

- (ix) **Need to declare the Pattancheru and Bollarum areas of Medak district as 'Highly Polluted Industrial Zones'**

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Several industries in the industrial areas of Pattancheru and Bollarum of Medak district are discharging industrial effluents into the Manjira river, thus polluting the whole of water sources in the Medak district of Andhra Pradesh. They are also causing abundant air and environmental pollution.

The Manjira river, which is the main drinking water source for the Medak district as well as the adjoining twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad is totally polluted. The underground water of the affected villages is fully contaminated and is unfit for consumption by human beings and the cattle. The wells are contaminated and are not being used by the farmers for drinking and for cultivation.

Solid industrial wastes are being dumped by the Units in the Pattancheru and Bollarum industrial areas. This is causing spread of pollution through rain water carrying sulphuric and Nitric acids. The air contains traces of "Mercaptans" and high degrees of acidification of atmosphere thus killing trees. The turbid black liquid is being discharged into the Nakkavagu and Chinnavagu rivers. The agricultural tanks are fully polluted. The wells and bore wells have trickle of greasy, smelly black fluid.

A report in the New York Times states that the Pattancheru industrial area is the "Asia's worst polluted area". At least 950 persons were hospitalised due to various pollution related ailments. About 5,000 acres of fertile lands near Pattancheru and Bollarum have been rendered barren.

I request the Central Government to declare the Pattancheru and Bollarum industrial areas of Medak district in the Andhra State as "Highly Polluted Industrial Zones"

and sanction special funds for de-pollution measures on war footing.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1992 - 93 - *CONTD.*

Ministry of External Affairs - *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs.

I think, the discussion on this subject should be completed by 5 O' Clock. And immediately after that we shall take up the discussion on the Proclamation in relation to the State of Nagaland and probably complete it today itself. I request the Members to keep that in mind while making their speeches.

Dr. Sudhir Ray may continue his speech.

DR. SUDHIR RAY (Burdwan): sir, I was discussing about Indo-Bangla relations. My view is that because of the effect of democratic Government in Bangladesh, the situation is far more favourable for good Indo-Bangla relations. We should transfer Tin Bigha to Bangladesh immediately. We should honour our international commitments.

15.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, for years together, this issue is dragging on. We should now transfer Tin Bigha to Bangladesh immediately because we should honour our international commitments.

As regarding sharing of Ganga river water, I think, this issue should be amicably settled. But what is a prime importance is that trade relations between Bangladesh and India should improve; border trade should

[Dr. Sudhir Ray]

be legalised and normal trade rules should be legitimised. If border trade is legalised, then lakhs of people would be able to lead a normal life because they are now called smugglers, anti-socials, etc. Not only this, but the Government of India should also request Bangladesh to allow railway transit facilities so that we may resume trade with Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, etc. This would certainly expedite economic development of our States, which are situated in the North East India.

Sir, at the same time we should firmly tell Bangladesh that she should not grant asylum to some terrorist outfits such as ULFA. There is a newspaper project that TNV guerrillas, PLAs, ULFA, all have base areas in Bangladesh. This should be stopped. But a report of the SAARC countries shows that trade balance is always in favour of India and the neighbouring countries always suffer with trade relations practically going in favour of India. They complain of big brotherly attitude and they try to portray India as the big bully in South East Asia. This should be stopped, if we want to normalise trade relations with all the SAARC countries.

As regards Sri Lanka, India should categorically explain that we want Tamil people enjoy autonomy within the federal framework of Sri Lanka. We do not like to disturb Sri Lanka's unity and sovereignty. But, at the same time, the Government of Shri Premadasa should not use one Tamil Group against the other. That is why the ethnic trouble is still continuing in Sri Lanka. Already several pacts have been signed between India and Sri Lanka. We hope that relations will improve between Sri Lanka and India.

As far as Myanmar is concerned, we find that the military junta is trying to rule the country in an authoritarian way and all sorts of democratic movements have been stopped. We should proclaim our solidarity with the fighting people of Myanmar, who are struggling for their fundamental rights and liberties.

As regards Bhutan and Maldives, our relations are very good and we hope that this should continue.

In the end, I should say that Indian Council of World Affairs should be taken over by the Government. Government gave this assurance several times in both the Houses of Parliament. Even Rajya Sabha passed a Bill to this effect. So, the Government should pass the Bill and take over the Indian Council of World Affairs. (*Interruptions*). There is no Passport Office in Tripura. A Passport Office should function at Agartala.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been unanimous expression of concern as far as the global situation is concerned. Many Members have already expressed their concern regarding the unipolar world that has been created after the events in the Eastern Europe and the disintegration of Soviet Union into Commonwealth independent States. Therefore, naturally, throughout the world, there has been a little panic situation which has been created by these events. The United States of America has become the strongest force in the world and in this background when our economic situation has also been of great concern. A very typical situation has arisen as far as our international problems are concerned. Therefore, in certain respects, people are expressing fear that we are under the dictates of this big power which is the only superpower now left in the world. But I submit that it is necessary to counter this unipolar power with our old and proved successful strategy of Non-Aligned Movement.

As has been stated by one of the Members, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, when this Non-Aligned Movement was started, we were still weaker in the world. Even Soviet Union was not prepared to look at our ambassadors and we were practically alone as far as the international world was concerned. In those days also we thought of

initiating, developing and leading this Non-Aligned Movement and it has still the same relevance, or perhaps more relevance, as far as the present situation is concerned because the Non-Aligned Movement was not a negative movement. It had the positive objects and positive objectives as far as the international situation was concerned. We were to fight against colonialism and those problems are still there. Therefore, it is necessary not to be dejected in the present world situation but to follow and develop the Non-Aligned Movement in order to fight along with other Third World countries as far as the international situation is concerned. That would be the real strength as far as India is concerned because the intentions of United States of America are very clear from the Pentagon documents that has been leaked out, perhaps deliberately, in the month of March itself. It is made clear that the Pentagon wants the United States to remain the only superpower in the world for the foreseeable future and wants to deter other nations from aspiring to have superpower status. That is their main objective. Even though it has been subsequently clarified that the nations, particularly India and Pakistan, should not take this very seriously, that does not seem to be the real position. The correct position is that the Pentagon document is the real document as far as the United States of America is concerned. Therefore, in this 46-page secret document, extracts from which were published in the *New York Times*, the position regarding the other powers has also been made clear and it has been stated that it also fears that nuclear proliferation, if unchecked, could tempt Germany, Japan and other industrial powers to acquire nuclear weapons. That is the perception of United States of America as far as the international powers are concerned.

