

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**India's position with regard to Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

16.47 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Madam, this honourable House will recall that I had made two *Suo Motu* Statements regarding the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 31st July, setting out the Government's policy on this issue. The discussion that followed has indeed helpful and it represented a national consensus on this subject. This is reflected in the steps taken by the Government to continue to safeguard our national interests, in the deliberations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Today, may I, Madam, with your permission, take this opportunity to brief the honourable House on recent developments in Geneva.

As hon. Members are aware, the Government has been allowing a consistent and principled policy on nuclear disarmament and the CTBT. We have always considered that the CTBT should be the first definitive and irreversible step in the nuclear disarmament process. For this, it is necessary that the Treaty bring about an end to development and refinement of nuclear weapons in a comprehensive manner. It is also necessary that the Treaty be securely based within the nuclear disarmament framework by reflecting a commitment to the achievement of a nuclear weapon-free-world within a time bound framework.

Our approach during the negotiations was in keeping with this policy. In fact, the mandate of the Adhoc Committee is clear. It says :

"to negotiate intensively a universal and multilaterally and effectively verifiable Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which would contribute effectively to prevention of proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects, to the process of nuclear disarmament and therefore to the enhancement of international peace and security."

During the course of these negotiations, we found that the draft Treaty text was moving away from the mandate. Our proposals, put forward in a constructive spirit were in keeping with the mandate.

We are disappointed that the negotiations have been terminated prematurely and without consensus. The reason behind lack of consensus is clear - the desire of the nuclear weapon States to retain their nuclear hegemony. An artificial deadline was imposed

and a flawed text was presented to the Adhoc Committee.

We stated and maintain that India cannot subscribe to such a draft. Not only did this text fall far short of the mandate, it also had other unacceptable features, particularly the formulation on Entry into Force in Article XIV. This formulation was suddenly introduced on 28th June after we had announced our decision not to subscribe to the draft text and withdrawn our stations from the International Monitoring System on 26 June. Hon'ble Members would recall that the Government has been firm and unequivocal in stating that any language that would impose an obligation on India directly or indirectly either today or at a later date, would oblige us to indicate our opposition. Even though a large number of countries appreciated the logic of our position, the rigid position taken by the small number of nuclear weapon States prevented any change in this Article.

As a result, in keeping with our stated policy, we had to oppose the adoption of the draft Treaty text in the Ad hoc Committee. We also opposed the attachment of this draft Treaty text to the Report of the Ad hoc Committee, on the grounds that it was not a consensus text. On 16th August, the Ad hoc Committee adopted its Report, *without* the draft Treaty text with the conclusion that "despite the assessments of (CD/NTB/WP 330/Rev.2) contained in Section VI above and support for a proposal to transmit it to the Conference on Disarmament for its consideration, *no consensus could be reached either on the text or on the action proposed*". This Report was presented to the Conference on Disarmament and adopted by the Plenary on 20 August.

On 22nd August, a large number of delegations suggested that this Report be transmitted to the present session (50th session) of the United Nations General Assembly which concludes on 16th September. After due consideration, we were obliged to point out that such a step was unnecessary because the Report would, in due course, as part of the Annual Report of the Conference on Disarmament, be transmitted to the 51st session of the UN General Assembly scheduled to begin on 17th September. Thus the move to transmit any special report was blocked by us. In taking these steps, we were guided by the national consensus and our commitment to safeguarding our national interests.

We are aware that many countries are determined to take the draft Treaty text to New York and have it opened for signature in September 1996. I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that the Government is monitoring these developments and will take all necessary actions, consistent with our policy, to indicate

our opposition to this text. At the same time, I would like to point out that unlike the Conference on Disarmament which takes decision by consensus, the UN General Assembly has its own rules of procedure. Nevertheless, we have a position of principle which will be made known in this forum too.

Madam, many countries with whom we have close bilateral relations have adopted a position on this issue which is different from our stands. We have, through our dialogue, tried to explain the rationale for our position. We believe that agreement on all issues is not a pre-requisite for close bilateral relations but mutual respect for each other's vital national concerns is. We are committed to strengthening our relations with all countries and remain confident that our differences on this issue will not affect our bilateral ties.

16.48½ hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1996-97 GENERAL  
DISCUSSION - CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall resume the discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Virendra Kumar Singh

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Madam Chairman, at the outset I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram for presenting poor-oriented, farmers-oriented, labour oriented, equality oriented Budget ...*(Interruptions)* I know there will be interruption. When new Members stand to speak, the interruption takes place. But when hon. Joshiji was speaking, I don't think there was any interruption but I think there will be interruptions...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : (Lucknow) : There will be no interruption.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the new Member speak, please donot interrupt.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : This Budget is poor oriented because the provision of Rs. 1263 crores in the budget for poverty eradication has been increased to Rs. 2195 crores. Similarly, there was a provision of Rs. 8000 crores in the earlier budget for rural employment which has now been increased to Rs 10,500 crores. The opposition parties have termed it as anti-farmers and anti - labourers budget. This is wrong

criticism. If you criticise, let it be so. It is your duty to criticize

16.58 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

It is said that all the amount in the budget is spent in repaying loan and no means of new income has been given. I would like to know why have you not given any suggestion. You talk of elimination of unemployment, corruption, price rise, illiteracy but the opposition has not given any concrete programme in this respect. They simply criticize. Of course this should be there but they should give some programme also so that people do not think it is a anti-farmers budget.

When we have given Subsidy to all people to buy 30 thousand tractors, it became anti-farmers. When we have increased the allocation for rural employment to the labour them it became anti-labourers. We have allotted an additional sum of Rs. 2500 to develop rural infrastructure. For infrastructure industries, life insurance has been strengthened.

17.00 hrs.

One more thing has been said about the budget that it is a copy of the budget presented by Dr. Manmohan Singh. But it is not so because, Dr. Manmohan Singh's budget was based on low income rate for generating more revenue whereas Shri P. Chidambaram did not find it proper to do away with corporate surcharge. In addition to it he has proposed 12 percent alternative tax on corporate sector. Inflation will be controlled upto 6-7 percent.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can resume a little later. Now, it is five O'clock.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Amarnath Yatra

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Sir, with you kind permission, I would like to make the following Statement as the hon. Home Minister has still not reached Delhi from Jammu. As you have directed, I am making the Statement. Apart from this, any further details will be available to the House after the hon. Home Minister comes back. I think, tomorrow. It may not be possible today.

Sir, the Amarnath Yatra this year has been struck by tragedy because of unprecedented bad weather, heavy rain, snow, landslides and flooding. According to