

mensurate with the costs of equipments and the civil works involved.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to construct a new building for CTO on a plot of land at Janpath, New Delhi.

(c) The present status of the proposed new building for CTO is that its building plans are under submission to NDMC/U.A.C. for approval. The work for this building may start by the middle of 1991.

[English]

Special Courts in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir

5610. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether special courts have been set up to deal with riot cases in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the cases so far dealt with by them and the stage at which the cases stand at present?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Statements of Iranian leaders on Kashmir issue

5611. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

SHRI ANAND SINGH=

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the various statements of Iranian leaders against India on Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, what are the precise observations made by Iranian leaders and Government functionaries; and

(c) the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). Attached herewith is a compilation of the statements, emanating from Tehran about J&K, as reported in the Iranian media, to which Government's attention has been drawn.

(c) Government's reaction has been indicated in the Official Spokesman's statement of April 4, 1990. A copy of the statement is attached.

STATEMENT

Compilation of Iranian Statements on Developments in Kashmir Statement by Spokesman of Iranian Foreign Office on 23.1.1990

"Following the pathetic massacre of Muslims in Kashmir the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed its deep regret and concern over this tragedy and warned against the result of such violent dealing.

Mr. Sarmati, Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, stated this and added that resorting to force and military power against Kashmiri Muslims by the government was not justified. The experience has shown that such methods have not led to anywhere.

The Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry, while warning against such violent dealing, reminded those responsible for the inci-

dent that the use of force against Muslims will have impact on the mind of world muslim nations.

Mr. Sarmadi expressed sympathies with the survivors of the incidents, and hoped that wisdom and far-sightedness and regard for rights of the people should be able to bring an end to such acts as quickly as possible and restore the rights of the people of Kashmir."

Statement by Ayatollah Yazdi, Chief of the Judiciary on 28.1.1990

According to Iranian press reports, Ayatollah Yazdi, Chief of the Judiciary while addressing the Advisory Committee of the Judicial Branch, called for "logical behaviour" with the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan and Jammu and Kashmir. The press reports quoted Yazdi as expressing his regret over the incorrect behaviour with Muslims in the world particularly in Soviet Azerbaijan and Jammu and Kashmir, and as desiring that the governments should follow a logical behaviour vis-a-vis awakened Muslims.

Statement by Hoj Mohatashami, Majlis Deputy for Tehran on 24.1.1990

According to the Iranian press. Hoj. Mohtashami, while addressing the students of Tehran University on January 24, 1990 stated that a glance at events in Jammu and Kashmir throws light on the injustices committed by arrogance. A people want to be loyal to Islam but the Indian Government which cannot bear so much glory and greatness, sheds the blood of those beloved ones. And if a group of Muslim soldiers in that area does not use arms against the defenceless people, it calls them traitors and deals with them severely.

Statement by President Ratsanjani on 29.1.1990

While inaugurating the 8th Islamic

Thought conference in Tehran President Ratsanjani said that if people in Kashmir and USSR have arisen after several decades of oppression and if Islamic forces have put aside abasement in the socialist bloc and the land of blasphemy, and are proudly striving for materialization of Islam and their legitimate rights, it is all due to the fact that the late Imam's aspirations for the deprived and oppressed nations are spreading.

Statement by Majlis Speaker, Mehdi Karrubi on 31.1.1990

According to the Iranian press, Mr. Karrubi emphasised resistance from Muslims against atrocities and said that the presence of religious personalities in such affairs is always effective and that Islamic Republic of Iran felt itself responsible for the Muslim society including position of Muslims in India. The Speaker said that Iran had normal relations with India but would expect the Central Government of India to take precautions against unhappy incidents.

Statement by Majlis Speaker Mehdi Karrubi on 4.3.1990

According to the Iranian press, at a March 4 meeting of the Majlis, the Speaker, Hoj. Karrubi said: The IRI, by virtue of its duty Moslems, throughout the world..."Unfortunately, the Indian Government has adopted a very ugly approach toward its Moslems and these days has martyred a large number of people-which can be called wholesale killing and massacre and genocide. It has arrested a number of people and injured many..."While offering our condolences to the oppressed people of Kashmir...We condemn this unreasonable and.. unjust approach and advise and recommend to the Indian Government to deal with this case with prudence and wisdom. The problem is not going to be solved by massacre, martyrdom and violence. We also ask those in charge of the

Foreign Ministry to act, to the best of their ability, to solve the problem and prevent the matter ”

*Statement by President Rafsanjani on
7 3 1990*

Addressing a press conference in Tehran on March 7, 1990, President Rafsanjani referred to Kashmir

According to the Iranian daily, "Kayhan International" commenting on recent killings of Muslims in Kashmir by the Indian Government troops the President condemned the act and stressed that 'we consider it our right to support Muslims who cry for restoration of their denied rights irrespective of their location in the world. But we will not interfere in the internal affairs of any country "

A similar report in the Iranian daily, "The Tehran Times" mentioned that referring to unrest in Kashmir, President Rafsanjani said "We do not want to mar our relations with India but we cannot remain indifferent to what is going on in Kashmir. We believe the Indian Government is making a mistake in using force against the mass uprising in Kashmir

*Statement by President Rafsanjani on
9 3 1990*

According to Iranian press reports addressing a Friday prayer meeting in Tehran on March 9, President Rafsanjani touched on Kashmir. The press reports is as follows

Calling the Muslims' situation in India as a very important issue, President Rafsanjani said "People of Kashmir, the majority of whom are Muslims according to an Indian agreement in the U.N., have the right of sovereignty. That is reference has been made for a plebiscite in the US ratifications. Even if this was not available, unknown term

in the world. The public opinion and the right to franchise is an acceptable principle and have been recognized by all. There is no doubt that the people of Kashmir want themselves to determine their destiny as Muslims. This is not a baseless claim or an unjust act. And this neither can be considered as a high demand. Even Indians know it. Indians themselves are ruling over Kashmir on the same principle. The desire of Gandhi, Nehru and the people of India was the same. The people of India got rid of British colonial yoke with consensus acting on the same principle. Why, then, now that the people want to determine their destiny, the response to it is otherwise and a military commander is sent there who opens fire at the people and every day draws all such people to blood and death?