From the aspect of India and Pakistan also, they have made it clear that with regard to Pakistan, a constructive US-Pakistan military relationship will be an important element in our strategy to promote suitable security conditions in South-West Asia and Central Asia. So, if that is going to be their strategy in the foreseeable future, I think the

only weapon on which this country can rely upon is the Non-Aligned Movement, which we ourselves initiated, developed and also to a certain extent led in the past few years. Therefore, as I was saying, in the present context, even though the other super power had vanished from the world stage, the Non-Aligned Movement has become still more relevant. We shall have to organise the Third World and stand up against the colonialism, stand up against nuclear armaments and also stand up for the democratisation of the United Nations. With these three objects, if India stand erect, then, according to my submissions, we shall be able to stand the onslaught of the United States of America, as far as the world situation is concerned. Therefore, I must congratulate this Government for the stand which they took in the UN Security Council as far as the Libyan crisis was concerned. They abstained from voting and they did not drag along with the United States of America to vote for the sanctions against Libya. We were, of course, against international terrorism and therefore, we had to abstain from voting in the UN Security Council, but at the same time, we were in favour of a negotiated settlement, negotiated approach and therefore it was not wise to take hasty steps as far as Libya was concerned. If we continue this policy in the international world, I am sure that we shall again be able to collect our friends in the Third World and we shall be able to mobilise this Non-Aligned Movement. At present, even though it appears that the United States of America is the strongest power in the world, we must also strongly rely upon the world opinion and if the world opinion is mobilised through this Non-Aligned Movement, by collecting the Third World and standing behind them and supporting them in all their problems, then, I think, we shall be able to stand in this international world, as far as the strong unipolar power is concerned. From that point of view, this South African problem, the apartheid problem has also to be pursued vigorously. Even though certain tension has been released, still full democratic South Africa has not yet emerged out of this situation. Therefore, we should not leave that problem half-done, but along with

other Non-Aligned nations, we should be able to pursue that problem also.

In the field of disarmament, we had, during the regime of the late Prime Minister, submitted our Action Plan as far as disarmament was concerned. Even though it was not accepted in that conference, we should vigorously pursue it further. It is a gratifying situation that in the last conference, our present Prime Minister also supported that Action Plan. He not only supported that plan, but he had also suggested the advancement of the plan. At that time, our late Prime Minister suggested the year 2010 for complete disarmament. The present Prime Minister had now suggested the advancement of that date to the year 2000. That is also a very gratifying situation and I welcome that step taken by this Government. In the field of disarmament also, it is not merely sufficient to say something about disarmament but the action-plan which we have submitted has also to be pursued very vigorously along with our friends in the Non-aligned Movement.

Similarly, democratisation of the United Nations is also to be pursued by our Government, along with the other Third world friends which we have got. Therefore, from this point of view, the increase in the number of Security Council membership is also important and that has also to be pursued as far as our country is concerned. If we pursue all these objectives of the Non-aligned Movement, I am sure that we will get more friends and we shall also be able to create a world opinion in order to fight against the United States, one force which is trying to carry the whole world with it. Therefore, in order to safeguard the small nations and the other Third world countries which have come out from the colonial yoke and which are trying to develop themselves have also to be supported. From this point of view, we must also emphasise developmental aspects as far as the global situation is concerned.

Debt trap which is facing several

Non-Aligned countries has also to be fought with and we must create a world situation so that small nations can also develop themselves and they come out of the debt trap and then they will be able to face the big power of United States. From this point of view, I feel that the line of action taken by the Ministry of External Affairs is going in the right direction. It should be pursued vigorously. I do not agree with some of the Opposition Members who remarked that it is without rudder, it is without any mooring. I feel that it has a good direction. But we must pursue vigorously the line of organising the Non-Aligned Movement so as to meet the economic and other situations and help the other smaller countries also which are in the category of Third World so that we can also create the World opinion in order the fight against colonialism and create a situation for disarmament and create a situation for the democratisation of the United Nations.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI VJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir at the outset I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.

Sir, a major transformation has taken place around the globe. Politically, geographically, economically and militarily the world has witnessed an unprecedented transformation in the recent years. Breathtaking changes are taking place everyday. The U.S.S.R. has now disintegrated. Bipolar world has yielded the place to Unipolar world. Hence there is a need to thoroughly revamp the existing obsolete foreign policy of ours. We must have a vibrant foreign policy which can cope up with the ever changing situation around the globe.

Sir, top priority should be accorded the relationship with our neighbouring countries. Take, for example, our relationship with Pakistan. Pakistan had been instigating the terrorists in our border States, Punjab and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Kashmir. Pakistan had the audacity to do so, because it used to maintain excellent relationship with the Americans. But fortunately, they are not as close to the Americans now as they used to be earlier. Now we have improved our relationship with the United States. There is a change in the situation. We should make use of our improved relationship with U.S. to curb ruthlessly the terrorists in Punjab and Kashmir who are now working for the division of the country. Now is the opportune time to curb militancy in these two border States. Pakistan had all along been supporting the terrorists misusing the American assistance, both economic and military. But now the situation has changed. We should make use of the changed situation to bring back normalcy in the border States. This should be the bases of our relationship with Pakistan.

Sir, as I said earlier, the former Soviet Union has now been disintegrated. U.S.S.R. were the country on which India had been relying on heavily. They stood by us through thick and thin. The foreign policy that we formulate now must take cognisance of this fact. We have to recast our foreign policy once again making it more dynamic and viable.

Non-aligned policy is the sum and substance of our policy. Late Pandit Nehru is the architect of this policy. It is the policy which withstood the test of time. We should not, under any circumstances give up this policy. On the other hand we should take steps to further strengthen this policy.

Sir, with the disappearance of Soviet Union, the world has now become Unipolar. One nation or its group of nations are now trying to dominate the world scene. The Iraqi war bears ample testimony to this. Well, one may not agree with certain policies of the Iraqi President. We too differ with him on certain issues. But the way the Western powers allied themselves against Iraq and waged a war against is deplorable. A bloody war took place which totally destroyed the Iraqi economy. It was more a revenge on the people of Iraq rather than the ruler of Iraq. It

shows the tendency of the Western powers to dominate world scene. It proves beyond doubt that they want to be the Masters.

Sir, Americans are urging us to sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Western Nations are well ahead in nuclear technology. Their ever increasing stock piles of nuclear weapons are posing a threat to the very existence of mankind. The country across our border, Pakistan, has acquired the nuclear capability already. China is in possession of nuclear weapons. Ignoring all these realities the U.S. is trying to arm-twist India to sign the Non Proliferation Treaty. It is discriminatory. Their stand is not justified. We should not succumb to their pressures. India needs an independent nuclear policy, which can take care of the country's future security needs.

Americans are now preventing Russia from transferring Rocket technology to India. It clearly shows how the Americans want to dominate the world. Our country's needs are Supreme to us. We have to handle the situation tactfully. Without hurting the Americans we should try to procure the technology that we require. The diplomacy requires to be carefully handled.

Sir, I welcome the government's decision to accord diplomatic recognition to Israel. Non-recognition of a country often times goes against the interests of the nations. Hence timely recognition of the nations is a must. Hence I welcome the recognition of Israel. But at the same time India should not forget the Palestinians. India should continue to support their just demands. It is our duty to see that justice is done to our Palestinian brothers, Israel should withdraw from the occupied areas.

