

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[Translation]

[Thursday, March 12, 1992/ Phalguna 22,
1913 (Saka)]

*The Lok Sabha Met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Visit by Chancellor of Germany

*225. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chancellor of Germany
is likely to visit India during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures proposed to be initiated during the visit to strengthen further the bilateral relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):
(a) to (c). Chancellor Kohl of Germany will be visiting India in October 1992 to receive the Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding for the year 1990. His visit will also provide an opportunity for reviewing bilateral relations and views on major international issues.

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Mr. Speaker, Sir the Chancellor of Germany is visiting India after the successful visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao to Germany. The Prime Minister of India has played a vital role in bringing these two countries closer. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs as to what specific proposals will be presented by the Government to the German Chancellor. Has any proposal been sent in advance? Has any preparation been made for it?

SHRI MADAVSINH SOLANKI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the German Chancellor is coming to India mainly to receive the Nehru Award. But during his visit, bilateral issues and current international affairs may also be discussed if there is an occasion. Discussion can be held on various issues.

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is there any proposal to discuss the developing countries, in the context of I.M.F, World Bank and the U.N. Security Council. Will any proposal be discussed to motivate Germany to respond to the new industrial policy and help India in overcoming the present financial crisis?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, issues which are to be discussed are yet to be finalised. But when two big leaders meet each other, usually all issues are likely to figure in their discussion.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister's recent visit to Germany is being considered very successful. In the present context while America is putting its economic pressure on

India, I would like to know as to how are our relations with Germany and how far we expect relief from Germany.

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India's relations with Germany have been cordial. And the relations have been further strengthened after the unification of the two Germanies, particularly in the field of trade and commerce. Germany has a lot of influence on the European Community. Keeping it in view in such a situation our relations should further strengthen and improve, we are trying to come closer.

[*English*]

Exchange of visits of leaders or discussions and dialogues are also going on.

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI: I would like to know about the economic content of the ties between Germany and India. Recently, while replying in the House, the hon. Prime Minister said that 80 per cent of the infrastructure in the Eighth Five Year Plan would come from foreign investments. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how this infrastructure would be created. It is also a part of the question - the ties between the two countries. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how India would try to seek infrastructural investment from Germany within the ties which they are proposing to have.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not possible to answer this exhaustive question just now. But the ties between India and Germany have grown taking rapid strides. The German Government, businessmen and industrialists responded positively to the new economic policy announced by the Indian Government.

[*English*]

FRG has identified India as a strategic economic partner because of India's 850

million population. Among these, 250 million middle class people provide one of the biggest domestic markets.

[*Translation*]

The trade relations between India and Germany are likely to be strengthened in coming 10 to 30 years. Thus, it may help improve bilateral ties in respect of many things.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Sir, often disturbing news have been coming from Germany for the last one year that people of Asian and African origin are being harassed, if not assaulted, with impunity by the neo-Nazi elements there. Has the Government received report of any incident that people of Indian origin are involved? If so, would the Hon. Minister take up the issue with the Hon. Chancellor of Germany?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Sir, whenever such incident takes place, our Mission takes care of it and has discussions with the local authorities. If any such issue comes to the notice of the Government, we will take the opportunity to discuss it whenever the Chancellor comes here.

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI: Are you aware of any such incident?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: There have been reports and notice has been taken by our Mission there.

SHRI TARA SINGH: Sir, many Indian people have settled in Germany. When they want to come on certain occasions to India, they face great hardship for getting visas. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he would like to exchange notes at the time of the visit of the Chancellor about this problem so that unnecessary harassment is avoided and people may come freely to India?

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Yes, Sir.