

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 29, 1998/Shravana 7, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER We will take up question No. 602.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri) : Mr. Speaker Sir, 16 Hindus have been killed in Kashmir yesterday (Interruptions) massacre took place there and sixteen Hindus were killed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Geete, I will allow you to speak during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise this issue during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, please give the reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister speak. Do not interrupt. This is not Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri P. C. Chacko, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, only Hindus are being picked and killed there (Interruptions) Since those killed were Hindus, I have to say so.

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Rajgarh) : You please withdraw support from such government which cannot protect Hindus...

[English]

Why are you supporting this government, when it cannot protect Hindus.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : It was started during your regime.

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? It will not do.

11.02 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Nuclear Non-Proliferation

\*602. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the agreement reached between the US and China, during US-President Bill Clinton's visit to Beijing to work closely together to promote nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia and for resolution of Indo Pakistan differences;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction to this declaration of their intent by the two big powers, China and America to promote Nuclear Non-Proliferation in the back drop of continuous and repeated violation of this principle by China in transferring nuclear arms, technology and missiles; and

(c) whether the Government considers that this agreement smacks of imperialism and hegemonistic mentality of the bygone era, if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government categorically rejects the notion of these two countries arrogating to themselves joint or individual responsibility for maintenance of peace, stability, and security in South Asia. It is most ironical that two countries which have directly and indirectly contributed to the unabated proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems in our neighbourhood, are now presuming to prescribe norms for non-proliferation.

(c) Yes, Sir. This approach reflects the hegemonistic mentality of a by-gone era in international relations and is completely unacceptable and out of place in the present day world.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whom should I compliment, should I compliment the Agriculture Minister or the Prime Minister or Shri Jaswant Singh? For the first time...

MR. SPEAKER : Right now please compliment the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, the hon'ble Minister deserves to be congratulated and the government also for giving a very categorical reply to the question.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : This is the role of constructive opposition.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Now please listen to what I am going to say. Mr. Bill Clinton after his China visit, has reiterated several times.

[English]

China is playing and will continue to play the role of a strategically significant nation in South Asia.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker sir, China and America both are at the extreme ends of a line. One is the supporter of democracy while the other is supporter of dictatorship. But what Mr. Bill Clinton has said about South Asia is that one boss is extending support to other boss. India is the largest democracy in South Asia. Has India abjectly surrendered to pressure tactics and is thinking of signing CTBT or would it stay firm on its position and would stick to its stand as has just been stated in reply to my question or in view of the economic sanctions, as well as the statements of strategic significance being made in South Asia under pressure of two big bosses, Government is considering to sign the CTBT? Hon'ble Minister may please tell us about the policy of the Government.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the point of Hon'ble Member regarding compliments is concerned, it is the consensus of which we all are a party that should be applauded. Just for arriving at this consensus Hon'ble Prime Minister had gone to Colombo and Hon'ble Jaswant Singh had gone to Manila to participate in a Conference of Asean Regional Forum just to continue with this policy. As regards the question of nexus between America and China, the hon. member is right in saying that there was a time when America always condemned China on the issues of proliferation of atomic weapons, nuclear tests and human rights, but after 1992 and particularly after the incidence of Tianan Square, China decided to play a new role in the world politics and made efforts to get its new role recognised by America and other countries. Unfortunately America supported her in this regard, accorded recognition in a way and since then there is a coordination between the two. On the one hand they are asking us to sign the CTBT, and are expressing their concern over nuclear tests, on the other hand despite sufficient evidence to the development of Missiles and nuclear programme going on in Pakistan illegally and clandestinely with the help of China and Korea, U.S.A. have been evading the issue.

As far as the question of signing the treaty is concerned, ours is a well thought out policy. We are all one on this issue.