Sir, the situation in Afghanistan is volatile. That country is passing through a crisis. Afghanistan is strategically very important country. We have traditionalities with them. In 1979, the Russian forces have invaded Afghanistan. But India failed to condemn the entry of Soviet troops into Afghanistan. That was unfortunate. In 1989, the Russians were

compelled to withdraw their forces from Afghanistan. Now various factions supported by various countries like Pakistan and Iran are engaged in a bitter fight to grab power. As usual, Pakistan is trying to fish in the troubled waters. Pakistan is now trying to play a major role in the future set up of the country. India cannot remain a silent spectator anymore. Afghanistan is too an important country to ignore. India should view the recent development in Afghanistan seriously.

Regarding Indo-Nepalese relations, Sir, one must admit that they are none too satisfactory. For that matter, we do not enjoy good relations with any of our neighbors. On paper, we may have good relations, but practically they are not so. The relationship with our neighbours have been reduced to a formality. We have not shown enough interest in the past to have cordial relations with our neighbours. Our relations with Burma and Bangladesh are no better. Lakhs of refugees are pouring into the country from Bangladesh. We have to approach the refugee problem with a humanitarian view. After all, not long ago, Bangladeshies were our brothers. They were part and parcel of the undivided Bengal. Hence Sir, the relationship with all our neighbouring countries should be accorded top priority by those who man the South Block.

Sir, Libya has been subjected to various sanctions by the Western powers. True, we do not support the dictatorial tendencies of its ruler. We do not support international terrorism either. But what the poor Libyan people have done? Why should they be subjected to so many hardships by the international community? Is it justified to punish the people in order to punish their dictator? The recent sanctions imposed against Libya will further increase the sufferings of the people there. It reminds us of what had happened in Iraq barely a year ago. So punish the helpless people for the misdeeds of their dictator has become the Cardinal principle of the international diplomacy now. It should not be so. People should not be

subjected to hardships. They should not be made to pay the penalty for the misdeeds of their rulers. We, as an ancient nation, which had been upholding the dignity of the mankind throughout the Centuries, should see that nowhere on earth the innocent people are subjected to any kind of pressure or hardship by any power.

Sir, before I conclude my speech, I would like to mention one more thing. That is regarding Bofors. We discussed the Bofors issue in Eighth Lok Sabha and Ninth Lok Sabha. Again the same issue being raised in this Lok Sabha. How many hours of our precious time has been wasted on this one issue? How many lakhs of Rupees we have wasted? Is it the way to conduct ourselves? It is time for self introspection. The time has now come to think whether we are doing the right thing. Were lowering the prestige of the nation in world community by discussing this issue repeatedly. Just because that a bribe of Rs. 50 crores have been paid to someone, nobody knows to whom, in the purchase of weapons, the precious time of this August House, and the precious money that we are spending in running the Parliament is being wasted session after session and Lok Sabha after Lok Sabha. Is this justified? For the past 10 years we are wasting our time and energy in discussing this issue and nauseum ad ad infinitum. Did such thing happen anywhere else? Those who have lung power are dominating the proceedings everyday. We, those who are not blessed with lung power, are not being allowed to speak about the countless problems of our poor countrymen. Nobody is bothered about the plight of the farmers. It showshow irresponsible we are to our people. It is the duty of the Opposition to see that the government functions properly. It should see that the government discharges its duties properly. It is their sacred duty. But Opposition does not mean that they should waste the time of the House over reports which appear in the newspapers. It is an irresponsible act on the part of the Opposition to consume the valuable time of the House in discussing a frivolous issue.

Sir, once again I thank you for giving me

this opportunity and I conclude my speech.

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL (Hathras):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the Ministry of External Affairs has been going on. For the last 2-3 days' my learned colleagues have expressed their views on this subject. I do also want to express my views in this regard. Though the speakers who have spoken prior to me have repeated the subject to some extent. It may be possible that I may also repeat. The repetition was made on those subjects on which the opposition was unanimous and wanted that it should be improved taking it under the Ministry of External Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there have been very few occasions in the history of the Indian foreign policy when it has been dynamic, clear-cut and full of farsightedness. During the year 1991-92, it has been so directionless, inert and puzzled that it has never been before.

16.00 hrs.

There have been epoch making incidents in the World. The Ministry of External Affairs seemed to be inactive during the course of these incidents. Gulf war is not a secret matter. At that time the Government could not take any decision regarding support to Iraq or Kuwait. The Government have been allowing U.S.A. fighter aircrafts to take fuel at Bombay. We could not take a decision in the right direction. There was an unsuccessful coup in U.S.S.R. At that time also, we could not take any suitable and appropriate decision that would have been in consonance with our foreign policy. I think the diplomats deputed by us in that country might have been busy in enjoying Vodaka. Pandit Nehru had framed our foreign policy. It was the outcome of his farsightedness.

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

We cannot deny it even today. We did not follow the same policies in true sense. In 1946, Pt. Nehru had said that India would keep itself away from the power block created by the Super powers. Last time, the world had to face the world wars. In future also there is every likelihood of a widespread destruction with greater dimensions. We believe that peace and freedom cannot be separated from each other. If freedom is snatched away, it will have its repercussions at other places and could lead to a war like situation. Pandit Nehru had introduced the non-alignment policy alongwith President Shri Anwar Sadat and Marshal Tito. The model of Pt. Nehru's foreign policy was not a rigid one. It was a flexible policy. Its mixed economy was its Chief specialty. If there are some changes going on in the Government, the Government should try to mould the Nehru's model according to the prevalent situation. Nobody can criticise the language used in speeches delivered, or in any documents of foreign policy of our country. The language only cannot safeguard the interests of the country. The language of the foreign policy should inherit far-reaching national interests, even though it may not be much national interests, even though it may not be much described. It has been the practice and our aim also to portrait or enhance the image of a particular man. We should not indulge in boosting the image of a particular person, rather all the parties should sit together and formulate the foreign policy. Today, we are ignoring the targets of our foreign policy. On the contrary, the Government should formulate the policy to protect the interests of territorial unity and integrity. We should create such a favourable atmosphere as may strengthen the peace and stability in our region as well as promote healthy economic situation. We should draw an out-line in the of economic welfare of our people. But I am sorry to say that the Government is being deviated from its objectives. Today a significant change has taken place in the world scenario. It would have for reaching impact on the foreign policy of India. In the revolutionary change to which the world is moving today, India should use its foreign policy as an

[Dr. Lal Bahadur Rawal]

instrument in promoting its national interest in a proper way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the speakers who have spoken prior to me and the people belonging to my party also, have expressed their views on the foreign policy. As the hon. Jaswant Singh has said that there is nothing new in the report for the year 1991-92. We have made much efforts to improve the relations with our neighbouring countries, but on the contrary, those countries did not make parallel efforts in doing so. The foreign policy of India has always been opposed in regard to neighbouring countries. If we analyse Indian foreign policy from 1947 to 1991, it has neither solved any national problem nor protected our national security. As much as we are making efforts to improve our relations, they are becoming more and more complicated. We have suffered a lot for improving relations especially with our neighbours. It is not known at what point we are erring in framing our foreign policy in regard to improving relations with neighbouring countries. Pandit Nehru who was bearing the torch of Panchsheel principle had died before time. He went to China to harmonise the relations with China. But China had deceived us. We have lost Shastriji in the matter of Kashmir would improving relations with Pakistan. Indiraji had sacrificed her life in solving the problem of Punjab and Kashmir. The country had lost Rajiv Gandhi for the sake of improving relations with Sri Lanka. I am unable to understand as to what we will gain in future in following such type of foreign policy. Our borders being narrowed. As much as we talk of improving relations with our neighbours. Our borders are being squeezed. We are much worried about Pakistan.

