

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
The whole Uttat Pradesh is facing a diesel crisis. The hon. Minister should give a statement on it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a big policy. You can approach the Minister and he will help you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Ferozpur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the Mahatam tribe which put up near the shores of Sutlaj river and this tribe is mostly engaged in agriculture and is known as 'Raisikh'. Injustice has been done against this tribe for the last 40 years. The people of this tribe fall prey to the devastation caused by floods every year. The last four Chief Ministers of Punjab, Giani Zail Singh, Shri darbara Singh, Shri Prakash Singh Badal and Shri Beant Singh recommended to the Central Government from time to time to include the 'Raisikh' tribe, which puts up in the border line areas and near the river shores, in the list of the scheduled tribes. In the wake of repeated recommendations the Punjab and Haryan High Court gave its decision in 1975 under Civil appeal No. 132 that Raisikh Tribe should be declared a Scheduled Tribe. The Supreme Court also gave a similar decision in 1982 under appeal No. 169. But it is distressing to note that the Government has not paid attention to its several recommendations and the decision given by the Supreme Court. I demand the Government to include this tribe into the list of the scheduled tribes at once by doing away with injustice being done to them.

12.16 hrs

RE: POLICY REGARDING N.P.T.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY
(Katwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you for calling me to speak.

Now, it has been confirmed by both Delhi and Washington that in London the representatives of the Governments of India and USA had met but they tried to reduce the significance of the meeting in relation to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. When this matter was raised in the House, even then the Government had not come forth with any clarification. We, Members of Parliament, came to know from the newspapers. Now a grave suspicion has arisen in the country whether we are going to differ from our well-established and well-accepted policy on Non-Proliferation Treaty that we are not going to accept...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Government had made its point of view very clear even on the floor of the House.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
We do not know as to what discussion is going on in a hush-hush manner. Ultimately the Government must clarify.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Saifuddin, the Government had made its stand very clear on the floors of this House and the other House. Every now and then if you raise these issues don't think that it will affect.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
Sir, I am telling you very honestly that
a suspicion has arisen.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Why
the meeting is taking place in a third
country? Why the Government is not
coming out with any statement? All the
news-papers are full of such news-items.
Such news-items have created an atmo-
sphere of doubt.

MR. SPEAKER: We must take
ourselves as person who will contribute
towards bettering relations with the other
countries.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
It is all right. Let them make a statement,
Sir, on this. The whole country has
objected to that. We understand our
policy.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
If Mr. Shukla, the Parliamentary Affairs
Minister comes forward and clarifies the
things we will be happy. They may take
time to discuss this in the Cabinet.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shukla had
made a statement only two days back
on the floor of the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow the
other two Members also to speak. Then,
the hon. Minister can reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack):
Mr. Speaker, Sir.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
That is all right. They should come out
with a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed
you. I am hearing Mr. Choudhury. Why
are you getting up?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speak-
er, Sir, actually when this issue was
raised in this House, the Parliamentary
Affairs Minister said that in the NPT,
whatever may be the Government's
stand.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You must
also hear us.

MR. SPEAKER: Did he say or not?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY:
Sir, reiteration of our well-accepted policy
is not enough. A question had arisen
whether we are going to negotiate on any
thing and whether some new things are
coming out.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Yes, he
said that, Just after that, the next day,
we saw in the newspapers that some
secret talk is being held between Delhi
and Washington in a third country viz.
London. The Parliament was not aware
as to what is going on there till it came
out in the press the some secret talk is
going on. If it was a bilateral talk, it could
have been held in Delhi or in Washing-
ton. Why is it happening in London?
What is the agenda of that meeting?

MR. SPEAKER: We are responsi-
ble Parliament. Do not rake up anything
which is not necessary. Please under-
stand that.

Today, we saw in the newspapers that there is an American pressure to cap our Agni and other nuclear experiments.

Actually, what is exactly the pressure from America? What is the agenda of the meeting in London? The Government should clarify these two points to the entire nation.

MR. SPEAKER: You should understand that all the points in the discussion are not disclosed before the meeting takes place.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: No, Sir. If it is a bilateral discussion, then they have to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: If the Government has made its point very clear, then they will stick to the policy which they have adopted.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The meeting is there. The Prime is going there. His visit has been fixed on 19th. If it is a bilateral discussion, then why not in Delhi? Why in London? Let the Government clarify about the agenda and the meeting in London.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, such news-items that a meeting is to be held in a third country, though it is a bilateral discussion between India and the USA, have given rise to two questions. The entire country wants to know our stand on the issue of NPT and the changes to be incorporated in policy of the Government. Secondly, the secret talks which are being held in London, though these are no longer secret because there have been news-items about these talks the world over, do these talks

have anything to do with the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S.? The entire nation is curious about these two questions and that is why we want that the Government should come out with a clarification in this regard.

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I had raised this issue in this very House twice earlier and, therefore, I will not repeat any of the aspects that I had said. Two new elements are there. The Government's reaction has come in the other House. And other than the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Government has not authoritatively given its views in the context of this meeting of the officials in London: whether it is a question of the timings.

