The Span magazine has recently published his biographical sketch, appreciating the role played by him. In the light of it, is it tenable for the Government to consider his statement in such a non-serious fashion as they seem to have done? Have the Government taken any special steps, through their Ambassador and otherwise, to approach the President of American, Mr. Johnson, and make him aware of the strong resentment felt by the Government of India, and try to elicit any assuaging expression from him to indicate that the United States Government would change their attitude, would change their view

on this matter and try not to insult India in this fashion?

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to assure the hon. Member and the House that we do consider it as a very serious matter and we attach very great importance to it. It is for this reason that I myself sent for the United States Ambassador and had a very frank talk with him. After his assurance that this was not the view of the United States Government....

Shri Ranga: What about the US President?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not recollect taking up this matter with the United States President. Anyhow, it is a suggestion for action.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know, in the first place, whether the Government or its envoys have made any specific effort to re-educate Mr. McNamara about his view that this was a Hindu-Muslim conflict? Was this taken up with him, in view of the fact that he holds a high and responsible office in the United States Government? The second question is one of fact, and the statement relates to actual pressure having been applied by the United States Government and that pressure constituting the only factor which brought about this settlement. The Government must elucidate a very categorical clarification from the United States Government and then come to this House.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am not able to say as to whether this matter was taken up with Mr. McNamara personally. I will check that up. I do not want to make a statement without any information.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: It should have been done.

Shri Swaran Singh: Yes. As to this pressure, we know fully well and they also know, although he said so, that it is a fact that there was no question of any economic pressure.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In view of the deep resentment of the remarks made by a responsible minister, like the Minister of Defence, Mr. McNamara, may I know whether this Government proposes to take up the matter and impress upon the US Government to come out with an open repudiation saying that that is not the view of the American Government and that it is only his personal view?

Shri Swaran Singh: I also share the resentment which has been mentioned by the hon. Member. We have already taken that up. The second part is a suggestion for action. We shall consider that also.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: It should be taken up again. It has been ineffective so far.

श्री अशपाल सिंह : क्या विदेश मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस ओर गया है कि पाकिस्तान जो कुछ अमरीका से कहलवाना चाँहा है वह अमरीका कहता है ? क्या मानिय विदेश मंत्री कोई ऐसी मिसाल पेश करेंगे कि अभी तक आपके हक में अमरीका ने कोई बयान दिया है ?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is too general a statement. I do not think the United States says everything that Pakistan wants it to say.

Shri Hem Barua: From our side the defence of our territorial integrity against the Pakistani aggression of 1965 was a national effort but do not Government think that from what the Pakistani leaders, including President Ayub Khan and Mr. Bhutto, have said—they have made statements against the Hindus of India—judging from the statements made by the Pakistani leaders periodically against the Hindus of India, this aggression by Pakistan during 1965 of India was nothing but a communal affair from their side?

Shri Tyagi: Supported by Patton tanks.

Shri Swaran Singh: It was an act of aggression and the communal

frenzy also was raised by the Pakistani leaders to infuriate their masses. We are fully conscious of this concept of jehand and the like which the Pakistani leaders raised on that occasion. It was by our determination and urge to highlight our unity and our secular character that we could face this successfully as, I have no doubt, we faced it successfully on the last occasion.

Widening of Kasur Nallah by Pakistan

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*574. **Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:**
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhvalya:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is widening Kasur Nallah which flows into Pakistan from India and runs along the border on Pakistan side and is also raising the height of its banks; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). Pakistan is carrying out improvements and construction work to enhance the utility of the Kasur Nallah from the military point of view. Government have taken note of this development.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि सैनिक दृष्टिकोण से पाकिस्तान उस नाले को चौड़ा कर रहा है या बना रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब भारत का बटवारा हुआ था तब क्या कसूर नाले के सम्बन्ध में भी पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान में कोई समझौता हुआ था, यदि हुआ था तो क्या हुआ था ?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): What exactly the agreement was, I have no information about that. Naturally, we have taken note of the latest developments from the

military point of view and it is on this basis that this particular information has been given. We have taken note of the widening of Kasur Nallah. Also, there is a possibility of development of a parallel road along with that and we have certainly taken note of that.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : कसूर नाले का सामरिक महत्व भारत और पाकिस्तान दोनों के लिए है, दोनों के लिए यह नाला विशेष स्थान रखता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान इस नाले को कब से चौड़ा कर रहा है और कब से वह सामरिक महत्व के सामान से उस स्थान को सुदृढ़ कर रहा है ? सरकार ने इसके सम्बन्ध में जो यह बताया है कि उस के पास नोट लिख कर भेज दिया गया है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान सरकार की क्या प्रतिज्ञा हुई है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नोट नहीं लिखा जाता है, उन्होंने कहा है "टेकन नोट"।

Shri Y. B. Chavan: We have noticed this latest development after the cessation of hostilities last year. This is the latest development.

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि पाकिस्तान के इरादे कुछ सड़कें बनाने के भी हैं। क्या यह बात सही है कि उसने सड़कें बनाना प्रारम्भ कर दिया है और उसने उस क्षेत्र में सैनिक तैयारियाँ भी कर रखी हैं ! यदि हाँ, तो उन तैयारियों को देखते हुए हम ने भी इस कसूर नाले के किनारे या निकट कोई ऐसी तैयारी कर रखी है जिससे समय आने पर हम तुरन्त पाकिस्तान का मुकाबला कर सकें ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have said that we have taken note of this and we have also to make a preparation.