When we think of improving relations with Pakistan we sign agreements and hold negotiations. But after some time all agreements and negotiations break down. The foreign policy of India centres round the mutual understanding between the two countries. Declarations speeches and an-

nouncements are made but they do not serve any purpose. There have been agreements but they were made only to be violated. This was not by us but by Pakistan. I would like to say that the position of Pakistan is same as mentioned in this couplet:

"Meri himmat dekhiye, mera salika
dekhiye
Jab sulijh jaati hai gutthi, fir se ulajh
jata hun mai"

When the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan comes to India he speaks all absurd things against India and we still tolerate everything. I do not know whether they want to have friendly relation with India or to have conflict. They have fanned terrorism in the Punjab and the Jammu and Kashmir to such an extent that the entire country is worried. The Kashmir problem is a cause of grave concern to all of us and we are anxious to find a solution to it. I think perhaps a direction has been given to improving relations with China. But we are also required to remain alert. In the meeting of the National Executive of our party held at Tiruanantpuram a resolution was passed to improve relations with China, wherein it was stated that we should take initiative for agreement with China in the areas of trade and culture. Solution of every dispute should be on the honourable terms to both the sides. I do not know as to how the present Government wants to develop relations with China. In this regard our party has a categoric view that our relations with China must improve. But at the same time we must have sympathy with the people of Tibet because we have ancient relations with Tibet. We have ill-targeted and oppressed the brave people to Tibet. It was stated in the joint statement made by the Prime Ministers of India and China that the human rights principles included in the United Nations Charter should be honoured. If we go through the history of Tibet and the role of China there, we would come to know that the Chinese army and Police Killed more than two lakh Tibetans and they destroyed six thousand Buddhist monasteries and thousands were jailed. We cannot escape by saying that it is an internal regional problem of China. When

coming to any agreement with China we must keep these things in mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir we should continue to have same relations with Nepal, Bhutan, Bangle Dosh, Shri Lanka Maldives and all our neighbours as we had in the ancient time. I am of the opinion that the people of the neighbouring countries and their leader have doubts about our leaders. They doubt us because they fear that India tries to impose her policies upon them. I would like to request through you, that our Government should try to remove their misapprehensions and allay the fears in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our relations with Sri Lank has been very old but perhaps no other country looks at us with as much doubt as Sri Lanka does. Similarly, we have always neglected a country like Myanmar. We never made a clear policy towards that country. We have not contributed to the establishment of democratic Government there. We have taken no concrete steps to get the Noble Paureate Ms. Aung San Sukyi free. I would like to say that India should try to get that country included in the 'SAARC'. I my be wrong, but I must say that the countries of SAARC look one another with doubts. We should consider as to where the fault lies. The basis of foreign policy of Pt. Nehru was manifested by his contribution in launching the non-aligned movement. The aim of the non-aligned movement was different when the two big powers were at cold war but now when the cold war has ended the aim of the non-aligned movement has changed. But it does not mean that the spirit behind non-aligned movement has been sacrificed. For the prosperity of our people we should also support the struggle in foreign countries. Shri Atalji had stated last time while expressing his views that the policy on non-alignment cannot be neglected. Our party has never neglected it. He accepted it even when he was the Minister of External Affairs. But he made it clear that non-alignment should be made genuine in the changed context. It was his view and we also want to request the Government that efforts should be made to make it genuine. In the context of our rela-

tions with the entire world, we should consider as to what should be our relation with America. We should see to it that America does impose any conditions on us on some pretext or the other. Not only this if America on the one hand supports our policy regarding Kashmir and at the sometime keeps supplying arms to the neighbouring countries we must strongly protest against it. We should think as-to what should be our relations with Russia, Germany and Israel. As some of my friends have expressed earlier the diplomatic relations established with Israel should be promoted further. I welcome it. It has also been welcomed by our party that we should have cordial relation with Israel, but we should not also ignore our old friend Palestine, It has helped us from time to time, and it will, therefore, like to take our help. Therefore, I would like to urge that alongwith giving recognition to Israel, we should also support the cause of Palestine. During the past few days there has been a lot of discussion on economic policies. I would like to say something briefly on this subject. India's population forms. One seventh of the world's population and the resources are only 4 per cent.

16.17 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We shall have to increase our resources in accordance with our population but to seek help from other countries does not mean that we should mortgage our country. During last few days it came under discussion that we should take help from other countries to strengthen the economic set up of the country. The economic machinery is rapidly coming up in the world today. The European Community is uniting. On the other hand Japan and American have evolved a common strategy. Unfortunately our foreign policy is facing lack of economic machinery. The success of the foreign policy depends upon extent to which our internal policies reflect the economic policies and their objectives. If even once we decide to free ourselves of the policy of any group, then that we should search for the way of self-reliance

[Dr. Lal Bahadur Rawal]

in an economic way otherwise we shall continue to behave like that trader who worships the cow but for the sake of earning profits, he continues to go ahead in trade in the flesh of the cow.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the foreign policy should not be made the policy of any one party. All groups should sit together and decide amongst themselves. As just now my colleague, professor Prem Dhumal has said that an expert committee on policy Planning Commission should be established, which should frame a permanent foreign policy. There should be a political consensus on the issues of the foreign policy. We should form a single opinion.

The world of two big powers has come to an end now we should try for a powerful SAARC. There is an urgent need to establish a joint trade centre for the entire region. I would like to repeat that we should, watch the interests of the nonresident Indians from time to time, and if it is necessary they should be granted dual citizenship. We should make efforts to strengthen the United Nations Organisation. Efforts should also be made for permanent membership of India to the Indian Security Council. Besides what we have said in the statement about the development of the Hindi language, which according to me is not sufficient. We should make more efforts in this direction so that our national language is more, popular in foreign countries.

