

16.55 hrs

KARNATAKA APPROPRIATION BILL*,
1989*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidate Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of the financial year 1989-90.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidate Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of the financial year 1989-90."

The motion was adopted

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

Sir, I beg to move:**

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from out of the Consolidated Funds of the State of Karnataka for the services of the financial year 1989-90, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and outof the Consolidated Fund of the State of Karnataka for the services of the financial year 1989-90, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

*"That Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill."**The motion was adopted**Clauses 2 and 3 and Schedule were added to the Bill*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted**Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI A.K. PANJA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted

16.58 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

SUCCESSFUL TESTING OF 'AGNI'

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up the next item, that is, Discussion under Rule 193, on the successful testing of 'Agni' on the 22nd May, 1989.

Shri Harish Rawat.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 22nd May, 1989 will be remembered as a golden day in the history of

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** Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.

Development of Indian technology, particularly in the history of defence technology. A new chapter has been added to the dimensions of our defence preparedness with the successful launching of 'Agni'. Through this august House, I on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of this country, would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, under whose leadership this revolutionary goal could be achieved, the scientists and the personnel of the Ministry of Defence for this magnificent achievement. Long ago in 1974, we carried out an atomic implosion at 'Pokhran' for the purpose peaceful use of atomic energy under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The Pokhran implosion boosted the self-confidence and prestige of our country. While referring to the pokhran implosion, I am reminded of the incidents that took place in the country at the time of Pokhran implosion in 1974 and thereafter. In 1974, when we conducted a nuclear test in Pokhran the Opposition Members tried to belittle the significance of that revolutionary step, under the pressure of international powers. Similarly, pressure wielding and negative forces have been found to be active by the Government of India even now when we have successfully launched the missile "Agni". We should not forget that with the successful launching of "Agni", all such internal and external powers, who do not want to see India to be self-reliant in its defence needs, are making concerted efforts to undermine this achievement and to lower the prestige of our country. Efforts are being made to create apprehensions in our neighbouring countries who need not feel frightened by this test firing. They are being told that the launching of "Agni" by India is against their interests.

17.00 hrs.

These people, who are trying to defame us, are very well aware that India has launched "Agni" for the purpose of its defence preparations so that it may safeguard its boundaries. Today efforts are being made to create unnecessary confusion in the minds

of the people of our neighbouring countries. A kind of international propaganda is being made in this regard. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Defence that the Government should make its concerted and vigorous efforts to counter this propaganda.

Today we are happy on successful launching of "Agni". Our Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme has achieved a definite dimension. However, this august House as well as the people of our country should understand the various kinds of pressures being exerted on us. The moment we expressed our intention to work for the development of surface to surface or surface to air missile, or anti-tank missile or some other type of missile, under our Integrated Missile Development Programme to make our country self-dependent and free from the threat posed by the reported acquisition of armament and terrorist designs our neighbouring countries, these countries tried to wield various kinds of international pressures from different forums because they felt that India was posing a threat to their hegemony, and was trying to instil a sense of confidence among the other developing countries that if they follow in the footsteps of India, and work with a dedicated spirit, the scientists of these countries too were capable of making big strides. Those who had no love or concern for India started propagating that this would tarnish the image of India as a peace loving country. Efforts were made to wield pressure on us through the American Senate. Besides, efforts were made with the help of the technically developed countries which is called the M.T.C.R. (Missile Technology Control Regime), that no such technical know-how or equipment should reach India which may help India succeed in its efforts. I would like to congratulate our scientists who, despite all these pressure tactics and counteracting forces, succeeded in their efforts against which all the powers were working unitedly. Now when we have succeeded in our efforts, it is surprising to learn from one of the newspaper clippings that

[English]

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

"CIA says Agni isn't indigenous".

[*Translation*]

Attempts are being made to undermine the importance of this effort of our scientists. However, we do not regret that C.I.A., America or Britain is saying so because this has been their tradition and they have always ridiculed India's efforts to become a self-dependent country. Whenever we succeeded, they tried to discourage and pressurise us. But some people in our own country have a hand in making such a propaganda. It would have been better if today when we are discussing this subject the Opposition Members too had joined us in congratulating our scientists and Dr. Abdul Kalam, his colleagues, D.R.D.O. staff and the Ministry of Defence. But see what is happening here. Some such people and political parties, who know that the entire credit goes to Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his Government, are trying to prove in our country what America, C.I.A. and the Western media network and trying to propagate. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Defence whether it is a fact that some political parties had opposed the setting up of National Testing Range at Baliapal in Orissa? Is it a fact that those people had tried to launch an agitation by arousing the sentiments of the people to obstruct development work of the range with a view to stall our testing programme? Is this in your knowledge that parties like P.U.D.R., which are coming up as sympathisers of Shri V.P. Singh and his party, had tried to pressurise the Ministry of Defence and the Government by getting a resolution passed by a few political parties and had also termed this achievement as anti-national and undemocratic? I would request the Government to tell this House and the people of this country as to how not only international pressure was exerted but internal strategy too was formulated to sabotage our attempts.

