

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now the Hon. Prime Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, please.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Dalit woman was beaten mercilessly after calling her in the temple. The picture has also been published in the Newspaper. Mr. Speaker, Sir, its reply must be given...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, Please take your seat. Hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. The Home Minister will make a statement later.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today and tomorrow we have important items. Please understand it.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : Today, there is a discussion under Rule 193, at that time you can raise this point...(Interruptions).

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : There is no discussion. What you are saying is not true.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Buta Singh, please take your seat. We have to take up important items today. We have to discuss and complete them.

Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister should make a statement in this regard.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Today we are discussing the problems of SC/ST. Please take your seat.

11.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Recent Developments Affecting India's Foreign Policy — Contd.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Sangma made a request for a short duration discussion under Rule 193. I am here to reply to that discussion. This subject is related to Foreign Policy and Foreign Policy is also connected with the defence policy of our country. It is true and I would like to reiterate that there has always been a general consensus in this country regarding Foreign Policy. In the area of Foreign Policy, there used to be very few instances of differences between the ruling party and the opposition. The Policy of non-alignment was supported by the whole country and all parties. The nuclear policy of the country has also been a matter of discussion and on that also there has always been a general consensus in the country. I do not accept this allegation that general consensus has been broken. Whatever steps are necessary for this national security, there will be taken. This question must not be dealt with on party lines. During the course of discussion, it has been stated that we have conducted nuclear tests with the motive of getting a seat in the Security Council. India has a natural right to get a permanent seat in the Security Council. The world has changed. New countries have joined the United Nations. Imperialism has been defeated. Wave of independence has come up. The present set up of the United Nations Organisation does not reflect the true picture of the world. I would like to know whether securing a permanent seat in the Security Council should depend upon the mercy of some particular individual. Should it not be decided in a democratic way? It is funny that we should conduct a nuclear test for that.

Mr. Sangma has also emphasised over it and I agree with him that the country should be well prepared from the defence point of view and it needs to be economically strong. There is no contradictions between economic prosperity and defence preparedness.

We can make best utilisation of our resources and we are doing also. The interests of the Nation must be safeguarded and prosperity should also come but we cannot ignore and security. We have the experience of fifty years. Many times we have faced invasions from outside and lost a large areas of our land. To regain that, - we have adopted the

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path of peaceful bilateral talks. To avoid this type of situation in future security measures must be strengthened. As I have already submitted, if we make use of our resources in a proper way our security needs can also be fulfilled and the nation can achieve. It is not correct to say that the prices of tomato and onion have increased only due to nuclear test at Pokhran. One such test was conducted even at the time of Smt. Indira Gandhi. That can be said only in a lighter vein but it is not a fact. We have waited for 24 long years in the hope that the nations who have piled up atomic weapons would destroy their weapons and a world free from atomic weapons would emerge but our efforts failed. After Pokhran test a pressure has build upon those countries who are in possession of atomic weapons and that they should take steps towards nuclear disarmament.

Whichever conference I have got the opportunity to attend in the last few days, this question was also there on their agenda. Many Honourable Members have repeatedly said that India has been isolated. It is not true, who can isolate a country with a population of 100 crore and how it can be done? How can India be ignored? Be it the summit of non-aligned countries, Manila Summit or the summit of SAARC Nations, our role and our dialogue with other nations has been meaningful. I would like to ask whether it is the sign of being isolated?

In the NAM Summit an attempt had been made to criticise us for nuclear test by naming us. It was not accepted by the summit. It is also not the tradition of non-aligned movement.