Efforts should also be made that our neighbouring countries more especially Pakistan should follow the Shimla agreement. If Pakistan violates the Shimla Agreement then it should be given retaliatory reply. We should also see how our country's wealth which is lying in foreign banks can be brought back and for the future also we shall have to formulate a policy so that nobody can deposit the wealth of this nation in foreign banks under any circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these words, I thank you very much for giving me time to present my views wishing a short period of time.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unable to support this foreign policy. I have something special to say in this connection. People from all our neighbouring countries especially Butan, Nepal and Bangladesh migrating into our country and it has become a serious problem for us I would like to draw the attention of our Minister of External Affairs that the small countries in our neighborhood also have some problems. Since India is a vast country, that is why it becomes necessary for us to pay attention to the problems of our neighbouring countries. If we do not pay any attention to their problems, and if our foreign policy towards them is not sympathetic we may have to face serious challenge in the near future. We people shall get entangled in some new crisis. (*Interruptions*)

Today agitations are being held in the vicinity of Bhutan and all the men of Nepali origin are being whisked away from Bhutan and after running away from there, they are sneaking in to India everyday by which we are getting and our problems are increasing. The law and order situation in tea gardens is disturbed. We have an open border near Bhutan rather the boundaries of two countries meet in one city, there is a single passage over there and a single wall serves as a partition between the two countries. Today the situations has arrived at a stage that every kind of terrorism is on the increase there. Many people sneak into India from Bhutan and the people of this country cross over to Bhutan. Although Bhutan is a small country, the way people are coming in an unauthorised manner into our country everyday from Bhutan and Nepal because of which all our arrangements to prevent infiltration are failing and there is disorder. Therefore, I would request the Minister of External Affairs to arrange a meeting of the External Affairs Ministers of Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh at the earliest and consider

their problems. We should examine their requirements and our problems.

The hilly brooks which flow from Bhutan our country are damaging the tea garden inhabitation are ruined and there is heavy damage to agriculture as well. Our problems will go on increasing unless we do not sort out a new scheme after discussing with Bhutan. Till then any hypothesis will not materialize. So I request you that when we are facing new problems everyday people are pouring in on humanitarian grounds, we cannot send anyone back as is done by Pakistan. More than 5 lakh chakma refugees from Bangladesh have settled here but the Government of India is silent the with regard to talks with Bangladesh on this issue, although it has become a serious problem for us. The function of our External Affairs Minister is not only to go on tour to countries like America, Britain and Honolulu he should also pay attention to the problems and happening within the itself. A meeting of the External Affairs Ministers of all the countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal may be held and they may be asked to put across their problems and sort out a solution. No salution is possible unless their problems known and discussed. The problem of the rivers cannot be solved. Because of that our environment is continuously polluting. We should see how we can use those drains to our advantage. We shall have to talk to them regarding this issue. They are all small, self-respecting countries. They have wealth in various forms, we should learn something from them. It is better to sit together and solve the problems of India. If we do not do so our problems will go on increasing. We are experienced and we have already suffered so much. Many people are coming here everyday, how shall we feed them? So many people are already here. I come from Alipurduars and I am very familiar with the situation over there. If any bungling takes place over there, we may lose Assam. It will be isolated. Our border with Bangladesh and Bhutan has become a very sensitive area. So our External Affairs Minister pay visits foreign countries, we should see to the problems of the country and those of the neigh-

bouring countries and make efforts to find a solution to those problems.

Sir, the problem of the chakma refugees and tribalis is flaring up. Secondly inspite of my request and demand the Government has taken no measure till date. It appears the Central Government has paid no heed to it. Children are dying and starvation is at its peak, but the Government is the least concerned. The Government is of the opinion that they cannot be returned back to their native country because it is not befitting to humanity. For the sake of humanity, they cannot be sent back to Bangladesh. My submission is that if the Government cannot send them back to Bangladesh at least they can be exchanged. If five lakh refugees have come from here, the same number of persons should be sent there. The Government can do it, but it is doing nothing such a situation is multiplying our problems.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been saying it repeatedly that this is a very serious problem. Therefore the Government should give an assurance that it will hold meeting with the countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan etc. and will try to solve this problem.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
EDUARDO FALEIRO): Thank you, Mr.
Speaker, Sir.

Mr. Speaker Sir, permit me, at the very outset, to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for the contributions made by the hon. Members from all sides of the House. They were very critical and at the same time an incisive look into our foreign policy will undoubtedly contribute in the formulation of the policy in future as it had contributed in the past. We look with great attention to what this House says. Sir, may I immediately advert to an aspect that appears to me to have been a fundamental aspect that has emerged from this discussion? That aspect is this that whilst the international scene has undergone changes and indeed, radical changes, there had been a tradition in this country for four decades or so, the tradition

[Sh. Eduardo Faleiro]

of a consensus approach to the foreign policy, the tradition of a national consensus backing our foreign policy. I see that tradition today, I saw it the other day and I saw it throughout this debate the national consensus of foreign policy in spite of the radical changes that have taken place in the world, the national consensus on the Indian foreign policy reflected in this Parliament which undoubtedly reflects the country as a whole. That national consensus is here and it was shown by all sections of the House and that is, indeed, the most heartening aspect that has emerged from this debate.

We are with the Opposition; we are with all sections of the House when they say that the new international scenario does indeed provide an opportunity and we need the opportunity and the opportunity of democratisation of the international order should not be lost. This is the time in which real democracy in international relations, justice and equity must prevail and can prevail and large and small countries, powerful and not so powerful countries may and can be treated in the footing of equality. Let us march together, big and small, powerful and not so powerful, rich and the poor. Let us march together in the new era of international relations. In this spirit of fraternity of the international community, it is possible that this can be done and therefore, we are with you, we are with the Opposition and we are with all sections of the House when we speak of democracy of the international order.

We are also with the House and the Opposition when we speak about democratisation of the most important instrument of the international order of international operation, that is, democratisation of the United Nations Organisation itself. Of course, in the contest of democratisation of the UN, questions such as expansion of the Security Council, which is supreme, as it were the executive organ of the United Nations, is important. But no less important, as has been pointed out on more than one occasion over the last couple of days, is the question

of having an international order which addresses itself to regional, local problems or otherwise in a non-selective manner, in a manner that is based on international legality and in a manner which cuts across the globe and deals with situations on merit and law, as I have said, on well-established principles of justice and equity.

Sir, the debate has established this consensus and indeed this unanimity of views on the relevance of the non-aligned movement. The non-aligned movement was never predicated on the cold war or on the confrontation between the superpowers. The premise on which the non-aligned movement lies and indeed, the *raison d'être* for the non-aligned movement is a need of those countries which had recently acquired independence, to preserve their political independence and to strengthen their economic independence. We see today the need for the non-aligned movement to continue because we see today the need for the non-aligned movement to fulfil its unfinished task, if I may say so, because the agenda remains unfinished in many fundamental aspects—the question of disarmament, the question of development, the question of environment and not the least of all, the question of economic and social progress and prosperity.

As we see it today, the end of the East West confrontation and the new collaborative relationship between the two superpowers or the two former super powers and indeed the era of collaborative relationship that has now arisen among all the great powers is very much welcomed by itself. But then, we must be alert to the danger of a sharper North-South divide in the absence of corrective action. In our view, the South should not be marginalised in the international fora when major political and economic decisions are made. Therefore, it is in this context of what I have said that the non-aligned movement, the principles of non-aligned movement, the *raison d'être* of non-aligned movement continues and need for non-aligned movement to be as strong and as effective as before, nay, much stronger

and more effective than ever before still remains, and this is a concept and this is an objective that we fully support and encourage.