Now when we are discussing all these points, what strikes our mind immediately is

that "Agni" is not a result of our 1-2 years' hard work but the result of our constant efforts at the national level and of our resolve to make this country a self dependent nation under the leadership of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, which is being carried on by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The more we are trying to go ahead on this path, the more efforts are being made to pressurise and obstruct us. Our hon. Defence Minister had given a statement a few days back in which he had mentioned that now India will export the defence equipment. I feel that this innocent statement made by him was taken as a big challenge by various countries. Even in the Bofors case, I suspect that this is the result of an international conspiracy to keep India engulfed in tribble issues so that it may not succeed in its defence efforts and even in future it may not enter into technology agreements for fear of misapprehensions that may be created in the public mind.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who made efforts for implementing our Guided Missile Programme as a national programme ignoring all kinds of pressure. He provided to the world that there is an ironman behind his sober demeanour who can never yield to any pressure on the issue of his country's prestige and dignity. He would not compromise it on no score and today we may go to the extent of saying it that as a result of our scientists' efforts, nobody can intimidate us the way as it was done in 1971 at the time of Bangladesh war when a country had tried to frighten us by sending its 7th fleet. Today we can say with pride that now we are in a position to face any kind of threat to our country or its borders.

Earlier also, our scientists had successfully launched 'trishul' and 'prithvi' missiles and now it was the turn of Agni which has also been launched by them successfully. Now with the successful launching of Agni, we have jointed the club of selected five countries, who have developed this type of missile system in their own countries. I would like to request the Defence Minister that steps should be expeditiously taken by the

Government to make these missiles be it 'Agni' or any other missile, an integral part of our regular armament and there should be no hitch in it. Pressure of no foreign power or any other consideration should come in the way. It is essential for our defence potential that these missiles are made integral part of our regular armament as early as possible. Danger still persists on our borders.

In spite of all our efforts, even to-day our neighbouring countries are being provoked against us. Efforts were made to incite the country like Nepal. Hence we should remain vigilant in this regard. I would like to request you that these missiles should be made integral part of our armament at the earliest. Besides, we should also make efforts to develop all these missiles be it the third generation missiles i.e. air to air missiles or the surface to surface missiles or anti-tank missiles in our own country. Earlier the better, we develop these missiles or include them as part of our regular armament. It would benefit all of us and our country. I would also like to say that D.R.D.O. scientists, who have performed this feat, deserve our congratulations but they need to be given special attention and special facilities like higher pay-scales and other benefits so that talented youths are attracted to these posts. I would like to request you to chalk out at least a 50 year programme for this purpose. Moreover, it should also be considered in all its seriousness that this National Missile Development Programme is not taken merely as a defence effort or as the work of Ministry of Defence but as part of our National Programme and whatever funds are required for the purpose, should be mobilised. In this connection all the existing sources of technology, know-how and scientific information available in our universities, research centres or private institutions in our country should be collectively exploited so as to boost our sense of self-respect acquired with the successful launching of Agni. The people of this country may say with confidence that now they need not be afraid or scared of any country. Now none of the countries can dare cast an evil eye towards our country.

With these words, I would again like to congratulate our Prime Minister and our defence scientists and our Defence Minister who have these scientists a successful lead.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to associate myself with my colleague Shri Rawatji in congratulating the scientists, particularly, Dr. Abdul Qalam and his team for the tremendous success of technology administered project.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I have forgotten to mention the name of Dr. Arunachalam.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I think, congratulations are due to the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister because projects of this nature have more fall-out politically rather than technical advancement of the defence potential of any country. Congratulations are also due to the political will and leadership which relentlessly pursues such projects in spite of pressure and counterpressures not only by the big powers, but the satellite of the big powers. Those satellites are our most probable enemies in times to come.

The Prime Minister and the Defence Minister have shown a will of a nature, of which the country will be proud. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister that in spite of the postponements—on 20th April and again on 1st May—on 22nd May, the Agni was launched in a most spectacular and successful manner. So far as the team of technologists is concerned, any amount of praise is less for them, because due to shortage of money and pressure of time, any research or any project at the pilot stage requires tremendous amount of encouragement and even a small flop or a small postponement can deter a scientist, who basically is a sensitive person, into lethargy or diffidence. I must express my view that in spite of these delays and in spite of the numerous reasons planted as causes of this postponement of team

[Sh. Ajay Mushran]

went on relentlessly unmindful of postponements to make sure two hundred per cent that whenever Agni is launched it will be launched successfully and that is what was done on 22nd May this year. This has been a continuous process after Prithvi, Trishul, Akash and Nag. We have reached a stage with this technology demonstrative project of Agni that we have joined a club of five or six countries who can boast of having ability to deliver the conventional pay-load of 1000 Kg—nuclear or non-nuclear—to a distance of 2500 km. Some people used to be happy if one could deliver a pay-load of 100 or 200 Kg to 250 km range.

So, Sir, this is a tremendous effort. It naturally created sleepless nights to our probable opponents and the pressure built up by the Big Power whose frontline nations they are was quite natural. I am glad that the Government, the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister saw through the game and ensured that we went on relentlessly with this project.