"Indian history is being blotted and the people are losing their dignity. Fortunately, recently they have taken a step and have despatched a team to Kashmir so that it could look into the demands of the people. I hope that this is not a deceitful act. I hope that this team justly realises the demands of the people of Kashmir and adheres to their rightful claims. God willing, this issue is resolved in a good atmosphere. We have good relations with India. We hope to have our relations as we had with India, rather more improved and better than before "

*Statement by Leader Ayatollah Khamenei
on 13 3 1990*

The Iranian Spiritual Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei made a passing reference to Kashmir in his speech in Tehran on 13 3 1990 on the birth anniversary of the 12th Imam of Shi'ite Muslims. According to the press reports, Ayatollah Khamenei is reported to have said that "major movements and uprisings belong to the Muslims. Such is the case in Kashmir and other parts of the world where Muslims have been under pressure for a long time "

*Statement by Majlis Speaker Karrubi on
1.4.1990*

The Iranian TV reported that Speaker Karrunbi addressed a crowd in Tehran on 1.4.1990 on the occasion of Iran's Republic Day ceremonies. He made the following reference to Kashmir.

"Today we see and find that when the oppressed and dedicated Muslims of Kashmir are being continuously suppressed by the tyrant Government of India and brutally eggressed and a group of them are even massacred, killed and martyred, the IRI government and the Majlis take a serious stance and resist and even the Foreign Ministry issues a statement severely condemning such tyrannical activities, and now these acute pressures are mounting so much that many are killed we convey to them our deep sympathy and condolences as they have announced a ten day public mourning following the brutal massacre of Muslims yesterday. We sympathise with the Muslim nation and their progressive groups who have announced general mourning. We severely condemn these massacres and convey our condolences to the family members of the martyrs and pray for their success and victory from the almighty."

*Statement by Ayatollah Mishkini, Chair-
man of Experts Assembly at Friday
prayers at Qom on 6.4.1990*

According to the Iranian press, Ayatollah Mishkini is reported to have said that the Muslims in the Soviet Union and Jammu and Kashmir and Egypt were being killed because the world atheists have started a war against Islam. He added that he was confident that if all the world Muslims gather under the flag of Quran, they would emerge victorious.

*Statement by Iranian Ministry of Foreign
Affairs on 15.4.1990*

The Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said that in view of the recent developments in Kashmir and the aggravation of the situation and increased atmosphere of violence including the ongoing massacre and collective detention of the Muslims, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is following up the situation of the region with a peculiar concern, and believes that the increased violence and use of power would not be able to resolve the present problem of Kashmir.

The reports received say that the fasting Kashmiri Muslims are imprisoned in their houses for more than a week under the name of martial law. They are not allowed to come out of their houses even for procuring the basic commodities. This kind of action of the Indian Government can hurt not only the religious and human feelings of the Muslims but also it would obliterate the possibility of resolving the issue through basic and wise means.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Indian Government to show the required restraint and prepare grounds for resolving the problems of Kashmir by peaceful means and stopping violent moves against the fasting Muslims.

OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT

(1) In recent weeks, several statements have emanated from Tehran about J&K. These have been by public figures and some Iranian Government leaders. We cannot but regret their making such statements, which constitute an unwarranted interference in our internal affairs. Without exception these statements which are based on incorrect appreciation of developments in Kashmir are indicative of a bias. As such these affect the growth of mutual trust and understand-

ing between our two countries.

(2) As a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual and staunchly secular society in which different linguistic and religious groups have lived happily and unitedly, India has enjoyed respect and understanding from diverse sources. We have shown every respect for the concerns and sensitivities of Iran, as indeed of other countries. We are, therefore, surprised at the Iranian statements, and the attitude that is reflected in them. We have, in recent months, had occasion to advise Iranian friends not to take sides and reflect a biased attitude.

(3) It is well known that extremists, fundamentalists, and terrorists inside J&K, with help, training and arms from outside the country, have been indulging in brutal killings and spreading terror and fear. People have been frightened into fleeing their home and hearths. Children and women and girls have been abducted and kidnapped. Every so-called peaceful procession has dozens, sometimes hundreds of well-armed extremists and murderers. These elements must face the just arm of law and order in the State.

(4) We believe that the development of friendly and cooperative relations between India and Iran would be conducive to regional peace and mutual cooperation. It will also constitute a factor for peace and stability in the region.

New Delhi
April 4, 1990

Union Territory Status to Ladakh

5612. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the people of Ladakh to give

Union Territory status to Ladakh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether there is also any proposal to review the old demand of the people of Jammu for a separate State?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) At one stage Union Territory status for Ladakh area was asked for, which, however, was later given up.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

Installation of New Telephone Exchange At Bhikiyasen in Almora

5613. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the unsatisfactory working of telephone exchange at sub-divisional headquarters Bhikiyasen in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to install new exchange with sophisticated equipments in that area?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. The exchange is working satisfactorily.

(b) Does not arise. However, a 64 line electronic exchange is planned for the station in 1991-92.