Having said this, may I now turn to some of the specific issues that have been raised in the course of the debate? A major priority of this country's foreign policy, as indeed the foreign policy of all the countries, is its relationship with its neighbouring countries. We are very keen and have always been very keen for having best of relations with our neighbour. We have, in a manner of speaking many common aspects. We are one people in many aspect because we have culturalties and we have economic linkages. And where we do not have economic linkages, we have good reasons to have economic linkages. In many respects, therefore, the fraternal spirit that we advocate for the international community as a whole, that fraternal spirit must prevail even more vehemently in our own neighbourhood, in this region, in this sub-continent and therefore the relations with our neighbors and the strengthening of these relations are of priority in our foreign policy objectives.

We look at the relationship with our neighbours from two places. One is the multi-lateral plane and that is basically through the regional arrangement of the SAARC and the other is, of course, the bilateral plane. As far as SAARC is concerned, I would like to submit here that the recent SAARC Summit held in Colombo last December, we hope, will impart economic content to growing cooperation amongst the South-Asian countries within the SAARC framework. Alleviation of poverty has been accorded the highest priority by the Summit leaders who agreed in Colombo to set up an independent South - Asian Commission to study and report the next SAARC summit its recommendations on poverty alleviation in South Asia. With these developments, it is expected that SAARC will be more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people of South Asia.

As far as bilateral relations are con-

cerned, over the last one year or so, there has been, by and large, generally speaking, a substantial upswing in these relations. I could mention, for instance, Indo-Nepal relations. In the course of last one year and indeed more than one year Indo-Nepal relations have not merely been normalised but in the recent past, have been strengthened and intensified.

During the Nepalese Prime Minister's visit to India in December 1991, substantial progress was made in identifying concrete areas and mechanisms for mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation. As many as five treaties and agreements were signed between the two countries for cooperation in a large number of areas such as trade, transit, control of unauthorised trade, agriculture, education, Science and Technology. A number of decisions were taken for cooperation in the key area of water resources development. Thus the two countries are moving towards a new era of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

In short I may say that our relations with Nepal are at a splendid high level keel and perhaps they have never been as good as they are now. We would indeed improve on this spirit of fraternity and cooperation for further benefit of both our countries and people.

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, the meeting between our Prime Minister and President Premadasa in December 1991, on the occasion of the SAARC Summit, gave a further boost to bilateral relations and enabled discussion of issues of concern. It was agreed that Sri Lanka would take back Tamil refugees presently in India who were desirous of returning voluntarily to their homeland. As of now, approximately 15,000 have returned and the movement is continuing.

We have taken up with the Sri Lanka Government incidents of attacks by Sri Lanka Navy on our fishing vessels which stray beyond the maritime boundary. Assurances have been received from them that such

[Sh. Eduardo Faleiro]

instances will not recur. At the same time, it is necessary that our fishermen be advised to confine their fishing activities to the Indian side of the maritime boundary. And, whilst I say this, we are at the direction of the Prime Minister in the process of seeing as to what we can do within the existing legal framework to improve upon the possibility of fishermen to fish in some of these areas which we are now discussing.

Now, I come to Pakistan. Unfortunately, in spite of our good wishes and in spite of our keen desire, I am not in a position to report to the House that our relations with Pakistan are in a very good condition. The crux of the problem remains Pakistan's continued support to terrorism and subversion directed against the Indian States of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Assurances conveyed by Pakistan in this regard remain to be translated on the ground. Pakistan has also been attempting to internationalise the Kashmir issue and in this effort has misrepresented and distorted the situation in the Valley through false propaganda.

On our part we are willing to discuss and seek a peaceful resolution of all issues with Pakistan. But it is evident that meaningful discussions on bilateral issues specially on the more complex questions, can only be held once Pakistan stops its interference and support to terrorism. This support, which is totally unacceptable, vitiates the climate of bilateral relations and is not conducive to promoting mutual trust and confidence for a purposeful dialogue.

Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue are in total violation of their commitments under the Simla Agreement. These efforts only serve to complicate the situation further.

We would once again like to urge the Government of Pakistan to refrain from actions that undermine the process of bilateral dialogue and to join us in efforts to establish tension free and good neighbourly relations

in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and peace and stability in the region.

Sir, I would not go in detail into our relations with each and every neighbour country in view of the paucity of time but it is important that I should mention about our relations with China, a subject which has been repeatedly emphasised by several hon. Members. The improvement in our relations with China acquires additional significance in the light of recent changes in the world situation. China is our largest neighbour and we are two of the world's largest developing nations. Our dialogue with China is aimed at strengthening of mutual understanding and the peaceful resolution of all outstanding questions. There is a steady and positive momentum in our dialogue with the Chinese leadership at the highest political level. We are finalising the visit of the President of the Republic to China in the near future.

Similarly, Sir, We attach great importance to our relations with Japan. A number of high-level exchanges have led to the overall expansion of bilateral relations and generated further momentum in the political and economic dialogue between the two countries.

We appreciate the support extended by Japan during the critical period of our balance of payments crisis last year and have thanked the Government of Japan for the timely assistance. The Ministry is also working on the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to that country. When it is agreed at the highest level, this visit will take place in the near future.

Sir, I would like to just touch here on the problem that has been repeatedly mentioned and that is the issue of establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. I would like to say this in this context, the changed international political environment and start of the Arab Israeli dialogue on the West Asia peace settlement were among factors which weighed in favour of India's position to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. This

decision does not imply any dilution of India's traditional support for the rights of the Palestinian people or its close allies or our close relationship with Arab world to which we remain fully committed. On the contrary, we believe that if it is to continue, we have to continue to play a role in the politics of the region which is essential for us to have a credible access to both sides to enable us to articulate our point of view more effectively and directly; and concretely these aspirations and these executions have come true. Because, after all, we established diplomatic relations with Israel. To begin with both the co-sponsors of the Middle East Peace conference have welcomed our participation in this Conference and so also, Israel and the PLO. In fact, the PLO was really the first to do so.

Sir, it is worthwhile mentioning that as far as the United States of America is concerned, it is our largest trading partner and an important source of foreign investment and technology. It is even more important for the house to appreciate that the United States of America has recently, in recent times are highly supportive of our position of terrorism, on the threat of Pakistan's nuclear ambitions and our concerns in the international financial institutions over which they have a considerable voice. They are also even supportive to our endeavours and to our objectives. This is a qualitative change and a change which we welcome and a change which definitely contributes in a very marked manner to improve, in fact strengthening of the relations between the two countries. We, in this trend are looking forward and we have reasons to look forward to further strengthening of bilateral relations between the two countries.

The erstwhile Soviet Union has now dissolved itself and given rise to fifteen new countries. Our overall approach over these developments has been based on our policy to build up the rich investment of friendship and co-operation which we have enjoyed with the erstwhile Soviet Union. However, the situation on the ground has changed. Old equations and arrangements would be sus-

tained and strengthened to the extent that they are still mutually acceptable and desirable. At the same time, now, arrangements are being formulated to direct the overall relationship forward.

In the context of Europe, Europe as such have become—it was already important, with a unified Europe or unification in the process of completion today even more important not only for India but also for all the countries of the world. These are developments that we are monitoring. The Prime Minister and other high level dignitaries have been in contact with several of the European Leaders and this has benefited the country a great deal in terms of our relationship with Europe which is important politically to the world and to all countries and I may say as a conglomerate or as a unit which is really our largest trading partner and not as an individual country. It is a source of investment.

