

16.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE ON CAMBODIA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Sir, I would like to inform the House about the International Conference on Cambodia which is currently being held in Paris. As the House is aware, we have for the past two and a half years been quietly active in finding a political solution for the Cambodian problem. We have age old ties with Cambodia. In recent times we have played a constructive and helpful role in the Indo-China and Cambodian International Control Commissions in the 1950, 60 and 70s.

Last year, President Mitterand stated that France was ready to call a Conference on Cambodia for finding a negotiated settlement of this vexed problem. After holding consultations with different countries, including India, the Conference began with a ministerial level meeting on 30th July, 1989 in Paris. This ministerial level meeting ended on 1st August and it is expected to resume on August 28. In between, senior officials of the different delegations are meeting to prepare draft final documents which are expected to encompass all the external and internal elements of a solution. The resumed ministerial level meeting is expected to sign these agreements.

The Conference is co-chaired by France and Indonesia. As Members are aware Indonesia had taken the lead in holding the Jakarta Informal Meetings (JIM) at which the regional countries of ASEAN and Indo-China, including the four Cambodian factions, met face to face for the first time in a series of informal contacts. Altogether 19 countries and the UN Secretary General in his personal capacity were invited by France for participation in this Conference. Apart from India, the other countries participating are the six member states of the ASEAN, the three

Indo-Chinese countries (including the four Cambodian factions), the five Permanent Members of the Security Council, Australia, Canada, Japan and Zimbabwe, as Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement.

The ministerial level meeting has already achieved some progress in that decisions were taken to establish three working committees in addition to the co-ordination committee. India is the Co-Chairman along with Canada of the first Committee which has been set up "to define the modalities of a ceasefire and the mandate as well as the principles which shall guide the creation and operation of an effective international control mechanism in order to supervise and control the comprehensive implementation of a settlement."

The other committee deal with guarantees regarding the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and neutrality of Cambodia as also the matters relating to the return of the refugees and an international plan for the reconstruction of Cambodia.

In addition to these three committees, an ad-hoc committee has also been established which will deal with the question of national reconciliation and the setting up of a quadripartite interim authority under the leadership of Prince Norodom Sihanouk. This Ad-hoc Committee will also examine matters relating to the holding of an internationally supervised election. The Ad-hoc Committee consists of the four Kampuchean factions as well as the two Co-Chairman of the Conference.

The ministerial level conference also took an important decision in accepting the proposal made by the Secretary General of the United Nations to send a fact finding mission to Cambodia to gather technical information which will be relevant to the work of the first committee of which India is a Co-Chairman.

At the Conference we were active and endeavored to be constructive and helpful. Our statement at the opening was well re-

ceived. Apart from meeting the Foreign Ministers of the countries represented in the halls of the Conference. I had separate meetings with Prime Minister Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk. It held lengthy discussions with many Foreign Ministers.

I am confident that the Indian Delegation will continue to play a useful role and I am guardedly optimistic that an agreement is likely to emerge at the end of this Conference. The implementation of this agreement will, hopefully, lead to a politically negotiated settlement of this extremely complex and difficult problem. We would like peace and normalcy to return to Cambodia, a country with which India has had cultural links from ancient times. The people of Cambodia and indeed of all Indo-Chinese countries, will then be able to devote their energies for their economic and social development and this troubled region of the world would be able to settle down. as I told the Conference: "For too long the people of Cambodia have looked at dark clouds without a silver lining. That silver lining is now more than discernible. Having come so far we cannot, we must not fail. Diplomacy does not offer salvation, it does offer hope."

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16.20 hrs.

KARNATAKA BUDGET, 1989-90—  
GENERAL DISCUSSION  
AND  
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (KARNATAKA), 1989-90—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A.K. Panja may now continue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Of all these, the draft amending rules as required under the law, were published on the 29th of July, 1989 giving 15 days time for filing of objections. The final rules will be issued as soon as possible after

16th August, 1989.

It is separately proposed to introduce security excise labels for IML as in the case of arrack as a further measure to control non-duty paid liquor.

The point raised by Dr. Venkatesh today I will deal with straightaway because he is one of the opposition members who spoke. From his speech it is clear that the former State Government was boasting that it had a very efficient Zilla Parishad, very efficient village panchayat and that they were operating a number of special welfare measures for the benefit of the backward classes. His speech itself speaks loud and clear that the previous Governments were a failure so far as these things were concerned. In the fields of health, education, housing, training and employment, the plight was well described by him. He is a representative of the people from Kolar. It appears that so far as Kolar is concerned, although there is a gold mining field there, the gold reserve is in the wane resulting in a serious unemployment problem there. The Government is trying to set up a factory there. But it appears from the experts' advice that the possibility of giving employment there would be more if there is sericultural activity which is of great importance in this district. As the hon. Member from Kashmir rightly pointed out the silk produced there is of great value and of good quality and they have got market all over India and abroad. So the Government is trying with the World Bank assistance so far as this district is concerned and also elsewhere in Karnataka wherever land is suitable for sericulture, to set up sericulture. This will be given the highest importance for the purpose of making people employed and also to make them usefully employed. It is also necessary to look into this area as also other backward areas under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. I will certainly communicate to the Minister for Rural Development the points made by various hon. Members regarding this development. This is the first point made by Dr. Venkatesh.

He said very rightly and I congratulate