

12.00 hrs.

RE. TRANSFER OF ROCKET TECHNOLOGY FROM RUSSIA

[English]

(*Interruption*)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY
(Jagatsinghpur); We have given a notice.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please one by one.

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY: We want a discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

Our Government is proposing joint naval exercise with U.S.A (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES
(Muzzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker Sir, one such issue was raised in the house a few days back, when a part of the Pentagon papers was published in American newspapers which brought into focus two things. I would like to place the same before the House. The first thing was, I am quoting their words, the words of these documents;

[English]

"We must maintain our status as a military power of the first magnitude in the area. This will enable the U.S. to continue to contribute.

MR. SPEAKER: No quoting please. You can give a gist of it. You can avoid quoting it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I am quoting merely two things from those documents to emphasise that this is a very seri-

ous matter. We should understand the gravity of the problem. The question of the country's security is linked with it.

[English]

"We must maintain our status as a military power of the first magnitude in the area. This will enable the U.S. to continue to contribute to regional security and stability by acting as a balancing force and prevent emergency of a vacuum or a regional hegemon in regard to Asia.

[*Translation*]

The document also clarifies as to who is the regional hegemon.

[English]

"We should discourage Indian hegemonic aspirations over the other states in South Asia and on the Indian Ocean.....

MR. SPEAKER: Not within the quotes.

[*Translation*]

I shall not quote further. I am presenting two issues before you. These have been going on for the last 2 1/2-3 months as first issue came up in February when the foreign minister of America went to Russia and told his Russian counterpart Andre Kozare that their agreement for transfer of Rocket technology with India.

[English]

This has created serious problem in US-Russian relations.

[*Translation*]

The agreement on transfer of Rocket Technology to India is proving hurdle in the relations between U.S.A. and Russia. And further James Baker says to his Russian counterpart that if they did not immediately scrap this deal.....

[English]

U.S. might impose trade sanctions against Russia.

[Translation]

It happened in the month of February. On 6th March in Brussels the U.S. Secretary of state again says to the foreign minister of Russia that they have not done anything so far in this matter and if they did not take immediate action in this regard.....

[English]

Then U.S. may reconsider the idea of trade sanctions.

[Translation]

It means when the issue was first taken up by U.S.A. With Russia they must have got some assurance from Russia and when that assurance was not fulfilled then they told them in clear terms on 6th March in Brussels that they will again have to think in terms of imposing sanctions against Russia. Then on 23rd March the ambassador of Russia to Washington was called to the U.S. Foreign office by the Secretary of state Mr. James Baker. He was told there by Mr. Baker that they were to scrap the Rocket technology transfer deal with India otherwise they will have to face the consequences.

The matter did not end there. It was taken to Moscow. In Moscow, the Deputy foreign minister of Russia went to the American embassy in the 3rd March, and again on 7th March and he tried to make them understand that this was an agreement in which some changes could be made, and they should not put pressure upon them in this way to scrap the deal. But the consular and not the Ambassador, told the Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia, and this was a very important sentence.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, everybody should respect the details which you have collected,

but then you know there are some technical difficulties. We are using them as if we have full knowledge about it. If you can avoid it, it is better.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have quoted from the "Pentagon" papers in which it has been alleged that India has hegemonic designs which needed to be checked. I have not quoted further as per your orders. It also refers to our nuclear programme and U.S.A.'s opinion about India's anticipated role in South Asia. I have not quoted it fully. When you allow a detailed discussion on this subject in this august House, I shall definitely present it before you. But today, I only want to put forth these things clearly. These two incidents are very recent. One incident is that we were in favour a giving rice to Cuba as this country had requested us to give them one lakh tonnes of rice. Ultimately their demand came down to 10 thousand tonnes to which we agreed. In these circumstances, America has threatened us with dire consequences if we send rice to Cuba. I know it that rice is not going to be sent to Cuba ultimately.

In the second incident U.S.A warned Russia against the transfer of rocket technology to India. This technology we needed for the promotion of our space programmes and for defence purposes. America threatened Russia that it will break all relations with that country if it did not stop giving this technology to India. I do not want to comment on as to whether Russia will be in a position to break those relations in view of its position today.