So far as Chandipur range is concerned, I am very sorry to express that some of the Opposition parties tried to create a doubt among the people not belonging to that area that some injustice is being done to their resettlement, to their environmental pollution or even dangers to which they will be exposed if this project is undertaken at that testing range. I am of the view that whether it is Chandipur or any other testing range, Government must make sure—as they have done in Chandipur—that the population, the Government and the Press do not fall prey to any amount of politically motivated offensive and opposition should not be considered when we are taking up projects of the nature which build the nation's defences stronger and we leap into the future world of technology.

Sir, I have a few suggestions to make. One is that since we now have the capability to deliver the conventional pay-loads, we must think in terms of productionisation plan.

We are a very peace loving country. Even the Prime Minister when he gave a statement on 22nd May in this House said so and I quote:

"We are a non-violent country. We have no aggressive designs on anyone. We believe profoundly in the sovereignty of nations."

There is no doubt about it. We have been pursuing this policy for the last 41 years. But in greatest humility, I would like to say that offence is the best form of defence. We are a peace-loving country. But peace-loving does not mean weak. We must have a fist of iron. We may not hit it on anybody's face. But those to whom you would like to hit in times of crisis, must think that we have got the fist and we are capable of hitting. Under that idea, I am suggesting that it is not necessary to proclaim it from the housetop that we are going to productionise. But we must think in these terms because this is one capability which will keep our probable opponents, supported by their big power, in check and in deterrence. Today's world and future battles are going to be battles of wits and the elements of deterrence is going to play a very major role of escalation of war in break-out of the war and in successful completion of the war in favour of a country or the other.

As my predecessor hon. Member has said, in Pokharan we have done a peaceful nuclear device explosion which is meant for purely peaceful developmental work whether it is in the field of environment or agriculture or energy and so on and so forth. But in view of Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme, we must give serious consideration to match our peaceful nuclear capability. I would like to call it peaceful nuclear capability because then certainly Defence Minister can say, "yes, we will have peaceful nuclear capability". With the Agni missile, we do get the required deterrent quality so that our neighbours and our probable enemies will have to think twice before they can make use of borrowed and stolen capability. They must

know that we have got our own capability. In the same context, if I am not wrong, we are thinking in terms of two more test vehicles which are going to be flight-tested under this project. I would also suggest that simultaneously the research must go on to have in early 90's the capability of not only delivering conventional weapons and conventional payloads but also possible nuclear payloads.

The Opposition has critically expressed their views against the Government of India. I am sure, they are going to do it in future also. As Mr. Harish Rawat has said for any capability which the Government decides to assume or get through import, our development is going to be, in some way or the other, criticised by the opponents. The closer we come to the elections, the easier they find to criticise the Government on these issues because it is very easy to pollute the minds of the people who, unfortunately, do not even know from which side of the barrel the shot is fired. Rumours can take foundations in the minds of the people totally ignorant of military warfare and military equipments. Therefore, it is essential that in times to come or whenever we take a project of this nature, scientifically-oriented brilliant students of universities are shown at least the technological parts of these developments and security can be ensured by the research and development organisations, by the Ministry of Defence and so on. The mere fact that curiosity of the unknown is the best breeding ground of rumours, we must make sure that the people, the citizens and the students of the country who are technologically oriented are taken into confidence about the technological developments taking place in the fields of peaceful capabilities being assumed by us. I once again congratulate Dr. Kalam, his team, the DRDO, the Defence Minister and everybody who are associated with this successful launching of Agni. I am very sure that the two launches or the experiments which will be made in future or whenever they will be done, will put another feather in our cap and strengthen the hands of our defence forces so that technologically they are second to none, certainly not to our opponents of future.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK

(Kalahandi): At the outset, I want to congratulate the scientists, all the people involved in the Defence Ministry, the leader of the nation, the Prime Minister for the successful launching of Agni. This is not only a landmark and achievement for our country but for the whole of mankind and those who live and believe in peace and useful utilisation of atomic and nuclear energy. For all of them, it is a matter of great satisfaction. Sir, Agni is the first of its kind in India, namely, the Intermediate Range Missile. This is a major achievement in our continuing effort to safeguard our independence and security by self-reliant measures. Time and again, the Defence Minister and the Prime Minister have assured us that it is not a nuclear weapon. It is to afford us option, developing the ability to deliver non-nuclear weapons with high precision at long range. Time and again, Prime Minister has assured us that we believe in non-violence and we have been vanguards to the movement of nuclear disarmament. We have represented to the United Nations an Action Plan to free the world from nuclear weapons and ensure an international order in the peaceful way of non-violence. In many occasions like the recent visit to USA, our Defence Minister, Shri Pant, has narrated the basic defence philosophy of our country. So, there should not be an iota of doubt about our intention of launching Agni. Simultaneously, we should be aware that we lost independence because we were disunited in the home front and not vigilant in the external front.

There is the question of national security environment. Those international forces which are not happy with our self-reliance development in the field of economics, science and technology and many other fields, are trying to criticise our country quite often. When the United States are trying to have a space station for missiles, what right have they got to criticise us for our efforts in this regard? When China offered their technical knowhow to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan for critical areas, there was no reaction from the United States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue your speech next time.