There is no scope for any change. Unless it takes ample care of India's security concerns India will not sign any discriminatory non-proliferation treaty or test ban treaty.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has said that Shri Jaswant Singh has started paying visits to countries all over the world to propagate our policy. He just told about the conference held in Manila and all have agreed to the Indian policy in Manila Conference and his diplomacy on behalf of India succeeded there. When India went for nuclear tests on 11th and 13th May, 1998, opposition benches were asking for its justification was it the most appropriate time to speak against China and Pakistan? There is an example of your diplomacy that Pakistan adopted a policy to target India by "Gauri" Missile. They know to accord utmost importance to the intelligence collection and they do so, particularly when seminars are held on international issues. Whole world was aware about our capability when we were denying to put signature on CTBT. When Gauri Missile was test fired... (interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Please ask the question

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I am asking the question, but if you are not interested in foreign policy, I am ready to sit down. I want to ask when "Ghauri" missile was test fired, why did India not react on any international forum till 11th and 13th May that India's security is under threat? We should not have revealed that we were going to do something on 11th and 13th May. But why a strategic policy was not formulated in this regard? Is it a failure on the part of your foreign policy or is it a failure of your government?

SHRI SOMPAL : Whenever such type of incident takes place in our neighbourhood such as test firing of "Ghauri" Missile or other such tests, India has always raised the issue at diplomatic levels and on all the other forums through other media. This issue was raised with China, although China never responded satisfactorily. This issue was raised with America also and at all the other forums also. Just now the issue was raised with America, also and at all the other forums also. Just now the issue was raised in Manila and Pakistan was denied participation in the Conference. This is the latest proof of the success of our diplomatic initiatives. Similarly at the "Saarc" Conference which is being held at Colombo at present. Pakistan's attempts to include these issues on the agenda, failed. Therefore, this allegation is not true. We are continuously trying to safeguard our interests.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : I had asked as to why did not you raise the issue before 11th May. I used a very pointed question to which no answer was given...

[English]

I asked a very pointed question. Was it a failure of this Government or a failure of the foreign policy of India?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bir Singh Mahto.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Sir, we are going to discuss this issue. Let him tell about it.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, it cannot be termed as a failure. Some reaction time is needed to respond to such a question.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been revealed in a newspaper that the Government is considering to sign the CTBT. I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering it or not.

SHRI SOMPAL : I have made it very explicit in my answer to the first question. I would like to repeat that we would not sign the CTBT or any other treaty unless it takes ample care of our security concerns, and till it is discriminatory.

SHRI KHARABELA SHAIN : Sir, the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to India has, in an interview, mentioned that though the post-Pokhran atmosphere brought a rift between India and China relationship, yet it is actually a temporary phase and it will pass over. but on the other hand, it is a well-known fact that China is the real supplier of nuclear knowhow and technology to Pakistan. How can our country reconcile with this juxtaposition of China?

SHRI SOMPAL : I have already touched this issue in my reply to the question posed hon. Shri Shinde that we are not reconciled to the situation. And we have been raising this matter at all levels and even up to the highest level with the Chinese authorities. It is unfortunate that the response has never been satisfactory.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA (Calcutta North-East) : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister presents a very serious situation. In fact, the answers (a), (b) and (c) taken together appear to be a confrontation between us and our neighbours, China and Pakistan.

Sir, it is the question of peace in South Asian region. Pakistan and China are also very much interested in it as we are. Under the circumstances, the answer of rejection is completely unacceptable. This must be explained.

Sir, therefore, my question is this. What are the diplomatic steps taken by the present Government to make the neighbour's and other friendly nations understand the Indian position and about the steps taken by the Indian Government since the nuclear explosions?

Sir, secondly I would like to know whether the Government has been able to get hold of the details about the visit of

Mr. Bill Clinton, the President of the United States of America, to China and the consequent agreement that followed between the two countries. The only answer that has been given is, 'Yes, Sir'. The details of the agreement are known to the Government. If it is so, the House must be told about the details of the Agreement so that the gravity of the situation could be understood.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I think, the hon. Member is referring to the visit of Mr. Bill Clinton to China and the Joint Statement issued by the two countries on June 27, 1998. We are well aware of the contents of the Statement. If you permit me, I can give the details thereof. They are :

(1) USA and China would continue to work closely together with the P-5 and the Security Council and with others to prevent an accelerating nuclear and missile arms race in South Asia.

(2) They have also said that the recent tests by India and Pakistan and the resulting increase in tension between them are a source of deep and lasting concern for the two countries.

(3) They also have called on India and Pakistan to stop all further nuclear tests and adhere immediately and unconditionally to CTBT to refrain from weaponisation or deployment of nuclear weapons and to enter into firm commitments not to weaponise or deploy nuclear weapons.