I would request you not to link this matter with the discussion Defence and External Affairs Ministries demands America has gone to the extent of interfering into the security matters of our country. We had a tough time earlier also. We have faced all odds without assistance of America. This country has survived without any help from U.S.A. At the time of Bangladesh war America had threatened to send its naval force. We had not yielded at that time. We showed the U.S.A its right place. Today, after a gap of

twenty long years America has once again threatened India. If we yield, what will be our position in this area? About this America says that our country is a hegemonic..... it wants to rule the world by its hegemony. America wants to dominate and intervene into issues such as India's relationship with its neighbours and our developmental activities. As such please do not link the matters of defence and security with External Affairs. It is a question of India's relations with its neighbours and India's relations with U.S.A. It is a matter of future of our country and security of our country. Both these issues are interlinked with each other. In view of this I would request you to hold a discussion on this subject in this august House. For the first and last time, we would urge the government to warn America against any kind of intervention in our defence, security and developmental matters. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (*Panskura*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days back Mr. Yeltsin, the President of Russia told their Parliament that the two-million dollar contract on the rocket transfer technology between U.S.S.R. and India would be suspended. This has caused very widespread dissatisfaction in our country and most rightly so. We have also noticed that *Comsomol Kaya Pravda* has disapproved this declaration of Mr. Yeltsin. Therefore, I take it that all Russians also do not agree with Mr. Yeltsin's stance.

Now, in this connection, I would not repeat what has been said by my esteemed colleague Shri George Fernandes about Mr. James Baker. But I would like to tell another thing.

Let it also be recalled that last year General Dynamics of U.S.A prepared a blueprint for Pentagon which wanted that India's nuclear and space research centres should be destroyed. This news was reported in the *Telegraph* in India. But India's Ambassador to U.S.A was reported to have said that a mountain was being made out of a molehill thereby he at least conceded that there was

some molehill. But it seems now that it is not really a molehill but a mountain, from what is being done now. Russia is being threatened straightway that they either cancel our deal or U.S. aid to Russia will be cancelled. It is upto them to decide their things. But it is upto us to decide our things.

In this background of inimical attitude of U.S.A towards India, all along the line, why should India go along with the proposed joint exercises for Defence and also why should India give America the authority to use the Andaman and Visakapatnam ports? I do not think that our patriotic Indians like it very much. I would like that this House make a unanimous condemnation of this attitude of America. I would also like that our Government should make their feelings quite clear to America, if they are consistent with our feelings, that whole country's feelings that this cannot go on. This is my submission. Thank you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (*Chittorgarh*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reports that have appeared about the intervention by the Government of United States of America with the Government of the Federation of Russia amount to an interference in the efforts and endeavours being made by India in the field of space research. I would not necessarily call India's space research effort, or qualify it as a military effort. I will also not go into the technology or the technique involved in the booster engine that is being sought. There are two or three principles that are involved. For the Government of the U.S.A. to decide what is right or what is wrong for this sub-continent, for India or for anywhere in the world, is an affirmation of principle that we, in the B.J.P., totally reject. The concept of a unipolar world, the world dominated by the wishes and desires of the Government of the United States of America, is not acceptable to us. In that very same light, this effort by the government of the United States of America to pressurise the government of the Federation of Russia to take one or another step in respect of peaceful space research in which India is engaged is another kind of an example of that very variety. So, my difficulty is with the response of the Government of

India. I do submit, and I submit it in humility that nations that bear great name as India does, great nations do not complain on small incidents every time. Let this Government stand up and say that whether be it the space research programme of India, be it the missile programme of India, be it the question of nuclear non-proliferation treaty because they all are part of the same, theme and every such endeavour, the Government of India shall pursue keeping alone only Indian aims and Indian interests irrespective of what pressure, what difficulties of what hurdles are created by whatever country. We shall persist with these programmes with them, without them, despite them. It is this kind of categorical and clear statement of policy that is required from the Government of India in respect of issues that affect national interests, national technological endeavors and often endeavours, whether they are in space, in fields of missile or in fields of nuclear energy, all of which are oriented towards peaceful development, the Government should have no difficulty whatsoever in coming forward with such a categorical and clear enunciation of policy. That is my request, Sir, that in this particular light, in the light of what has appeared in the newspapers, it is incumbent on the Government of India to have come forwards today on its own and to have clarified what the position is. That is my demand. Thank you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (*Dumdum*): Sir, already much has been said. This news is just one more evidence to show that there is an attempt to transform this world into a unipolar one by certain major steps. We know already, as has been referred to, that the pressure is on so that no rice is sent to Cuba, and there are other evidences also. I will not elaborate on this. What I will just desire or demand of the government is. How do the Government propose to respond to this threat of transforming this entire arc as a hegemonistic area for one particular power? Have the Government already protested against it? Have the Government taken the Parliament into confidence about what is going on regarding this technological transfer? Have the Government tried to mobilise the Third

World countries that such a tendency, such a threat is emanating from a particular State and all the Third World countries must unite against that? Instead of that, Sir, we discover that the Government in stony silence is not even giving facts about what is happening. On their own they are not coming before the Parliament. I, therefore, through you, Sir, desire three things; (i) The Government should come out immediately with a statement indicating what the real situation is about this technological transfer; (ii) in case this has happened, the Parliament must unanimously pass a Resolution condemning this act of that foreign power which is interference in the relations between two countries; and (iii) There should be an appeal from this Parliament to all the Third World countries to resist such pressure in future. This is what devolves on us, Sir, as a duty to the world and to our country.

