

Title : Myanmar's attempt to acquire or build nuclear weapons with the help of D.P.R. Korea.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI : Madam Speaker, there are credible reports which are emanating out of respected think-tanks around the world that the Republic of Myanmar is allegedly seeking the assistance of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for a clandestine Nuclear Weapons Programme. It would be worth pointing out that Myanmar is a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty as well as the Safeguards Protocol of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Information which is available in the public space, including satellite imagery, suggests that extensive tunneling, almost 800 kilometres of tunneling and excavation, which is usually associated with preparations for an underground nuclear test, are being carried out in Myanmar with the active assistance of engineers from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Recently, there were reports that a freighter from North Korea, which was bound for Myanmar, had to turn back when it was shadowed by certain international ships because there was an apprehension that it was carrying nuclear-related material.

You are aware that D.P.R. Korea's Nuclear Programme has been a destabilizing factor in East Asia. But what is really very worrying from our point of view is the known historical link between Pakistan and D.P.R. Korea. In fact, D.P.R. Korea has been a net beneficiary of the Nuclear Wal-Mart which was being run by A.Q. Khan. In fact, this is one of the biggest travesties of justice that A.Q. Khan, who is probably the single biggest proliferator, and one of the persons who is responsible for destabilizing international security has never been brought to justice. It is my apprehension that now he is out of jail.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI : Madam Speaker, I will conclude in two minutes.

It is a great travesty that now that man is out of jail, that this particular network of his, which was allegedly supposed to have been wound up, has now become active once again. From India's point of view, you have China, which is a nuclear-weapon State up in the north; you have Pakistan which is a *de facto* nuclear weapon State in the west. If reports about Myanmar are true, it is indeed a very worrying specter which is appearing on the regional horizon. Even Secretary Clinton, after she left India and went to Thailand, has flagged this as a very important issue from the proliferation point of view.

My only request to the Government of India is that if these reports are emanating, and if these reports are correct, the Government of India should just be cognizant about them.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Hari Manjhi – not present.

Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey.