

>

Title : Indo-Pak joint statement issued in Sharm-El-Sheikh by the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance. It is relating to the joint Statement issued at the end of two-hour meeting between both the Heads of Government of India and Pakistan on the sidelines of the NAM summit at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt, which is very extraordinary. Its contents, language and spirit are at odds. This Government has gone back on its position that it will pause the composite dialogue till there was credible action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai carnage.

The submission of an updated status dossier on the investigation does not constitute 'credible action'. What has Pakistan done? What action have they taken? Have we forgotten the massive explosion at the Indian Embassy in Kabul last July? Why did you withdraw from the bilateral dialogue with Pakistan? You wanted Islamabad to move against the perpetrators of Mumbai carnage. And now, you come out with a Joint Statement saying: 'Action on terrorism should not be linked to the composite dialogue process'. This is dramatic reversal. What prompted you to do so?

Detaching dialogue from acts of terrorism is as clear a commitment as anyone not to stall official conversation as a matter of principle, no matter how grave the provocation is. Would another Mumbai is to be taken by India in its stride? It is one thing to believe that the dialogue is the only way forward, and quite another to ensure that the dialogue takes place in a context that is optimized to produce results. This India-Pakistan dialogue goes back to mid-1990s and has become conversation that leads nowhere. Then, why do you resume it just to hurt ourselves?

Then, you have a reference to Baluchistan. Our conduct is an open book, says the Prime Minister. But when there is no credible report of any Indian sponsored activity in that province of Pakistan, why should you allow it to be discussed? It is a grave blunder. It will open up Pandora's box, as was done in 1947-48 by sending the Kashmir issue to the United Nations. It will open up Pandora's box. Pakistan is complaining of the size of our Mission in Afghanistan, our *locus standi* there and indeed everywhere. Should we draw ourselves to discuss those matters?

The Prime Minister should have exercised prudence. Sadly it has not been done. Indian diplomacy was found wanting in preventing false assertions that has crept into the joint statement. This document stands witness to an amateurishness of India's much vaunted diplomacy.

**श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना):** अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। ...(व्यवधान) आपने जिन लोगों को फर्स्ट प्रायोरिटी दिया था, आपने उन्हें छोड़कर बाकी लोगों को बुला लिया। ...(व्यवधान)

**अध्यक्ष महोदया :** आप बैठ जाइए। मैं आपको बताती हूँ। पहले इनको बोलने दीजिए।