SHRI A. CHARLES (*Trivandrum*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this issue, we, on this side of the House, are equally concerned. This is not a political issue and I feel that the whole House is unanimous on this issue. We are very much concerned because the disintegration of the Soviet Union has its own effects and the most affected country, unfortunately, is our country. We thought that the soviet Commonwealth will look after it. The happenings that are going on for the last two or three days in Russia are also very sad and quite unfortunate. The whole position is fluid. I do not know whether this is the most appropriate time for a detailed discussion. I also want the Government of India certainly to come forward and keep this august House informed of what is happening there, especially at a time when the Chairman of our Space Commission is already there with the senior officers for a consultation. They are in Russia now and Russia's position is not known. But we are sure of one thing. Under no circumstances, this country will yield to any of the pressures from any country which may be either United States of America or any other powerful country. On no account, we are going to subordinate ourselves or yield to the pressures. But, in this space programme, very unfortunately, our main link has been with the former Soviet Union all along.

Sir, I have one difference of opinion with the proposal made by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, because the total concept is changing. We do not know what will happen tomorrow in the whole world. I may not be misunderstood. I am not for a tie-up with the United States of America in any way, but under the changing circumstances, the Government of India should look into the whole matter and take appropriate action so that the interests of our country is protected, our space programme, our defence programme and the atomic energy programme, everything is taken care of and the country is protected.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter raised before you is different from the questions we raise daily. Mr. Speaker, Sir we have evidence to the effect that U.S.A. is pressuring Russia for not transferring technology to India for which we had entered into an agreement with our friendly nation Russia. Russia is being threatened by U.S.A. against transfer of such technology to India. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was hearing Charles Saheb. He explained excellently that it was an issue which concerns our entire country and Parliament. But I am raising a basic question. The Secretary of Space Organisation Shri Rao has gone to Russia. Shri George has expressed his opinion before you and Parliament along with evidence that how this matter has been taken in America and Russia. The fact is that Mr. Collins from the American side informed the Russian Officials that this decision was taken at the Secretary of State level and America had taken a stand on this top level. In the presence of everyone in this august House, I would like to ask as to what is our level? Is our level only upto Mr. Rao's or upto the Secretary of space? I would like to thank the Private Members of Russian Parliament and I deliberately want to name the Members, such as Mr. Vitale Seva Staenov who is a former cosmonaut, who has expressed concern about us and has said that the friendly relations between India and Russia should not be allowed to be spoiled. I would like to name another person, Alexander

Vasileov who is a renowned journalist. He says:

[*English*]

If the contract with India is annulled, it would be a big blow to the prestige of Russia as reliable partner in space cooperation, unlike France and China, it would have failed to resist the Washington dictat.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know in which world we are living? We will not be able to conduct test firing of missiles such as 'Agni'. It will pose a threat to our Space research programmes. I would like to remind the House about the shameful statement made by our Prime Minister when the coup took place in Russia. The Prime Minister had then admitted that he should not have made such a statement. The functioning of Ministry of External Affairs is linked with the security of the country.....(*Interruptions*) and the Government is not implementing it properly. Therefore, it is the question of country's independence and security. Shri Saifuddin Choudhury and I myself had raised the matter about the arrest of the Chairman of Union Carbide, Shri Anderson. Newspapers reports have created many doubts whether Mr. Anderson is going to appear in court as directed by Majesty of Law. You are aware of the fact that thousands of people lost their lives in the Union Carbide mishap. Instead of giving them compensation the Union Carbide is threatening to sell the existing factory in India. The arrogant language being spoken by U.S.A can not be called a diplomatic nicety I would request you not to club this issue with the discussion on External Affairs Ministry. Please call the leaders of opposition and the ruling party in your chamber. U.S.A. is pressuring our friendly country Russia against transfer of technology to India and this is a very serious issue. This is a question of our Sovereignty, independence and security. Shri Fernandes has pointed out that it is a question which is above party politics and it should be dealt with in a proper manner.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this relates to the dignity of the country. If it is true that America is exerting pressure on third world countries, so this House will have to take this issue seriously. In today's newspaper I read a report in which a Spokesman has said that no information has been received from Russia so far. It seems from news paper reports that the Government of United States of America have exerted pressure on Russia to scrap the agreement on transfer of space technology signed with India. The Government should give a clarification in this regard. It is not a problem of any particular party, but it is a question affecting dignity and security of the country. The Government should state in clear terms that it is true that America wants to exert pressure which amounts to violation of dignity of the country. It should be condemned by all members.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir when my friend Shri George Fernandes raised this, issue, in the beginning of Questions Hour, I thought that this subject will be discussed later on. Today, we are going to discuss the demands of the Ministry of External Affairs. But this question is very important. Since you have allowed a discussion, I would also like to participate in it. We shall have to understand the reality that followed the cold war and disintegration of the Soviet Union.