I would like to mention here special developments as far as the United Kingdom is concerned and the developments really to the extradition Treaty and then agreement with the United Kingdom for confiscation of terrorists' funds which we have finalised and we expect will be signed shortly.

These agreements constitute a milestone in Indo European cooperation to curb anti India terrorism and will preclude United Kingdom as a safe heaven for anti-Indian terrorist activity. We hope to strengthen cooperation with other major European countries as well in tackling the problem of terrorism.

On the question of South Africa, in consonance with the decisions taken at the Harare Summit, we have removed all restrictions including the Consular and visa and other restrictions on people to people contact. We are working out on the possibility of direct Air India flight to South Africa; and this is all in terms of the decision taken at the Commonwealth Summit in Harare and in terms of the Commonwealth decision also we have proceeded further in selective lifting of this sports boycott. And as the House

knows, a cricket team from that country was here and Indian team is also expected to tour South Africa later this year. The Government is monitoring developments in South Africa very closely, Particularly the progress being made in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa with regard to the formation of an interim government on which the black majority would be represented. Further progress in the negotiating process will certainly allow for grate interaction with South Africa both at the people-to-people and governmental levels.

Hon. Members particularly Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee and others— she is here in the House now— have been consistently raising a question of what we are doing for the students in the erstwhile Soviet Union. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, in fact, has written to me about the problems of the students in Bulgaria. I will pass on the detailed information to her personally on this specific aspect. But I may state here that the approach particularly of what we are doing for our students in the erstwhile Soviet Union is that we are taking maximum interest in their welfare and that is as it should be. It is our duty to take great interest in the welfare of our citizens abroad at all times and particularly so it is our bounden duty to do it as we see when they are young people, students and therefore with very very limited resources economically or in terms of contacts. Therefore, what we have done is I do not want to go into great details. In brief, what we have done is as follows:

The Reserve Bank of India has issued necessary authorisation where by students already in the Republics of the former USSR can receive 50 dollars per month in Indian rupee in India. This is expected to tully take care of the problems of purchasing power inadequacy and most reasonable demands for hard currency payments;

Parents/guardians may also send PTAs through Air India by paying in rupees for the return/holiday of their wards. The RBI has

issued necessary instructions to the banks and ADs to accept such requests on production of requisite papers. This is also expected to take care of the problem of non-confirmed bookings.

Now the most important thing is that we have advertised and announced that students going now to the Soviet Union or interns to go to the Republics of what was erstwhile Soviet Union should desist from doing so in view of all these problems. If they do it, it will be very very difficult for us indeed to take care of them in the manner that we are doing for the people already there.

Our Embassy in Moscow and other Missions have also been instructed to take up the matter with the new independent Governments with the request that as individual successor States they should abide by all the contractual obligations in respect of Indian students so as to ensure their academic career are not adversely affected.

One last word and I have done and that concerns the complaint of issuing passports and our passport services. The complaints are partly genuine. But, on the other side, the number of passports that are being issued has increased tremendously, multiplied a few times over the last couple of years without any increase in the staff strength. It is in this context and in the context of the fact that the cost in spite of what one hon. Member has pointed out, is much more than the income we get from passports. For instance, the cost of the booklet itself is around Rs. 100/-. This situation cannot continue and it is in this context in the other context of improving the passport services that we are taking some steps.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): You should issue more passports.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We will do and we will issue more. With the permission of the Hon. Speaker we will make efforts to introduce the necessary legislation to amend the Passport Act, if possible in the course of this session itself.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): You have to increase the staff.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We will. We have all the goodwill to increase the staff. We need your support with the Finance Minister.

SHRI RAM NAIK: If the Finance Minister is not supporting you, who will support you?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We will do something to improve the matters.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): People do not mind paying a little more, but they want the passport within 30 days because it is a question of providing employment to our people. Also, it is a question of our getting foreign exchange. I entreat upon our Minister to take immediate action in this regard.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Even in a city like such, we are not getting passports even within 90 days.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I do want to give any justification. There could be many justifications. But the point is that a citizen is entitled to get a passport within a reasonably short period of time. I will review the position. I do not give any reasons. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Mr. Minister, there is also a question of the laminating machines.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): We want that the people should be able to get passports without any humiliation.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The lamination of the passports is taking time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Not like this. Then everybody will get up.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I am very much embarrassed having taken so much time.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: There are laminating machines in the passport offices but many of them are not working, and because of that the issuance of passports is being delayed. I know an example of the Coaching Passport Office. I want the hon. Minister to enlighten us on this point.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Our staff has problems because it has not been increased. We have problems but we are working this out. And one thing is, it is not just a question of increasing the staff or staff problems; but the management of the whole operation has to be improved.

We are also appointing an independent agency to suggest a restructuring overall, of the passport services, to submit a report within six months. We will keep the House informed and in the meanwhile we will do all that we can to meet genuine demands of the Members of different sections of this House.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Should I remind him that he has not referred to the Afghanistan issue?

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADANLAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the passport office of Srinagar, which at present is located in Delhi, may be shifted to Jammu.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: What about the proposal to take over the Indian Council of World Affairs?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not an issue. Please sit down. Now, the Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) Several hon. Members were justifiably exercised over the difficulties that have crept in the contract with Glavkosmos of Russia for the supply of Cryogenic engines and related technology.

[Sh. P.V. Narasimha Rao]

I though I should take the House into confidence on this because this is one of the most important projects that we have and lot of our progress, particularly in the field of education, remote sensing, etc., which are all for peaceful purposes, would depend on our capability for launching our vehicles into the orbit with our own technology.

An important objective of India's space programme has been the acquisition of capability to launch satellites into geo-synchronous orbit. This is crucial to our developing our developing our telecommunications network, improving weather forecasting and conducting resource surveys through remote sensing.

The INSAT series of satellites falls within this category. The INSAT-I satellites have been launched using facilities provided by friendly countries like the USA and France. However, as we planned to launch several of the more sophisticated INSAT-II satellites in the coming years, development of indigenous capability to launch satellites using our own rockets becomes an urgent requirement, particularly since cost of launch services has also increased significantly.

In order to develop this capability, the acquisition of hardware and technology pertaining to a Geo-Stationary Launch Vehicle (GSLV) using what is known as a cryogenic engine, is of critical importance.

Development of this technology in developed countries had taken around 10 years. If all the elements of the research and development programme were to be undertaken indigenously in India it would have taken us an estimated eight years to achieve independent GSLV launch capability. However, if the segments comprising the cryo engine and related technology were obtained from friendly countries, the same capability could be acquired in only five years with none of the risks of failure and delays inherent in any R&D programme within the country. So, this is the comparative advantage, Sir. It is not as

if we cannot do it. It is not an impossibility. This is the point I would like to stress in the first instance.

In August 1990 the space commission had approved a plan developed by ISRO for acquisition of cryo engines and related technology as part of the GSLV programme relaying entirely on indigenous efforts. The project would have been spread over a period of seven to eight years, as I said, at a total cost of Rs.756 crores. Now this is on side. This is our own programme if we really want to take it up ourselves.