Recently a SAARC Summit was held at Colombo. It would be enough to say about SAARC summit that all those who wanted to isolate us were themselves were isolated. The SAARC was set up for economic development, to promote cooperation between the member countries and also to march ahead in the direction of free trade and further to go ahead with the creation of a common market. Some important steps were taken in the Colombo summit in this regard. But Pakistan was not interested in those steps. Pakistan was adamant on one point only. It was also said that until the mutual disputes were solved economic prosperity couldn't be achieved. Though, some disputes will always remain and that is a fact not only in respect of the relations between India and Pakistan but also in respect of all other countries. Steps should be taken to solve the disputes by talks and steps are taken in this direction. Economic and mutual cooperation does not hold good if conditions are not created for the solution disputes. That is not the right attitude. We are for Peace and want to solve disputes through dialogues. But we, would like to make it clear that the economic

development should not be hampered due to these disputes. A large number of population lives in this country, in this part of the world. They have been facing so many problems economically, and SAARC is a great experiment in a right direction. Bilateral relations have also improved through it. During Colombo summit bilateral talks were also held but they were not the part of the summit. We had also opposed and asserted that these issues could not be included in the agenda informally, because that would have opened a Pandora's Box. Disputes are not only between Pakistan and India, these are between other countries also. SAARC Summit provides great opportunity to hold informal bilateral talks, to resolve disputes like these.

Yesterday, Mr. Indrajit Gupta raised the issue of the terrorists of Assam who have taken refuge in Bangladesh.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have discussed the matter with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and we have demanded extradition of those criminals who are in their captivity and against whom the process of trials is going on in India. They should be handed over to us. The Bangladesh Government has said that they have kept them in Jail and whenever the legal proceedings are over, they will hand them over to us. I am giving just an instance. Similarly, there is a question of fishermen with Sri Lanka.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, these summits provide us an opportunity to solve this type of problems. Exchange of views must be made on these questions. India played a significant role in the SAARC summit and there is no question of India's being isolated. All those who were present in the last two summits organised in Manila have seen that our representatives talked to the leaders of the member nations and as a result, there has been an increased awareness regarding the Security of India. In the matter of understanding many honourable members have kept themselves confined to the event of 26th May. Since then the world has gone far ahead.

Sir, now we are discussing as to how to solve the problems arising out of atomic explosion and how to find a solution thereof having its far-reaching and worldwide impact. In every conference it has been said that nuclear disarmament is a global problem. It can not be viewed in parts. In Geneva conference, eight countries made a joint statement, in which these big countries have asked other countries not to go in for atomic weapons and not to indulge in arms race; they should look into their own conduct, and reduce the number of their own weapons. The atomic weapons should be destroyed and eliminated in a time bound programme. This voice is gaining momentum. These issues were also raised during bilateral talks.

Sir, the ex-Prime Minister of Japan, (a new prime minister has taken charge since) has thanked me by writing a letter in response to my letter and said that now we were having a better understanding of India's security concerns. Japan is the country which was attacked with the atom bombs and the people are still suffering from the nuclear holocaust. We have done atomic explosion not to attack but for our safety and self-defence. It has been used as a deterrent and that too as a minimum deterrent which is the basis of our policy, so that no one may pose a danger for our Independence and integrity. So, we have announced that we shall not do atomic tests in future. Not, it is not necessary. It should not be necessary even in future. Although C.T.B.T. does allow it and after signing N.P.T., if a country thinks that a danger or impending danger has arisen to its supreme national interest, then it can take an appropriate step.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : They are making ground for signing the treaty.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : It is our desire to give a legal form and legal obligation to this moratorium. We also told that we would not initiate the use of atomic weapons.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : What will happen if someone else attacks us?...*(Interruptions)*. Will you be in a position to use it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mulayam Singh Ji had been Defence Minister and he should not say such things which are not National...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : No, if someone else attacks us then what will we do? If we are in danger...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Why will someone else attack us?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : They will say something and will do something else ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Why will someone else attack us?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You should make friendship...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We should not have such type of fear that we would not be in a position to use it if any other country attacks on us. To be equipped with atomic weapon, is in itself a deterrent. There should not be any attack.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You should rather say that we shall not be compelled to use it if we establish friendly relations...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We are even ready to make this kind of treaty...*(Interruptions)*. with several countries...*(Interruptions)*. This issue was raised in Colombo that we should give assurance to those countries which are not equipped with atomic weapons. I told that there was no question of atom bomb being used on those countries who do not possess atom bombs. When we say that we shall not be first to use an atom bomb, then there is no basis in using it against those countries who do not possess these bombs. It is also necessary that we should further the process of disarmament.