If you remember, last time I said that America is not a super power but it has become a supreme power. The U.S. wants its dictate to run throughout the World. This intention of America applies in all the spheres whether it is the question of N.P.T. or that of "Agni" or it relates to the assistance which we require from Soviet Russia for our space programme. The policy of America has always been discriminatory towards India and it is not following an impartial policy at all. We have developed atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Atom Bomb has been made in our neighbouring country, but the Washington is silent about it. Why? America is silent not only on the question of atomic bomb developed by our neighbour but its policy is dis-

crimatory on the question of terrorism. Also, America wants two Libyans who are alleged to be responsible for exploiting the U.S. plane by bomb and for this purpose, it is using the Security Council of the United Nations as a tool. This incident also speaks of the reality of the international situation and forewarns of the forthcoming crises. But our neighbouring country left no stone unturned to endanger the unity and integrity of our country with the help of terrorism. America has the knowledge of the centres where terrorists are being trained and from where arms are being supplied to them, but it is not ready to apply the desired pressure on Pakistan. My submission is that there is a need to evolve a consensus on this issue.

I was going through a statement of the Prime Minister. In an interview he said that there was no general consensus on the issue of N.P.T. But I think that there is a general consensus that India should not sign the N.P.T. Not only because N.P.T. is discriminatory but it is also necessary in view of the situation created after the end of the cold war, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the evolution of U.S.A. as a supreme power. N.P.T. does not reply to these queries.

No country has made atomic weapons recently except our neighbouring country about which USA is not bothered. America is not bothered about Israel also, but it is very much bothered about us. And we are concerned about the proliferation of atomic weapons. Atomic weapons have reached many a country because of disintegration of the Soviet Union. It is not known where these weapons are kept and under whose control they are. Nobody knows these facts. America does not bother about the vertical proliferation of these weapons. If any new country develops it, America will get disturbed because it will lose its monopoly of having nuclear weapons. Keeping in view the situation prevailing in the whole world, if chemical and biological weapons can be discussed, why can't atomic weapons be discussed in the context of the whole world. N.P.T. does not reply to all these questions.

In view of the prevailing situation in today's world, there should be a new international agreement which may stop such proliferation and simultaneously, it may agree with the needs of the development of atomic energy. But we are being pressurised, and we shall have to combat such kind of pressure. So the country has to develop its own capacity. It is not a question for which we may have a little discussion and then approve the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. Later on, when anything relating to it appears in the newspapers, we would demand for adjournment of the Question. Hour. Then we would emphasize the immediate discussion on the issue. My friend Shri Jaswant ji was right in saying that such superficial reaction is not good. I was listening while sitting behind. This problem should be considered in depth. We should develop a psyche of the country and while developing this psyche, we should have the courage and feelings to face the challenges which may come in our way of freedom and sovereignty. We should have the firm will to face these challenges collectively. Keeping in view all these things, I was of the opinion that there would be a discussion on this issue and the Prime Minister would also join. There is no Minister for External Affairs at present. This Government is running without an External Affairs Minister. But the Prime Minister ought to have been here. He is the leader of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious problem. That is why I wanted a regular discussion on it. I have no objection. I am not tempted to raise a question during the Zero Hour. Shri George Fernandes has his own way of

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai): He is always present when there is a discussion.....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that Mr. George has raised a very important issue. It is not an ordinary question. In fact it is a question related to the whole international situation and all the same it is related to our situation too. If a psyche of the country is developed

in it, it will have its impact. America is a democratic country, and if all the Indians will speak in unison our voice would be heard in Washington and the U.S. shall have to listen to our voice. May be it may not apply to other countries, but we should form a consensus before we speak together in unison.

