

PROF. MAHADEO SHIWANKAR: If the Government does not take notice of it.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes All right, tomorrow.

14.46 1/2 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### **Recent visit of the Minister of Commerce and Minister of Law and Justice, to Afghanistan**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in response to an invitation from the Minister for Commerce of Afghanistan, I visited Afghanistan from 30th December, 1990 to 1st January, 1991. This is the First bilateral visit of Minister of Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government to a friendly country.

I was accompanied by a delegation of senior officials of various Ministries of the Government of India and experts as well as senior representatives of commercial establishments connected with Indo-Afghan trade and economic relations.

I had detailed discussions with His Excellency the Commerce Minister of Afghanistan, Mr. Zakim Shah as well as with the Deputy Prime Minister-cum-Minister for Planning and the Minister for Light Industries and Food Stuff,

The discussions were held in a warm and cordial atmosphere. Both sides appreciated the sincere efforts made jointly by the Indian delegation and that of Afghanistan to identify areas of common interest where the two countries could consider economic and

commercial interaction to their mutual advantage. Both sides also noted with satisfaction the substantial growth in their bilateral trade during the preceding years and agreed to take further steps to increase the same in the near future. Items like fresh and dry fruits, precious stones, hides and skins, etc. would be seriously considered for increased imports by India.

The Indian side expressed its willingness to participate actively in the economic recovery and development of Afghanistan through Joint ventures, consultancy, and credit arrangements. Cooperation in the development of telecommunication infrastructure was also identified by both sides. The Afghan side expressed interest in receiving Indian assistance in the development and setting up of industrial estages. They also indicated their desire for entering into joint ventures in industries like leather persisting, textiles, raisings, processing etc. The Indian side expressed their willingness to make specific proposals in this regard.

The Afghan side indicated their full satisfaction with the quality of the buses supplied earlier by India to Afghanistan and reiterated their desire to import additional buses from India.

Both sides discussed possibilities of cooperation in the mining sector where India offered to share its experience ad expertise in an active manner.

Both sides indentified the need for promotion of industrial cooperation through adoption and facilitation of joint ventures and projects through participation by public and private sector. It was agreed that bipartite and tripartite partnership in trade and industrial cooperation would be encouraged. In this connection, Indian side agreed to take steps to encourage the private sector in India to send a delegation to Aftghanistan as early as possible.

[Sh. Subramaniam Swamy]

Both sides agreed to remove trade constraints in order to encourage a better environment for expansion of bilateral trade. For this purpose, it was agreed to set up a Joint Trade Advisory Committee on Indo-Afghan Trade in Kabul and Delhi.

I also called on the President of the Republic of Afghanistan, His excellency, Dr. Najibullah and exchanged views with him on the latest situation in respect of the bilateral relations between India and Afghanistan as well as other matters of mutual interests. I also called on the Prime Minister of Afghanistan, His Excellency, F. Khaliqyar and the Foreign Minister of Afghanistan, H.E. Mr. Wakil. All of them unequivocally stated that Jammu & Kashmir was and would continue to be an integral part of India and any outside interference should not be tolerated. Equally they resent outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. They also stated that the Ministerial visit would strengthen further the age-old bond and friendship between the two countries.

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14.50 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF  
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Deregistration of 160 reputed medicine  
firms including IDPL from the approved  
list**

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Badaun): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Minister of Law and Justice to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement thereon;

"Situation arising out of the reported deregistration by Director General of Supplies and Disposals and Department of Defence Production of one hundred and sixty reputed medicine firms including the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. from the list of approved medicine suppliers thereby leaving the supplies in the hands of unreliable pharmaceutical firms and the steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): - Sir, Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), Department of Defence Production and Supplies, Ministry of Defence is the nodal agency for capacity assessment of drugs/medicines manufacturing firms who intend to supply drugs/medicines to the Government Departments/Ministries. Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D) does not have any expertise in the field of drugs/medicines. The drugs/medicines manufacturing firms are registered by DGS&D on the basis of recommendations given by DGQA for supply to Government Departments/Ministries including Ministry of Defence. A re-assessment of the capacity of all the drugs/medicines manufacturing firms who were registered with DGS&D was undertaken in a suo moto manner by DGQA with the introduction of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) norms which were made a part of the licensing condition for firms in June, 1988. As a result of the re-assessment of the capacity, DGQA had recommended de-registration of 160 firms out of a total of 298 firms registered with DGS&D. The list initially included M/s. IDPL, Hyderabad Unit but their name was subsequently deleted from the list.

2. The recommendations of DGQA were considered by the High Power Committee on Drugs (HPCD) in its meeting on 25-