If the Government were now to come forward like they did in the other House, a great deal of this will be resolved. When will they do that? Secondly, if they took note of certain statements attributed to officials of the United States of America which have also appeared in the press, then, I think, this problem will not arise.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chadigarh): I suppose the Government has made it amply clear that there is no rethinking on our policy. There is no compromise on what we stand for. If going by the press reports, we were to rush to a conclusion that we are going to compromise with our national interest, I am sure, this will not help. Ultimately, the interest of the country will suffer; it would only help in creating doubts in the minds of the people.

I think we should not be seen to be doing that. We should create a feeling

of confidence in the minds of the people of our country rather than refer to the press reports and rush into make statements here.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): It is a matter of great importance involving our national policy. Nothing should be allowed to just take place where the nation may get confused on the well-known, well-announced declared policy of the Government. Here three new elements have come. A meeting of a secret nature is being held in a third country.

MR. SPEAKER: Even the Heads of the Governments have met in different countries.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No. There is another new element that without taking the concerned Ministry's officials into confidence, new and retired Diplomats have brought into service whose bias for the matter is known to the world. The Washington officials have made certain comments in this regard which have come out in the press, which raise a grave question whether this Government is continuing its well-declared policy in this matter or not. It is the responsibility of the Government to reiterate and bring back the confidence of the nation in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear patiently what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has to say.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): I have stated here authoritatively and I like to repeat it that there is absolutely no rethinking in the Government about the NPT. We adhere

firmly and resolutely to our stand that the Treaty must be universal and non-discriminatory.

There is no change in this. As far as London talks are concerned, it is well known that when there are Summit meetings of this kind, preparatory talks are held. This is in the nature of preparatory talks.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: In London; in a third country!

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Just for a minute. Why don't you let me complete? Sir, it has been clarified that the composition of the Indian team is such where most of the members of the Indian team are already abroad. They are either serving abroad or living abroad and they have been called to assist the Prime Minister's visit and the preparatory talks or various points which will include all kinds of points which will be discussed between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States. So, this talk is taking place at a convenient venue.

It is true that no publicity was given to it. No publicity needs to be given to such a thing but there was no secrecy about it. But because there was no advance announcement that such and such teams are going to meet in London, it does not mean that there was some secrecy about it. Once the people have come to know of it, it is perfectly all right. We have already stated and PMO has clarified that the reason why it is being held in London is because it is convenient to both the parties. The talks are in preparation for the Summit meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of the United States. There is nothing more in it except this. I will

request the hon. Members not to raise unnecessary doubts which will quell the pitch for such Summit meeting.

As a matter of fact, the national Parliament I am sure, will take the view and take the stand that will strengthen the hands of our Prime Minister to handle these sensitive matters in such a manner that national interests are safeguarded to the fullest extent and all the countries, particularly the United States feel that the Parliament of India, the people of India are behind the Prime Minister as far as the NPT stand of India is concerned and there are no nagging doubts in anybody's mind.

As far as we are concerned, I will again say that our stand remains the same and we resolutely will stand to it and will give into no pressure.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I take objection to the comments made by the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing derogatory in it. Do not pull it on yourself. You are a very patriotic Member and you are certainly bound to have.....

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Are we creating doubts in the matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Are you not convinced?

MR. SPEAKER: Unnecessarily do not pull it on yourself.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious

problem with regard to farming community. There is a very serious problem which has risen. Since the Minister for Commerce and the Minister of State for Finance are here. I think, this is appropriate time to make this submission.

Sir, clove plantation is an important plantation in India. We are having a lot of foreign exchange in this, otherwise the farmers who are producing clove are in a great distress now. This is used for medicine and also for perfumes. The problem is there was a price of Rs. 400 per kg about three years back but now it has come down to Rs. 65 per kg. The farmers are about to abandon the plantation.

There is a very serious plight which has caused due to some of the imports which are taking place. Advance Licensing Scheme is there but this is being misutilised by many of the so called manufacturers who are not actual manufacturers and are using this advance licensing for importing large amount of cloves which are of low quality and which come to India through Ceylon as well as Nepal. This is being utilised instead of our domestic production. Our domestic producers are seriously put to this prejudice.

I would humbly submit to the Minister for Commerce because he deals with the imports also to take it very seriously. I would also suggest, the Minister for Finance also may take it seriously because the import duty also is to be taken into account.

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete it. Do not repeat it.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: So, I urge upon the Minister to please take a very serious note of it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the maximum foreign exchange coming to India is in the form of large scale investments being made by the NRIs. But a demand is being made in Canada, America, England and Australia for long for a dual citizenship. Several hints were given here in the House that they may be given dual citizenship...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a matter to be raised in the Zero Hour.

[Translation]

The Question Hour, for which the questions are submitted with a notice of 20 days, get over in an hour. Here you give a notice of 15 minutes and this Zero Hour will not go on for more than half an hour.

[English]

Now papers to be laid on the table.

1231 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

The Aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 1994

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF

YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Aircraft(Second Amenment) Rules. 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notificication No. G.S.R. 117(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1994 under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an Explanatory Note thereon.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT 5754/94]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the working of Tea Board, Calcutta for 1992-93 and statement for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): On behalf of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the