If I say that India should make an atom bomb, Then? Pakistan has already developed it, why don't we? We should develop an atom bomb and be ready to sign N.P.T. China has already made the atom bomb and she is ready to sign the N.P.T. The country which makes the bomb, signs the N.P.T.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): We should have developed it much earlier.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: If you had agreed with us. I have been saying so right from the beginning. But later on when I became the External Affairs Minister I felt that instead of making an atomic bomb, if we can develop a world without arms it would really be a great step, an appreciable step. We will do what we can for our self-defence. But it is a matter of regret that we are not able to move ahead in the direction of creating a world without arms. The attitude of the U.S.A is to look at the problem in fragments. I was in the United Nations. It was demanded that South Asia should be a nuclear free zone. What is the connotation of South Asia? Now Pakistan also has included herself in the list of the countries that have made nuclear bombs. Iran is trying for it. Nepal may be included in South Asia. Nepal will be a nuclear free zone country. Then what will be the consequences of the Missiles which are already fixed in Tibet? China is not being included. Asia is not taken as a whole. There is a pick and choose policy. But I remember when covering any area of America into a nuclear free zone came under discussion, the American representative said that it was an arbitrary decision. It was also said that people were not consulted. When the issue of pacific was raised, America voted against it and used its veto power. If we had voted against, so many allegations would have been levelled against us. There are different

yardsticks for measuring the atomic crisis. A discriminatory attitude is being meted out to us and it will continue unless we resolve to form a consensus to combat the situation that is all I had to say.

[English]

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling). Mr. Speaker, Sir, we, on this side of the House, are equally gravely concerned following the publication of yesterday's newspaper report that the technology transfer has been suspended. But we have to take notice of one other factor that an official spokesman of the Government of India yesterday denied that any such suspension had taken place. Therefore, I feel very strongly that the Government should ascertain facts both from Moscow and from Washington and should come forward with a statement on this particular issue because it raises very grave points. I do not think we should really go entirely by newspaper report even as I belong to the media myself. I think we should be very clear about the facts. We should take the earliest opportunity to seek the facts from Moscow and find out from Washington as to what is the truth. Rightly true, we all responded very strongly and very sharply against earlier reports that the State department had talked in terms of hegemonistic designs of India, which was entirely and anti-Indian attitude, according to us. Therefore, certain clarifications were made. Therefore, I would conclude by saying that we should get the facts, we should ask the Government to come forward and make a statement on this particular matter.

One last point and I would have done. (Interruptions) My friend, I am totally against knee-jerk reaction. I think, we as a mature nation, should avoid the knee-jerk reaction. Our reaction should always be based on hard facts. We should first get them. This is a very serious issue, a very grave issue and I do think that there ought to be a discussion on this particular matter rather than linking it up with the discussions on the Demands for Grants of the External Affairs Ministry. Likewise, as Atalji said very appropriately, NPT is another issue, and it is really linked with this particular issue in view of our attitude to

the peaceful development of nuclear energy. I think, these are issues which need to be debated very clearly and it is important that we have a national viewpoint on this and the national viewpoint has to be very clear that we shall not allow our national interest to be pressurised by anybody. We shall all together stand up against this and assert what is in the best national interest of our country.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): I do not know whether Mr. Yeltsin has already given the order for cancellation of this agreement or not. That is for the Government to tell us. But one thing is clear that the Russian Government is under pressure from the United States Government. And this act of USA is totally unfriendly act towards India. We have to respond to this act in that manner. That is why, I demand that the Government must come in this House and make its position clear. What right USA has to interfere in the bilateral relations of two other countries? Have they become the guardian of the world over? Do they want to have the monopoly of the science and technology, everything and this kind of arrogance? Now we talk much of the end of cold war. Have they learnt any lesson? It is very good that some people in Russia also have raised their voice against this kind of surrender to US pressure by the Yeltsin Government. It would have been very good for the world, the humanity if we had a Government in Russia which would deny or refuse to surrender to US pressures. But this new situation demands that while we raise our voice against this kind of interference, this kind of unfriendly meddling into the affairs of bilateral relations between two country, I demand that we also undertake activities to mobilise people in the third world countries, people who are peace-loving, who are progress oriented to rally raise their voice unitedly and resist the pressure in this new world situation. In this regard, I also think, it necessary to make it clear to the USA that we are not going to succumb to their pressure. (Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: We have succumbed in the case of Cuba.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: That is why, as a matter of token, this is very important, I do not know if the USA continuously pursue their unfriendly act towards our country. why should we go into joint naval exercise with US, I do not know. Many days ago, in this House, we demanded that this joint naval exercises should be cancelled. What for are we doing this? Against whom are we doing this? Have we take into consideration the kind of reaction that the neighbourhood countries will be having about this? It is a very serious matter. I also agree with everybody that a piecemeal discussion on this matter will not help us at all. Many things are related to this. We demanded that there has to be a fuller discussion in respect of Indo-US relations in this changing world situation. That is why, while the parliament as the leading legislative body of this country, we must express our condemnation of this kind of interference, the most unfriendly way of doing things, we must also take some measure that will make our position clear that morally, we stand firm and not allow any surrender of our sovereignty in the independent pursuit of our knowledge, technology and our security. This is what we demand and the Government must also respond positively, to it.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Sir, the House has expressed its unanimous concern about the America pressure not only on the Russian Federation, but they are also putting pressure on us. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry who explained the situation that the contract has not been suspended, in the same statement, he also said that when our Foreign Secretary, Shri Dixit was in Washington for talks with the U.S. Administration, at that time, he was also told that "you should not proceed with your research and development in Space Technology". Therefore, they are already putting pressure on us also. What we are concerned is about the Government's approach towards this issue. On one hand, you enter into a naval exercise in Indian Ocean with the United States of America should not put pressure on you. I think this is a very contradictory position. the impression which is going on now is that we

