

godowns should be constructed so that the crops do not get spoiled after cultivation, in transaction and in the market. We are trying to take measures and this is the important part of the new agriculture policy.

Thirdly, you have asked about the research. Recently expert committee of Indian Council of Agriculture Research has found that the areas of green revolution, which have played a great role in increasing agriculture productivity and production in India. The Punjab State has played a great contribution in that, not only the whole country but the whole would agree with this. Some places it has been noticed that the fertility of the land has reached to a limit and the productivity has also reached to a certain limit. However it is in the notice of the Govt. It is creating two adverse effects—Firstly the investment, at present we are using more fertilizers because the organic matters in the soil have been reduced, its productive power has been reduced, secondly some micro nutritive elements are also decreasing and many types of chemical and physical imbalances are taking place in the shape of the soil. For that whatever scientific measures the Govt. is going to take, the list of that is very broad. If you want, I can discuss with you on this. As far as the question of compensation is concerned, there is no arrangement to give compensation so far, but the measure should be taken in this regard.

[English]

#### Indo-US Talks

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\*23. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether high level talks were recently held between India and United States of America;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the leaders of both the countries who took part in the talks;

(c) whether the discussion centred around CTBT, lifting of sanctions, fissile material cut-off treaty, export control regime, missile tests and defence posture;

(d) if so, the details of agreement reached between both the countries;

(e) the specific stand taken by Indian Government on signing CTBT;

(f) the subjects on which disagreement persists;

(g) the venue decided for next round of talks; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve all the outstanding issues within a definite time frame?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) India and the US have been

engaged in a high-level intensive dialogue since June 1998. The latest round of Indo-US talks was recently held in New Delhi from January 29-31, 1999.

The Indian side was led by Shri Jaswant Singh, External Affairs Minister. The US delegation was led by US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott. The main interlocutors have been designated to conduct the dialogue as representatives of the Prime Minister of India and the President of USA respectively. A compact team of officials from both sides assisted the two leaders.

The talks were conducted over three days in plenary sessions as well as smaller groups of designated officials. In addition, Mr. Strobe Talbott also called on the PM, RM and leaders of some political parties.

(c), (d) and (f) As on earlier rounds of bilateral talks, the security perspectives of the two sides were further elaborated and clarified with a view to harmonising perspectives. Both delegations expressed satisfaction at the progress made in the last round of talks. The talks will be continued.

The talks are being conducted on the basis of comprehensive proposals that India put forward on disarmament and non-proliferation matters, namely a unilateral moratorium on explosive nuclear tests, willingness to discuss converting it into a de jure obligation, decision to enter into constructive negotiations on the FMCT and reaffirming our policies on stringent control on export of sensitive technologies.

The discussions with the United States have narrowed and are now focussed on four issues related to security, disarmament and non-proliferation namely CTBT, FMCT, Indian Defence Posture and Export Control issues.

It has been decided that Indian-US expert level teams will meet in March for follow-up talks on expert controls. The leaders of the delegations will also remain in contact. While these talks continue, both sides will endeavour to create a positive atmosphere for advancing their relations.

(e) The Indian position regarding CTBT remains as stated by the Prime Minister in UNGA in September, 1998 "India, having harmonised its national imperatives and security obligations and desirous of continuing to cooperate with the international community is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries, as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this treaty without conditions".

(g) The next round of the talks is envisioned towards the middle of the year, the dates and venue to be determined in consultation between this two sides.

(h) There is no time-frame fixed for conclusion of these talks. It is the intention of both countries, that a stable understanding should be reached on the remaining issues at an early date. This would provide further momentum to bilateral relations, which is desired by both countries.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister very carefully. It looks as if mountainous labour has produced a mouse. Eight rounds of talks have been held between my good friend Mr. Jaswant Singh, the flamboyant Foreign Minister of this Government and the Deputy Secretary of State Mr. Strobe Talbott of United States. But we have not moved even an inch forward. If I can use a coinage in Malayalam, it says:

*"Vanchi Ippozhum Thirunakkara Thanne."*

It means that the boat is still at Thirunakkara jetty. The boat man rode the whole night to find to his dismay that the boat is still in the same jetty and not moved an inch. That is what I have understood after seeing his statement. However, it has been reported in the Press that he has agreed to sign the C.T.B.T. before September, 1999.

Sir, it has been the consensus stand of this country that the C.T.B.T., in the present form, is discriminatory and we will not agree to sign it in this discriminatory form. I would like to know whether he has agreed to sign the C.T.B.T. in the present form. If yes, it means a dilution of our consensus stand. What is the reason for this dilution, if any?

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : It is not dilution; it is negation.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : All right. So, what is the reason for this dilution? Is there any condition attached to that, especially the condition of lifting the sanctions imposed unjustly by the US Government? If that is so, please take the House into confidence in these matters.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are essentially two parts to this question. Has there been any movement and has the Government consented to the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty? To the second part, the answer is clear, explicit and unambiguous. No; the Government has not agreed to sign it. The Government's stand on the C.T.B.T. remains what it has been, what it has stated in the House, what the Prime Minister has stated in the UN General Assembly and what is contained in the statement.

More than that, there is not an iota of truth in whatever the Press reports the hon. Member is citing.

