

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Thursday, February 24, in 1994 Phalguna  
5, 1915 (Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
ITALIAN SENATE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement

On my behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Prof. Giovanni Spadolini, President of the Senate of Italy who is in a visit to India as our honored guest.

He arrived Delhi last evening. He is now seated in the Special Box. We wish him a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through him we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President the Senate, the Government and the friendly people of Republic of Italy.

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[Translation]

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

J & K Situation

\*41. SHRI DHARMANNA  
MONDAYYA SADUL:  
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Jammu and Kashmir recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the areas visited by him;

(c) whether the situation in the State has deteriorated recently and the militant activities have increased;

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government regarding holding of elections in the State?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

1. The Union Home Minister visited Jammu, Doda and Kishtwar on 28-30 January, 1994. During this visit, he held detailed discussions with the Governor and senior State Government officials wherein matters pertaining inter alia to the reactivation of the State administration; the financial problems of the State; measures required for stepping up developmental activities and close physical and financial monitoring were reviewed. He also reviewed the obtaining security situation with the officials of the State/District administration, the Army and Central para Military Forces. In Jammu, the Home Minister met a large number of delegations representing diverse shades of opinion and visited two migrant camps. In Doda and Kishtwar also, a large number of delegations met him.

2. While violence has continued at a high level, there is in overall terms, an improvement in the situation. During recent months, steps to check infiltration/exfiltration of men and materials and to flush out the militants in the hinterland have been intensified further and action has also been taken to bring in greater coordination between the operations of the security Forces in the State. Sustained pressure on the militants is being continued.

3. The aim of the Government is to reduce the fear of the gun, motivate the people to come into the mainstream, activate the local administration and the political elements and to create conditions conducive to holding free and fair elections at the earliest.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA  
SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by

the hon. Minister regarding the main question shows that the Government is taking necessary steps for improvement in the Administration and to establish peace in Jammu and Kashmir. It is necessary for any Government. But it is matter of great concern that Pakistan has taken this issue to the international forum and trying to malign the image of India. I would like to know the plan of action of the Government of India has chalked out to safeguard the image of the Country at international level. What actions the Government is taking in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: All the Missions have been properly briefed in this matter and all of them were called to Delhi and they were properly briefed as to what our exact date is so that they are able to put across to their counterparts in their respective countries. So also, a plan of action is being prepared by a Group of Ministers which is going to prepare the details about how to counter the kind of disinformation campaign which the Pakistan Government has been carrying against India.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA  
SADUL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has appointed a Sub-Committee of seven Ministers under the Chairmanship of hon. Home Minister which will suggest the steps to be taken regarding the Kashmir problem, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what scheme has been prepared by this committee to improve the situation in Kashmir and what is its plan for the balanced development of three regions of Kashmir i.e. Kashmir valley, Laddakh and Jammu.

Secondly, today approximately two lakh Kashmiri Pandits are living in Jammu and their plight is deplorable. What is the Government's plan to send them back to their native places?

[English]

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: Sir, about the first part of the question, we have not yet been able to finalise the whole thing. The Group of Ministers had met once. There was another meeting fixed but due to the kind of information that we expected from the Kashmir Government, that status report, somehow had not reached the Government of India so far and, that is why we had to postpone that meeting. There after, when the meetings were called, some of the Ministers concerned were not in Delhi and, that is why we had to postpone the same. This evening we are going to have the meeting of the Group of Ministers.

About the second part of the question, there is no doubt that Jammu and Kashmir have the imbalances in different areas and Government is trying its level best to see that all the areas are properly developed.