Pakistan is not only managing all its diplomacy by making Kashmir a nodal point but also giving emphasis on the issue of linking non-proliferation with Kashmir. The dispute of Kashmir is fifty years old. We are ready to solve it on bilateral basis. No country whether it is from G-5 or G-8, has admitted that the issue of non-proliferation should be linked with Kashmir issue. Kashmir issue is a different thing and non-proliferation is in itself an important issue. Pakistan wants to negotiate on the issue of Kashmir only and nothing else. Why? There are many other issues between the two countries. Why should not we talk about all issues? We are neighbours, we have to live together. Why should we discuss Kashmir only?

Yesterday, Mr. Soz was narrating about the circumstances in which the changes had taken place in Kashmir. Peace has been restored there. Elections were held. A large number of tourists are going there. The tour of Amarnath is going on peacefully. It is said that Kashmir is a flash point. Yes, if Pakistan wants to take some steps to draw the attention of the world by masterminding petty disturbances, then I shall say with conviction that they are not going to get success at all. But, at times I think why there is such emphasis on Kashmir. Pakistan is not satisfied with its boundaries. Pakistan wants to change the status quo. The rulers of Pakistan are unable to digest the fact that a state with a majority of Muslims should live with India. It is their problem if they have not accepted secularism. But for there is something more important than that. Some ideals, some symbols are also attached with it. So, we refused to talk only on Kashmir. This refusal is not of my government but the decision was taken by the last government. An agenda was prepared. We were prepared to talk on that agenda. But Pakistan dragged its feet. They are alleging that we are back tracking. There is no truth in it. We told that we were prepared to negotiate about Kashmir but other matters related to it should also be included in the negotiation. It is necessary to negotiate after taking a forward view. But Pakistan is not ready for that. In Colombo they handed over documents to us in a casual manner. On its perusal

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it becomes crystal clear that they are not interested in negotiation. By drawing the attention of the world community, they want to make it an international issue, but no other country agrees to its proposal. Arab countries, P-5 and G-8 and even China has said that the problem of Jammu & Kashmir should be solved by mutual negotiation. One of the measures of the confidence building measures put up by Pakistan is that the Government of India should talk to Hurriat Conference by recognising it as the representative organisation of Kashmir. No Indian can accept this proposal? Kashmir is a part of democratic India. Recently, elections were held there which were monitored by the election commission. By giving an example I would make it clear that Pakistan is not interested in negotiations. But we shall continue our efforts. It is necessary that our relation with Pakistan should improve. It is true that both the sides should have the desire to improve the relations, but India's point of view is quite clear.