(4) They also have stated their firm commitment to strong and effective international cooperation on nuclear non-proliferation with the Treaty on non-proliferation and nuclear weapons as its corner stone.

(5) They also have identified this as a goal that they would like adherence of all countries including India and Pakistan to NPT and they have stated that their position is that notwithstanding their recent nuclear tests, India and Pakistan do not have the status of nuclear weapons. They have also affirmed that they are determined to fulfil their commitment relating to nuclear disarmament and the likes.

So, we know all the details and we are very alive to the situation. We are meeting at all the fora, at all the levels in the international arena. We are taking it up everywhere.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai) : Sir, the previous three Prime Ministers had very clearly and categorically stated that the CTBT would not be signed. The Minister today gave an impression that there has been some dilution in that stand. In particular, he said that the CTBT would not be signed unless our security concerns, and the non-discriminatory nature of the Treaty is corrected for.

Now, unless the Government has clearly formulated as to what is the security concern, what is the non-discriminatory nature of the Treaty, what are the incorporations that they would like in the CTBT on which they would be ready to sign, there

would be suspicion in the country that they have buckled under the pressure of the United States and the P-5 powers.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, there is no question of succumbing to any pressure. This has been stated by the Prime Minister time and again.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Please spell out the stand.

SHRI SOMPAL : It is very well spelt out. The Prime Minister has already stated that India will not be coerced to signing these two Treaties. We cannot accept the demand that CTBT be signed unconditionally and immediately. So, we have declared that India would be willing to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings of the CTBT. However, these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum but will depend on reciprocal responses and under this CTBT...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is a dilution of the earlier stand...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, it is very clear. There is no dilution.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The main reply states : "This approach reflects the hegemonistic mentality of a by-gone era in international relations and is completely unacceptable and out of place in the present world". Thus, it is condemning. What is the use of condemning it in this House, inside India? I would like to know from the Minister whether he has lodged a complaint with the US and whether he has conveyed the position to China. If do, what is the position?

SHRI SOMPAL : It is a repeat of the same question and phrases which have been used by the hon. Members earlier while asking supplementary on this question. I would like to re-state the position that we have taken it up with all the friendly countries.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Has the Minister lodged a protest with the US Government? Has the Minister conveyed it to China?

SHRI SOMPAL : At all diplomatic levels, we have taken it up with both the countries.

SHRI K. VIJAYABHASKARA REDDY : I would like to know from the Minister whether he will take the Parliament into consideration before taking any decision on CTBT.

SHRI SOMPAL : On this issue there is a convergence of opinion and complete unanimity. There is no question of by-passing the Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Sir, I have a very important question to ask.

MR. SPEAKER : No, we have already taken 20 minutes on one question.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have passed on to the next question.

### Co-operative Credit Institutions

\*603. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to compensate the losses of Co-operative credit institutions to make them more viable and expand their credit operations in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the name of the States where this scheme is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) A scheme proposing a Rehabilitation package for revamping of the Co-operative Credit Structure is under consideration of the Government of India.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur) : The loss of Co-operative Credit Institutions amount to Rs. 6604 crore at present. In the year 1995-96 the recovery rate at the level of regional rural banks was 54.44 per cent which declined to 33.17 per cent in 1996-97. The hon. Minister has said that the rehabilitation package for revamping of the cooperative structure is under consideration. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government propose to write off this amount during the Ninth Plan period to enable these banks to become viable and expand the credit operations in the rural areas.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the package is precisely aimed at achieving this objective.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : It appears that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal have already implemented the Mutually-Aided Cooperative Societies Act. I would like to know whether the Government propose to implement the Mutually-Aided Cooperative Societies Act at the grassroot level in all the States so that the cooperative sector could have healthy growth for serving the wider sections of the agricultural sector more efficiently.

SHRI SOMPAL : Yes, this is a mutually-aided package and this is aimed at revamping the credit structure at the grassroot level and taking it to the primary agricultural credit societies as well as the district cooperative credit banks. It will be a mutually agreed upon thing between the States and the Centre as well as the District Cooperative Banks and the State Cooperative Banks. This is likely to be revamped and this will be implemented during the Ninth Plan.

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : I would like to know whether all the State Governments will implement this revamping package?

SHRI SOMPAL : Yes, all the States will implement it but this assistance will not be across the board. This would