

Title: Regarding unilateral non-initiation of combat operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

(Mr. Speaker *in the Chair*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): As hon. Members would recollect, Rashtrapatiiji during his address to the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament had given voice to the Government's approach to the whole question of Jammu and Kashmir.

...(Interruptions)

श्री जे.एस.बराड़ (फरीदकोट) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बिल्कुल गलत बात है। 58 हजार सिख परिवार वहां से हिजरत करके आ रहे हैं, यह बहुत ही सीरियस मामला है। वहां उनकी इज्जत सुरक्षित नहीं है, उनके बच्चों की जान सुरक्षित नहीं है। Æ€¡(व्यवधान) It is a very serious matter.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह ठीक नहीं है, आप बैठिये।

Æ€¡(व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He had then, amongst other things, shared with the hon. Members of Parliament that:

"The Government is pursuing a multi-pronged strategy to bring peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. As part of this, it launched a major peace mission on November 19, 2000, by announcing a unilateral non-initiation of combat operations in the State during the holy month of Ramzan. This bold initiative was extended twice up to February 26, 2001. As anticipated, this was warmly welcomed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who are longing for an end to militancy and violence in their beautiful State.

* Not Recorded

The international community has also given overwhelming support, because it sees in it yet another demonstration of India's sincere commitment to a peaceful and permanent solution to the Kashmir issue."

Rashtrapatiiji had also then informed the hon. Members that:

"Militancy in Jammu and Kashmir is now increasingly confined to foreign mercenary groups. This has widened the scope for democratic activity in the State. The people of the State participated enthusiastically in the recent Panchayat elections. I reiterate the Government's readiness to have talk with every group in the State that abjures violence. "

The Government has decided to pursue this path by initiating talks with various groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government has seriously addressed the question of continuing with the peace process and further extending the period of non-initiation of combat operation by our security forces. In this regard, the Government has benefited by the detailed briefing of and consultations with all political parties that it had on February 21, 2001.

Having examined all aspects of the question in its totality, the Government has decided to further extend the period up till the end of May. Let this opportunity not be missed by all those that desire peace, for our patience is not infinite.

I wish to make it abundantly clear that the peace process is only for those that wish to benefit from it. We will not let this process be derailed, diluted or misused. For such organisations or elements, as have vowed to disrupt the peace process, or intend to continue with violence and the killing of innocents in Jammu and Kashmir, my message is unequivocal and clear. If you inflict injury on any Indian citizen in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, or elsewhere, or commit any act of violence or terrorism, then the security forces have clear instructions to act decisively to defeat such intentions and law and order shall be maintained. Those who think that our security forces are less determined today to put an end to terrorism are only deluding themselves.

It is my hope that Pakistan will act, even now, and abjure violence, give up their continuous hostile propaganda against India, stop promoting and aiding cross-border terrorism, take the path of peace through bilateral talks as enshrined in the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, thus creating a conducive atmosphere so that the

comprehensive dialogue process can be resumed resulting in a lasting solution to the problems.

The process of peace is to enable our citizens in Jammu and Kashmir to live peacefully. It is their voice that has to be heard, not of the militants or foreign mercenaries.

Peace is our objective, to peace and dialogue we remain committed because that, above all, is what the people of Jammu and Kashmir need most.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 7 -- Shri Narayan Datt Tiwari.

...(Interruptions)

श्री जे.एस.बराड़ (फरीदकोट) : सिख परिवार अपने घर छोड़कर भाग रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

वहां सिख मारे जा रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. There is no practice in the House to raise questions after the Statement.

...(Interruptions)

कुंवर अखिलेश सिंह (महाराजगंज, उ.प्र.) : देश के किसान मर रहे हैं। (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइए। हमने टीवी में भी देखा, आप सुबह से हाउस को डिस्टर्ब कर रहे हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Sir, I would just like to make a demand for a discussion on the Jammu and Kashmir matter at a proper time because it is a very important issue and we would like to have a discussion on this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri J.S. Brar, please take your seat. The Government has already replied.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Sir, it is a very serious matter....(Interruptions)

सर, सिक्कोरिटी फोर्सिस में जो टरबन पहने हुए हैं, उन सबको खतरा पैदा हो गया है। उनकी सिक्कोरिटी का कोई इन्तजाम नहीं किया गया है। इस प्रकार का खतरा 140 गांवों में है। उनकी सिक्कोरिटी के बारे में आज तक क्या किया गया है? (व्यवधान)