I am confident that the talks held with China in Manila would help in removing their mental reservations. Our Chinese friends are expressing their anguish by quoting the statements of some of the Indian Leaders. It was clarified to them that they should not make decisions on the basis of the printed statements in newspapers. Our defence minister has clarified it that he had never said that China was our enemy number one. Its denial was also sent but...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Madhepura) : Only 6 days after the reaction of the Government of India he gave his statement in Patna that he had not made any comment like this.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : After all he spoke. Lalu Prasad is confirming my statement. His only grievance is that the statement came after six days.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : No, he contradicted it in Patna and that too after six days when the spokesman of External Affairs Ministry gave a statement that it was the statement of the Minister not of the Government of India. The Minister should have resigned the same day. You have also made a reference of those matters in your letter. You have written it in the letter, you may confirm it.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria) : China is the number one enemy of India, so it was said...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not hear.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : To the American President...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Prime Minister, when your Minister's mistake is detected they just pass it on to newspapers.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is an old technique adopted by both of us. Mr. Speaker, in the letter under reference a mention is made about the apprehensions arising about China, but it also mentions about improvement of our relations with China and we want to further improve these relations.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hugli) : Then what was the need to write the letter?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But we can not deny that these are some disputes which need to be settled down between our country and ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : What is this ? Let him complete. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Prime Minister, please clarify the Government of India's stand on this. It is very important matter. The relation between the Government of India and China should be proper and Harmonious...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath Chatterjee - Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I agree to it that India's relation with China should be friendly and cooperative. Concrete steps are to be taken to make it cooperation-oriented and we are trying to dispel the misconceptions. But the question of border remains on which negotiations are going on.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This issue must be taken up.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We also told Pakistan that if they stress upon anything as the main cause of dispute, it would not be solved soon. Please keep it aside for a brief period. If we increase trade, interaction between people of both sides contribute towards the economic well-being of both the countries only then there will be improvement in situation and relations will become cordial. Then it will be easy to solve the most difficult problem. The same policy has been adopted in the case of China. We shall continue our efforts about this problem. Our concerns are-related to piece of land and borders, these must be solved through negotiations.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Your policy must be clear about Kailash Mansarovar. If it is not so, then you should drive your chariot in that direction, bring Lord Shankar back.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : In that negotiation, the issue of C.T.B.T. was raised in a strong manner. I would like to switch over to English Language so that my statement is correctly quoted.

[English]

A number of hon. Members wished to know Government's position on the CTBT. After concluding the series of tests on May 13, India immediately announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions. In announcing this moratorium, India accepted the basic obligation of a test ban. In 1963 too, we had wanted a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. What the international community concluded instead was only a Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT). Eventually, India went along and became an original state party to the PTBT. That decision was taken in the broader national interest.

As hon. Members know full well, India, which first proposed a ban on testing in 1954, and as a country that remains committed to global nuclear disarmament, could hardly have acted otherwise. In announcing the moratorium, we reflected our own commitment to disarmament as also addressed the general wish of the international community. Naturally, India reserves the right to review that decision if in its judgement extraordinary events take place that jeopardise India's supreme national interests. The CTBT also gives the same right to every country. We also announced then our willingness to move towards a *de jure* formalisation of our voluntary undertaking. Ways and means of doing this are being explored through bilateral discussions with key interlocutors. These dialogues have been undertaken after satisfying ourselves that India no longer requires to undertake nuclear explosions. We can maintain the credibility of our nuclear deterrent in the future without testing. India remains committed to this dialogue with a view to arriving at a decision regarding adherence to the CTBT. In 1996, we stayed out of the CTBT principally with national security as our only guide. That remains entirely unaltered.

[Translation]

I would like to assure the House that while deciding about the international treaties we shall keep the issue of national security upper most and the House will be taken in confidence.

11.50 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Deportation of certain People by Maharashtra Government — Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up the next item. Shri Somnath Chatterjee to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Hannan Mollah and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee for raising this important issue for which many hon. Members had given notices. I consider it as one of the most important issues that we are discussing in the House. The issue is important not because we are treating it as a question of only the Bengali-speaking people...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Sir, I am on a point of information. As per the List of Business, at Twelve of the Clock, we have to take the discussion regarding problems of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is not yet Twelve of the Clock.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Now, it is exactly Twelve of the Clock. I thought that I should not interrupt him in the beginning. My point is that at Twelve of the Clock, the discussion regarding problems of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has to start.

MR. SPEAKER : After completing this item, we will take up that one.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It has been written here.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA) : The Bill for salary and allowances of the members should be taken up as it has to be passed by Rajya Sabha after being passed by this House. It should be taken up earlier as today is the last day for Rajya Sabha...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hugli) : A decision was taken yesterday. It was stated in that decision that it would be taken up after completing this discussion. Let us complete one discussion...*(Interruptions)*