are already succumbing, we are surrendering and we are losing our friends also -our friends who stood by us for the last four and a half decades on all international issues and helping us on our own national interest.

On a country like Cuba - the Minister was sitting here for a week - the Government made a statement that they are not going to succumb, it is still under consideration and we have our own problems. Ultimately what happened? The Government backed out. They did not supply rice because of the American pressure. The American pressure is already on. It is not just an ordinary issue. I do not know whether the House will find time to discuss the Defense Ministry Grants. It concerns our sovereignty, it affects our security and more than that, it affects the right of an independent nation, to manage its own affairs.

We are surrounded by countries who have already got nuclear bombs, atom bombs. They are proceeding with that. And the United States of America has the honesty to tell us "do not proceed with your research and development programme". And they themselves- their President- make a statement that on the question of Star Wars - the research and technology to launch a Star War- they say that they will not suspend it; they will continue with it. This is like an International Police. This behavior of United States of America is like of an International Police asking other independent sovereign countries "do not do this; do this, otherwise we will put pressure". we know that our economic situation is in difficulty. But does it mean that we will surrender our sovereignty and we will bargain with our independence? If a small country like Cuba, in the very neighbourhood of United States of America can stand up and that we will not succumb to your pressure, how about a country like India? Our weakness will not only be our weakness but it will be the weakness of the entire third world. All non-aligned countries those who are looking to us with some kind of hope and optimism, what will happen to those countries?

Therefore, it is a very serious matter.

Sir, you in keeping the desire of the House, kindly ask the Government and the Prime Minister must come out and make a statement - a policy statement - on this issue on what is happening and what will be our position? This is my request.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, it is not the question of suspending or cancelling or not cancelling a particular agreement between India and former Soviet Union. As we have mentioned on many occasions in the past and you are also very much a witness to the fact that of late, India along with other third world countries are being increasingly subjected to arms-twisting, blackmailing and bullying by the United States of America. The reason is very simple and that simple reason is that with the collapse of the Soviet Union the United States of America has decided to carry on with its global strategy. That strategy is meant for establishing its hegemony all over the world. In order to fulfil their global strategy they utilise not only their military strength and other diplomatic strength, but also economic levers. In these circumstances as in India we know that we are to defend our own sovereignty, we have to defend our own independence.

Of late, as has been pointed out here, our Government is reported to have entered into an Indo-US long term military cooperation. I do not know what is really understood by long term military cooperation between United States of America and India. But it is obvious that the intention is to dovetail our military strategy with the global military strategy of the United States of America. That will be as if our country is a client of the United States of America, even in the case of Defense interest of this nation. Therefore this increasing tendency of the United States of America for establishing its own particular world order is to be resisted and resisted firmly and forcefully.

In this context I want to request the Central Government that it is time to review the Indo-US long term military cooperation. We should review our decision regarding the joint naval exercise. We had a very close military relationship. Defense relationship

with the USSR earlier. In spite of that fact there had been no joint military exercise between India and Soviet Union. Therefore I think the Government should review this. That is necessary particularly in view of the fact that after the acceptance of the economic restructuring programme as dictated by IMF and the World Bank, our sovereignty political and economic has been subjected to pressure. In these circumstances it is the desire of the entire House that the Government makes a statement in order to clarify its position, whether in the circumstance we should proceed on the present policy of improving the relations with the United States of America.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue being discussed today is very important and is a matter of great concern. The subject has been taken up during the Zero Hour. It is very good. But before holding the discussion, the Government should collect all the facts in this regard. Personally I feel that Parliament should have a discussion not only on this topic but it should have a closed door discussion on economic, political and geographic situation also. Then alone the people of the country would be able to know the real position. Therefore, it is very important to hold a discussion by providing a definite time because it can't be discussed at length in the Zero Hour.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, therefore, feel that the discussion on this topic be concluded now, and I would like to draw the attention of the House to another subject.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore): While agreeing fully what my colleagues on this side and also that side of the House said sentiments though rather muted, the sentiments were more or less the same - I welcome the fact that the Parliament is seized of this matter to an extent where