Negotiations were held in parallel between 1988 and 1990 with three foreign parties-General Dynamics of the US, Arianespace of France and Glavkosmos of Russia for the for the acquisition of cryo engines and related technology. Our requirement was for both equipment as well as technology, since without technology the aim of building up our own indigenous capabilities would not have been served.

The General Dynamics offered to sell complete cryogenic engines but did not offer to transfer technology. Since this fell short of our requirements, these negotiations were terminated in March 1990.

Arianespace of France and Glavkosmos of Russia were initially reluctant to transfer technology but ventrally agreed to do so. The offer from Arianespace, made in October 1989 entailed a total cost of Rs. 710 crores and despite further negotiations, the firm indicated that it might be able to reduce the price at most by about five to ten per cent.

Glavkosmos of Russia, on the other hand, offered the same equipment and technology; at a cost of Rs.235 crores. 710, 235—that is the difference, Sir. This offer was made in October 1990. The equipment and technology, when integrated with other indigenous elements of the GSLV programme, would have been within the Rs. 756 crores estimated for a fully indigenous project,

approved earlier by the Space commission. The Space commission evaluated the Glavkosmos offer as part of its effort to hasten the acquisition of indigenous GSLV capability. It was felt that Glavkosmos offer would enable this country to achieve GSLV capability within a shorter time frame as I have just explained. The technology being proven there would be less of the risks involved in the R&D programme if we had taken it up ourselves. Furthermore acceptance of the Glavkosmos offer would not entail any additional expenditure.

17.00 hrs

Based on this evaluation the Space Commission decided to accept the Glavkosmos offer in October, 1990 and the Cabinet approved signing the contract with Glavkosmos in November, 1990. The Contract was finalised and signed in January, 1991.

I would now like to explain to Members the relevance of the so called Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) to the contract with Glavkosmos.

In 1987 the US and six other western countries adopted the Missile Technology Control Regime aimed at, what they called, "restricting the proliferation of missile and related technology". The bench mark adopted for applying the MTCR was to restrict transfer of missile and technology capable of delivering a minimum of 500 kg payload to a distance of at least 300 kms. It is relevant to note that the guidelines specifically state that they are "not designed—this is important—to impede national space programmes or international cooperation in such programmes as long as such programmes could not contribute to nuclear weapons delivery systems". This is a very clear stipulation there.

The cryogenic engines and related technology are meant for our civilian space programme. They do not and cannot have any military application. In offering its cryogenic engine, Centaur, to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), General Dy-

namics of the US had confirmed earlier that "Centaur is a non-storable upper stage and is not practicable as a weapon system". So, they themselves have certified that what we were really seeking to obtain from them was entirely peaceful.

Both the French and Russian firms had sought assurances of civilian use this is generally done non-diversion and—non-transfer to third countries to satisfy MTCR guidelines. In the contact finally signed with the Glavkosmos, ISRO has given these commitments precisely because our programme is for peaceful purposes only.

The Russian side has informed us recently, just a few days back, and as a result of which I believe the questions arose in this House that they want a "pause" in the implementation of the contract and further technical discussions with India on the subject. The contract has not been suspended nor cancelled so far. Our Secretary for Space is now in Moscow for technical discussions requested by the Russian side. In fact, the Russian Ambassador told us that they want only further technical discussions. Evidently, it means that some objections have been raised as to the technical sort of safety of this programme or this engine or this transaction, whichever way you look at it, and probably they need further confirmation, assurances or being convinced at the technical level. This is what it amounts to as we were told.

Those discussions are taking place right now. Our Secretary for Space is there. He is sending us reports which do not indicate so far that there has been any insurmountable difficulty in the discussions or we may have to call it off or anything like that. So, I would not take that view at this moment. I would say that the discussions are going on and we hope that they will fructify.

I would like to assure this House of our continuing commitment to achieving self-reliance in field of high technology particularly in areas like space which have a major bearing on our economic development. We

[Sh. P.V. Narasimha Rao]

have had very fruitful cooperation in peaceful application of space technology with several countries including the erstwhile Soviet Union, France and the United States and now Russia. We would like to continue such cooperation to our mutual benefit.

However, we always have the alternative to develop the technologies we require indigenously, although this may entail a longer time frame, and in some cases higher cost. We are determined to do so.

I may add, Sir, that sometimes temporary difficulties that we encounter in obtaining something from abroad, themselves become a boon. They give us the additional urge to develop it ourselves. This has happened before, this can happen again. So, there is really no cause for any concern on the part of the Members. However, I am aware of the concern which they have expressed and we are fully alive to the situation.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Sir, just one request about the latest situation in Afghanistan. I do understand that the hon. the Minister of State did make a brief reference to that. But it is a continuing problem and we also expressed our concern. So, if either the hon. Prime Minister or the Minister of State can shed some light on the situation in Afghanistan, it would benefit the House.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, it is very uncertain. I would not make a statement as of today. May be after a few days when this situation is little more clear, I would come to this House or the Minister of State will come to the House with a statement. Right now it is very difficult to make any statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I shall put....

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bnakura)

Sir, one clarification. The Prime Minister has not stated about the supply of rice to Cuba. He has not reacted to the pressure from USA to stop the supply of rice to Cuba. This was referred to here.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, there has been an offer that the Communist Parties or one of the communist Parties wanted to send rice to Cuba ... (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Collectively.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Collectively. We will combine the rice that we are sending, with their rice ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA: (Madhubani) Yes, the Communist Parties will do, not only for Cuba. But we want you not to fail in your words. The Government of India must be serious in the fulfillment of its own words. That we want to know from you ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: That is what I have just said that there was a report. There was some hurdle sought to be placed in this. But then that was withdrawn. That has no longer any relevance to our helping Cuba. We can do it only within our own limitations. I had discussions with the Foreign Minister of Cuba when he came here. He is a very old and dear friend of mine. So, this matter is being sorted out.

SHRI IINDERJIT (Darjeeling): Sir, would the Prime Minister shed some light on the question of Dr. Najibullah? Has he sought asylum?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, we are in almost hourly touch with the situation there. I would not venture to make any statement just now. At the earliest opportunity we are able to do so, we will come to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Now I shall put all the Cut Motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of External Affairs to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of his Cut Motions

may be put separately.

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI
(Serampore): Sir, I want my Cut Motions No.1,2 and 3 regarding Indo-US relations to be put to the vote separately.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put Cut Motions No. 1, 2 and 3, moved by Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri to the vote of the House.

Cut Motions 1 to 3 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the other cut motions to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 14 to 22, 30 to 37 and 46 to 56 were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the

Demands relating to the Ministry of External Affairs to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1993, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 24 relating to the Ministry of External Affairs."

The motion was adopted.

Demand for Grant in respect of Ministry of External Affairs for the Year 1992-93 voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on 26th March 1992		Amount of demands for grants voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6
24. Ministry of External Affairs					
Ministry of External Affairs		9952,00,000	1150,00,000	49760,00,000	5751,00,000