The third issue is about the migrants. I will be very happy if hon. Members from all sides of the House were to give their fullest cooperation in sending back the Kashmiri pandits. Not only pandits, but even Muslims have also come out from the valley. If they are sent back, we are prepared to give them all the assistance that they require in that direction.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: You have stated in your written answer that while violence has continued at high levels, there is in overall terms an improvement in the situation. In Punjab, there was violence and many found that there was improvement in

the situation. The Government of India was very wise to conduct the General Election. We find that the political process that has been initiated in Punjab has given good results. I was just thinking whether the situation is now conducive enough to think of an election in Kashmir and, secondly, if it is not so, what steps are being taken up in an election in the State of Kashmir?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: The ultimate objective of the Government is to see that near normalcy conditions are created in that area so that we succeed in holding the elections. But whenever we talk of holding elections in that area, the situation gets escalated and Pakistan and their agents create conditions in which more disorder is being created in order to see that we do not succeed in holding the elections.

I am in full agreement with the hon. Member that we have to start the political process. Actually, we have started the same but it has not reached to such an extent that it gets reflected on the ground. I have been able to discuss with the leaders of all the political parties. But unless all the political parties make their presence felt in that area, political process will not be activated. We are trying to streamline the administration, making it more responsive to the aspirations of the people. We are also trying to take necessary measures so that the fear of gun is reduced to the maximum extent possible.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Home Minister has claimed that there is improvement in the situation. I regret to say that I cannot agree with him. Terrorist activities are spreading in other parts of Kashmir valley. The Home Minister himself visited Doda and Kishtwar. Yesterday there were bomb explosions in

January and many people were killed there. I would like to know whether it is the sign of improvement or deterioration in the situation. The Home Minister has also said that there is a large number of Hindus and a few Muslims among migrants. Now full co-operation should be given to the Government in sending them back to their places. It is the responsibility of the Government to create such situation there that they could return and lead safe and respectable life.

I would like to know whether the Home Minister is in a position to say that such situation has been created in the valley. Nobody leaves his house on one's own will but the people were compelled to do so. They are living in deplorable conditions in camps and the Government is not doing its duty for these people. Now, in place of discharging its responsibility the Government is seeking our help to persuade them to go back to their places. We can not ask them to jump in to a death trap. Unless the Government controls terrorism in the State how can we ask them to go back to their homes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a petty case of setting up a cantonment is pending with the Government since long, the Government is also not taking any action regarding up a cantonment at Bhdrahah. Under these circumstances how can we know that the Government is serious about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Sir, the House has taken up a great responsibility by passing this resolution. And now if the Government will not work according to its spirit we would be compelled to say that it would be the contempt of the House.

[English]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: About the first part of the statement, I may inform the hon. House that we will have to live with the kind

of violence that we find in Jammu and Kashmir. What I have been telling is, we have to create not full normalcy but near normal conditions because so long as interface from across the border is going to be there, incitement is bound to be there. When camps are being run, equipments are being provided and everything is being done, I cannot possibly say that there is going to be a total normalcy in that area. Once it is there, only then we can think in terms of either holding elections or asking all other people who have migrated from that area to go back. *(Interruption)* The distinctive change that I find in the situation is.... *(Interruptions)* will you kindly listen to what I have to say? If you want, you may ask me the supplementary. But there is no point in interrupting like this. In fact, there is a qualitative change in the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. I had gone to Jammu, I had gone to Srinagar, I had gone to Kistwar and Doda also. And for the first time, the feeling I got from the local people the hundreds of deputationists who had seen me was that everybody was very keen to remain in the mainstream. This was never the situation before.

They were emphasising what kind of employment opportunities need to be provided, how the situation can be improved, and categorically they stated before me that they are Indians and that they are going to die as Indians. And, in fact they are not interested either in merger with Pakistan or in the independence of Kashmir. This is the kind of statement that they have made before me, and from September onwards, the situation is slowly becoming possibility.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I referred to the creation of a cantonment in the Jammu region. This matter has been pending since long.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: This matter has