proposals are already being made that we should evolve some method of making the voice of the Parliament as a whole heard. Sir, you are the custodian of this House. We are addressing you now because the Prime Minister is not here. You have heard both sides of the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I speak for the House and not for the Government.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): He speaks for the country also, sometimes.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, the point is that I am worried about two things. One is that this House is being kept in the dark for which you should be worried about. The Parliament, as sovereign House of this country, is not supposed to be kept in the dark. Whatever the Government has to say, it must come and say here. We do not appreciate statements being made outside the House always. In Tirupathi recently, we have had professions of determination to defend our sovereignty at all costs, and so on. (*interruptions*) Very welcome. But, it must be followed up. The statement is not enough. (*Interruptions*) I am not the Government. Do you think that I am the Government already? (*Interruptions*) This gap between profession and practice is there - there is the refusal of the Government to take the House into confidence, whether it is on this matter or - I would say, even very serious, in a way - on the long term defense cooperation or understanding that we have made with the USA. Our Defense Minister has been talking about this on his visit to the USA, but he does not say a word here, in this House. This is a very strange thing. As Members of this House, we also belong to a sovereign Parliament. We have some self-respect; I presume, the whole House has some honour. It cannot be dealt with in this fashion; in insulting fashion, I should say. Therefore, things are coming to a breaking point now. I warn you, Sir. 'I' mean, the Government through you. It is no use, warning you. Things are coming to a

breaking point. This succession of sanctions and threats of sanctions is not going to spare us. There are sanctions against Libya, there are sanctions against Cuba, there are sanctions against Iraq to an extent where the Iraqi children are now during for lack of milk and medicine. Do you think that India will escape? Sanctions will be coming against us also, if we go on following this weak-kneed policy. Therefore Sir, I think it is of the greatest importance and urgency that you should at least make it known to the Government; and somebody from that side who is competent to talk about this matter - I do not think, it can be anybody than the Prime Minister - should come and tell us frankly and openly as to what exactly is going on, what is our stand and what we propose to do in this matter. It is most humiliating every day to read all these reports in the international Press and to see, at the same time, that we have been kept completely in the dark. So, such a statement must be made. otherwise, I feel that some developments will take place here in this Parliament also, which will perhaps be without precedent. When all Members of this House are agitated on this matter and rightly so, and the Government insists on keeping everything in the dark, this cannot be permitted to go on like this. Then, what is the use of the so-called parliamentary democracy, I would like to know.

So, please convey our feelings at least to the Government. Two, three Ministers are sitting here (*Interruptions*) Two Ministers are here; all of them are smiling; they are very happy with themselves. (*Interruptions*) In the real sense, if the pressure comes, we have to either stand firmly or to bend our knees. Then, this Parliament will have to take a decision. That decision must include the Government. If the House is divided on this issue - whether we should stand up to these threats or we should succumb - then, that will be the end of, I think, the international world, that will be the end of India.

SHRI INDER JIT: Why are you so pessimistic?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I Do not belong to the Media. So, I cannot go on writing

all kinds of things in a round about manner. I call a spade a spade. I call a spade a spade and if you did not like to do it, do not do it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT: You are doing it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, kindly get the sentiments of this House respected by the Government and let the Prime Minister come here. We are eager to hear him. He is the spokesman of the Government; he represents this country. He should come here and say quite openly and frankly as to what is our attitude and what is going on.

13.00 hrs.

It is not one incident only - this question of the rocket technology. There are so many things connected with it. And one after the other, the pressure is being mounted. I have no doubt that ultimately there will be a direct threat of sanctions - economic or trade sanctions - against us also. The threats have begun coming from a long time. But they have not been implemented yet.

If we go on the way we are going, I am afraid, we are going to be at the receiving end of this United States' pressure. It is something which has never happened in our history. It is not in our tradition. It is not in India a tradition of standing up to imperialist pressure and foreign - pressure. We should not now depart from that tradition and humiliate ourselves before the world.