On the first part which is an observation relating to movement in talks, I refer the hon. Member only to some aspects like P-5 Resolution or G-8 Statements and compare those Resolutions and Statements to the issues on which the talks had now got confined to. So, there are 12 to 13 descriptive items, and the issues on which we are now confined are just four. That in itself is an arithmetical measurement of the movement that had taken place.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Thank you Mr. Minister for your candid answer. Now you have said that four issues are being identified. Of course, you had mentioned them in the written answer also. But I do not know whether the question of a minimum nuclear deterrence is implicit in these four issues

or whether you have taken up the same question separately. It is because this coinage is doing the round for a long time in this country and I am sure, you must have taken up this issue with your U.S. counterpart. But no mention is made in this reply about the question of minimum nuclear deterrent. If the Government is considering that question to be taken up, then I would like to know whether your perception about the minimum nuclear deterrent is taking into account the India's total security concern in the whole region or it is taking into account only our security concern vis-a-vis Pakistan. I would like to enlighten us on this point.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Sir, the Government has repeatedly made it clear that the country's nuclear programme is not our nuclear programme, is not country-specific. It has also been made clear that in the outlines that have been defined already by hon. the Prime Minister in the repeated discussions here, they are based on a fundamental premise and that is that India shall define its own requirements and parameters of nuclear deterrent on the basis of our assessment of what our security requirements and considerations are. This is a sovereign function. Either through suggestion or through intrusive measures or in any other aspect, the country shall not and the Government, of course, will not accept any aspect that attempts to explain to India or suggest to India what its minimum nuclear deterrent ought to be. It has also been made clear that minimum nuclear deterrent is the enunciation of a policy framework within which the security concerns of the country shall be met and it is, of course, subject to review and alterations in accordance with the alternative security requirements.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Honourable Mr. Speaker Sir, the Honourable Minister of External Affairs has said in his written answer and also in his supplementary answer that whatever talk is being held between US and USA, is limited to four issues.

[English]

"non-proliferation, namely CTBT, FMCT, Indian defence posture and export control issues."

[Translation]

After these four issues it is said :

[English]

"That a stable understanding should be reached on the remaining issues at an early date."

[Translation]

It means both the countries have been agreed on some issues and have not been agreed on rest of the issues.

I would like to know from the honourable Minister that out of these disputed four issues, on which issues both the countries have been agreed, and what are the issues left, on which they have to agree. In regard to minimum atomic

preventive capacity whether any talk has been pending, on which the Govt. of India have to be agree with USA?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, in regard to four issues whatever, honourable, member has mentioned, it is not so that all the issues have been agreed or consensus have been reached on all the four issues. The Honourable Member might have definitely seen that the Govt. of India have raised these issues; nobody has raised this issues, with India, I have mentioned it is my speech. The progress have been made on all the ideas. The progress has been made on India's view. It means there is control on export. I have told in my first statement in this regard. The record of India is more better than other countries. It is ever better than P-5 countries. So, it is not necessary that some one should teach us regarding export control. More progress has been made on export control than other issues. There are differences on some issues as defence posture, America has made suggestions on F M C T that we should put unilaterally some restrictions in fissile material, it was not agreed by us, we did not agree with this. We have clearly said that whenever conference on disarmament will take place in Geneva on F M C T, India will take positive attitude and we are doing that. Whenever adhoc committee will be formed, India will take part in that, this was our suggestion. As regard to minimum deterrent, my reply will be the same what ever I have replied earlier. India will decide itself, India will not do it in compulsion.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Deputy Foreign Secretary of America had said several times that India do solitary talks, talk confidentially, it should talk publicly. What is the aim of deputy Foreign Secretary of America behind this, what is cooking there, what statement do you give in Parliament and in public, clarification of this very much essential.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, whatever Deputy Foreign Secretary of America has said, it is his own responsibility. I am responsible to my Govt. and to the Parliament. I would like to assure Mr. Mulayam Singh that whatever I say here, there is no ambiguity in that, there is no secret. This Govt. is clearly committed to tell about its policy to Parliament, therefore there is no secret talk which I have not told in Parliament.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, immediately after the latest round of talks, an impression has been given by the chief interlocutor of the United States that the economic sanctions on India are being slackened in view of the fact that India has agreed to certain conditions which till that date India has not agreed.

MR. SPEAKER : Unless your supplementary is brief, you will not get a reply.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : May I know from the hon. Minister whether this is true or not?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Not true, Sir.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I have a very short question. Has the United States in the talks rejected India's claim to be considered as a nuclear weapons' power?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : It has been made clear to the United States that facts cannot be disinvent. India is a nuclear weapon State. That is a fact. You cannot disinvent facts.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Hike in Price of Urea

\*24. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

SHRI GEORGE EDEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently hiked the price of Urea;
- (b) if so, the reasons and justification thereof;
- (c) the impact thereof on the farmers particularly on marginal farmers;
- (d) whether such an increase will result in rise of prices of all commodities;
- (e) whether the Government propose to review its decision;
- (f) if not, the reasons therefore;
- (g) whether prices have been increased to bring down the subsidies on fertilizers; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a), (b), (g) and (h) The price of urea has been increased from Rs. 3660 per MT to Rs. 4000 per MT with effect from 29th January 1999. The increase was warranted both from the point of view of fiscal sustainability and balanced nutrient application.

(c) and (d) The impact of the price increase on the cost of cultivation is likely to be less than one per cent while the impact on the general price level would be negligible.

(e) and (f) As the urea price rise was warranted both from fiscal and agronomic considerations and as it is not likely to have any significant adverse effect, it is not proposed to review the decision.

### Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

\*25. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the per hectare consumption of fertilizers in different States;