been pending since long. I have been writing to the Defence Ministry and requesting the Army Chief to create, if not a full-fledged cantonment, at least, some kind of a military establishment because Pir Panjal happens to be a haven for all those, who, in fact would like to come from the Valley to the Jammu area and vice versa. So, the best course is to have some kind of an establishment created on behalf of the army. I am in full agreement with him on this point. Again, I will personally take up this matter with them.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the people and political parties support the Government unani- mously on the issue of Kashmir. But what is happening in Kashmir, especially the way action being taken by the Government and contradictory signals being sent from Delhi, in the light of all these issues I would like to know whether the Government is going to have a definite policy to start political process in Kashmir? Is there any conflict in Home Ministry on this issue. The impact of such type of contradictory signals is always bad on the officers and officials working in Kashmir.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: There is no conflict in the Home Ministry and no contradictory signals are being sent there...*(Interruptions)*.. I understand, what you want to say.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no conflict in the Home Ministry but that is between the Ministers.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell in this respect that no contradictory signals are being sent there and all the necessary steps will certainly be taken to improve the situation. Political pro-

cess is one of the important step, which has been started and gradually you will find a change in the situation.

[English]

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very good that the hon. Home Minister could find time to visit Jammu and Kashmir personally to see the things with his own eyes and he had met certain representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir.

Recently, we have read in the papers that a few Ambassadors of some foreign countries have also visited Jammu and Kashmir and that they had been to Srinagar also. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they have communicated to the Home Ministry about their reaction and their assessment of the situation. It has been said in different quarters that the Government of India was not allowing the people to visit Jammu and Kashmir. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister what is their assessment because their assessment will go a long way in assessing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Some of the dip- lomats visited Jammu and Kashmir and they had extensive discussions with the local people. Actually, there was no inhibition in their going anywhere in Jammu and Kashmir and speaking to any section of the society. In fact, it was not at our instance, but on their own, they had gone there and they wanted to give feedback to their respective Governments. And since nothing adverse has been communicated to us by them at least, my feeling is that they were fully satisfied about the conditions prevailing in that area.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as we are aware, there is fear in the

minds of the people of Jammu and Kashmir about preserving their identity and self-respect.

What steps have the Government taken or contemplate to take insofar as to preserve the identity and self-respect of the Jammu and Kashmir people?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: I am in full agreement with the hon Member. The Government has done nothing to obliterate their Kashmirian identity, as they would like to call it. If the hon. Member feels that any particular step goes contrary to what this Government is stating, certainly we are prepared to reconsider it. But we fully believe that their identity and their self-respect needs to be maintained.

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: The House unanimously passed a resolution on the situation of J & K. That itself is a very important step the House in its wisdom decided to take. I see that a right kind of message has also gone with the unanimity on this issue. In view of what the Home Minister has said when he visited there many local people suggested certain measures for employment and certain necessary steps to be taken to strengthen the administration to create insurgency and in view of another issue raised by Shri Atal Bihariji about the rehabilitation of the people who left the Kashmir Valley and have gone to different parts of the country, will the Minister consider the possibility - again I hope and think that the president's rule is going to be extended there - of having an advisory committee of the Parliament here in Delhi, so that all these questions about the employment, the strengthening of administration, rehabilitation and the larger political aspect of Kashmir can be considered in that committee?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: Actually I have already conceded that such an advisory committee needs to be appointed, so that on such an intricate issue if I were to get the feedback from different sections it would be really for the benefit of the Government. The only point was whether it should be confined to the Members of Parliament or there are some outsiders also who may be in a better position to give their own feedback also. That is the only point which was still under the consideration and might be in a few weeks time we will be able to finalise the idea.

#### ISI Activities In North-East

\*42. SHRI MANORANJAN  
BHAKTA:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any information regarding ISI activities in the North-East;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the steps taken to check such activities in the region:

(d) whether any assistance has been provided to these States for modernisation of police forces during 1993-94;

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(f) whether the Governments of North-Eastern States have asked for Central assistance, financial or otherwise, to meet the situation in the recent past;

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and