So, please do something about it. We regard you as the custodian of the rights of this House. It is a right of the House to be told what is going on. Every paper is commenting on this fact now that you cannot get a word out of the Government. Everything is kept in the dark. There is a veil of secrecy over all these things. Is it good for the country? Is it good for the Parliament. leave it to you to judge, Sir.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: The Speaker of Russian Parliament is very powerful !

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We believe you have enough authority and enough power to see that the sentiments and needs of all the Members here are satisfied and that too, as soon as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a submission to you with any heavy heart. I would like to submit that I do not have any hope from this Government. I stopped pinning hope on this Government the day it started making new economic policies. Facts were concealed then and are also being concealed Now. A new Precedence is being set in this House, as Shri Vajpayee just now stated that this style of raising issues is undoubtedly of none other than Shri George Fernandes. I would like to know from you why do the Government, the hon. Minister of External Affairs and the Hon. Prime Minister maintain silence over an issue of national importance on being raised in this august House by a Member also widely covered by the newspapers all over the world and even debated in the Russian Parliament. I am a Member of Parliament not for long. But my many experienced friends are sitting on that side. They are of the opinion that this issue should not have been raised during the Zero hour. I would like to know from them the more opportune time when this Government is wide awake and not asleep? it is difficult to put on move a lax Government. You yourself have stated that you speak for Parliament and not for the Government.. (*Interruptions*). It is not the question of registering protest. I would like to know from you how could the discussion on such an important national issues be held in the Parliament ? We can understand the reason of maintaining silence if the pressure is being exerted on Russia or on some other country. But we fail to understand this silence when the whole issue is related with us. But, the Government should have definitely apprised the House of the facts, when the spokesman has already stated that the Foreign Secretary was asked to suspend these schemes, a thing widely reported by the newspapers the world one.

SHRI IDNRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore)
:The Government is dumb.

SHRICHANDRA SHEKHAR: This is not a dumb Government, but a Government laying in coma, because even a dumb can communicate through gestures. I do not know how long will the Government continue to remain in coma. I am not critical of the Government, but would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members of that side to the fact that when our spokesman announces the approval of the U.S. to conduct joint naval exercises with India, then newspapers try to colour it as a big achievement. This is also true in the fields of finance, foreign policy and defence and security. Just now an hon. Member remarked that it was also conducted in 1963 and 1965. Mr. Speaker, Sir, during those days the situation was much different from what it is today. Then U.S.A. was out to woo India to demonstrate to the whole world its friendliness with us but now it openly threatens us. I have submitted in this House earlier that it is just for the first time in the history of India that a lady representative of the foreign Government openly threatened the Indian Government right here in Delhi without even drawing any comments from the Ministers. The Hon. Prime Minister appears to be very valiant and strong in his statements in the newspapers. However, merely giving strong statements to the press won't suffice. The Government will have to show the concrete results of the work done by the Ambassadors and the diplomatic missions. Have they ever lodged any protest? We have been just told that the Government is collecting the information. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have also been a Minister for a long time and must be knowing that now-a-days it takes hardly 5 minutes to collect the information by the Government. All the missions abroad, whether it be the mission in Moscow or Washington, are keeping the Government abreast of the latest developments there, but even then the Government is maintaining stoic silence. However, the newspapers are reporting everything. I do not know what impression will the statement made by Shri George Fernandes and by the world over these statements are

sure to create an impression that the Indian Parliament has become just a theatre. Mr. Speaker, Sir, occasional humour is to be appreciated but Sir, let this House not turned into a pat form for the comedians. Sir, you should try to be the voice of the House compelling the Government to make its stand clear on such an important issue.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD): Sir, we appreciate the feelings of the hon. Members from both the sides, the Opposition as well as the Ruling Party. This is not an ordinary issue and this is a very important issue. I agree with some of my hon. friends that the facts about this matter have to be ascertained. We will keep the House informed. This is a very wide subject and this is not the concern of only one Ministry. But meanwhile, the Demands of External Affairs Ministry are going to be taken up immediately after this. I think care will be taken in this regard. I will also convey the sentiments of the hon. Members to the hon. Prime Minister, who as the Minister of External Affairs, might in turn, come before this House. The Minister of State for External Affairs is also here. We will be starting the debate on the Ministry's Demands immediately after lunch. And I will keep the Prime Minister also informed about this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): I am sorry that I came late. I did not know that this matter was coming up. I suppose the House is agitated over the news report about some difficulty with regard to rocket technology between the ISRO and the Russian organisation. Basically, this is a matter concerning the Department of Space and I am not in a position to answer immediately on all aspects. All I would like to say at this moment is that the Secretary, Department of Space is in Moscow to discuss this matter. The Demands of the Ministry are also coming up for discussion. If you ask me, I will make a statement as soon as he comes.