

12.05 hrs

Title: Regarding peace-initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the Winter Session of the Parliament concludes and the House rises for the festivals of *Id* and *Christmas*, I wish to take this opportunity and share with all the hon. Members, the Government's assessment of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, also along the Line of Control.

Following my announcement of 19 November that during the holy month of *Ramzan*, our security forces would not initiate operations against the militants, also expressing a hope that along the LoC too, infiltration would cease, there have been some encouraging developments. Certain other aspects, however, remain as our continuing concerns.

The Government is greatly heartened by the response of the citizens, political parties and other organisations in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Our peace initiative has been widely welcomed there. A distinctly different and a more optimistic mood now prevails in that State. The constituency for peace has expanded significantly.

There has also been a decline in incidents of terrorist violence in that State. Activities, however, of organisations like *Lashkar-e-Tayaaba* and *HarH Harkat-ul-Mujahedin* continue, resulting in most unfortunate and regrettable loss of innocent civilian lives, also of the personnel of our security forces. The Government remains firm in its resolve to combating these and other challenges, also to defeating their inhuman and nefarious designs.

There has been a recognisable decline too in attempts at cross-LoC and cross-IB infiltration of terrorists. This must cease entirely. The Government is committed to achieving this end.

Along the LoC, we have witnessed a marked improvement in incidents of exchange of fire. Relative peace has prevailed all along the LoC ever since my announcement of 19 November, barring some incidents in the early stages.

After careful consideration of all aspects, the Government has, therefore, taken a decision to extend the period of 'no initiation of combat operations' by another month. After the Republic Day, 2001, the Government will review the position again.

As the initiator of the dialogue process with Pakistan, India remains committed to it. The existence of a suitable environment for such a process is self-evidently necessary. As part of our continued commitment to the Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, the Government will initiate such exploratory steps as are considered necessary by it, so that the Composite Dialogue Process between the Governments of India and Pakistan could be resumed.

Let me inform the House that the Government's unwavering commitment to meeting the challenge of terrorism remains undiluted. Whereas we will continue to exercise maximum restraint in face of grave provocations, national interests will never be compromised.

I wish to assure the hon. Members that we remain steadfast in our commitment to restoring lasting peace and to enabling all our citizens from Jammu and Kashmir to join as equal partners in India's march to prosperity.

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...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the Motion to be moved by Shri Kariya Munda.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

12.08 hrs.

**ELECTION TO COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

श्री कड़िया मुण्डा (खूटी) : महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ -

" कि यह सभा राज्य सभा से सिफारिश करती है कि राज्य सभा इस सभा की अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कल्याण संबंधी समिति की शो अवधि के लिए चौधरी चुन्नीलाल के निधन के कारण रिक्त हुए स्थान पर समिति के साथ सहयोजित करने के लिए राज्य सभा से एक सदस्य को नाम-निर्देशित करने के लिए सहमत हो और राज्य सभा द्वारा इस प्रकार नाम-निर्दिष्ट सदस्य का नाम इस सभा को सुचित करे । "

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate one member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of the House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Chaudhary Chunni Lal died and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha."

The motion was adopted.

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...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record now.

(Interruptions) *

MR. SPEAKER: You have already started raising matters without my call for the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

*Not Recorded.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): I have given notices every day. I have given a notice each day, that is, the day before yesterday, yesterday and today. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up the 'Zero Hour' issues. Shri Sharad Pawar please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (BARAMATI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dasmunsi, he rarely raises any issue in the House. That is why I have called Shri Sharad Pawar. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue under rule 377. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (MIRYALGUDA): Sir, I have given notices under rule 184. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I have already called Shri Sharad Pawar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, he is raising a matter under rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he is raising a 'Zero Hour' issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Sir, the process of census is about to begin. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not Recorded.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Minister, you have maintained a guilty silence on the subject for the last three days. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, I am appealing to you. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): You have given a notice under rule 184 but have you got the consent of the hon. Speaker? If you have not been given the consent, how can you raise it here? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice has already been disallowed. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record because his notices have already been disallowed and it is not the correct practice to simply give notices and raise the matter in the House.

(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, is it not a serious matter? Serious allegations are made against a Constitutional authority and the Government is sitting quiet. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Pawar, are you raising a matter under rule 377? Or, are you raising a 'Zero Hour' matter?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : It is a 'Zero Hour' issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri Jaipal Reddy, let the hon. Speaker admit your notice and then we shall hear you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, how can you raise the matter without the matter being admitted?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Being a senior Member, you are supposed to know that you have to address only the Chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, the hon. Minister of Law and Justice cannot answer this because it is not on the record. He has said that it is not on the record. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): It is on the file of the Minister of Law and Justice. He knows everything. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: You have yourself said that there is nothing on the record. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister cannot say anything without the notice being admitted.

...(*Interruptions*)