

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been giving notice for 3 or 4 days regularly but my name is not being called. I have a very important issue to raise here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no please.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. It is impossible. How long can it go on? It has come to an end.

13.41 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): We have carefully noted the statement by the former Prime Minister of Pakistan that Pakistan Possesses an atomic bomb. This is the first ever such explicit statement by a Pakistani leader who occupied the highest office of government Pakistan can no longer maintain a stand of ambiguity about the intentions and true purpose of its nuclear weapon programme.

We have consistently held the view for long that Pakistan is pursuing a weapon-oriented nuclear programme. The surreptitious evolution of Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme from its infancy and its clandestine development

have naturally engaged our close attention all along. We are dismayed that Pakistan not only has advanced its nuclear weapon programme to an intended conclusion but also is holding out to India a nuclear threat in settling its outstanding differences with us. This is a matter of grave concern to us.

The international community must concertedly act to ensure that Pakistan behaves as a responsible member in the comity of nations. Indeed, there has been international concern expressed over Pakistan's emergence as a nuclear weapon State. Pakistan should be forthwith compelled to abandon its nuclear weapons programme and agree to conduct itself within limits. Recent reports indicate that Pakistan is continuing to pursue its nuclear weapon programme and is clandestinely procuring materials for this purpose from whatever source available. The reality today is that Pakistan is becoming a serious threat to international peace and stability. Pakistan's deplorable record of siding and abetting international terrorism and subversion combines with its open threat to use nuclear weapon as an instrument of policy.

We are taking all necessary steps to mobilise the international community over the threat posed by Pakistan as a State-sponsoring terrorism with a declared intent to use nuclear weapons for resolving its differences with India over J&K.

I assure the House that the Government will maintain the utmost vigilance on this matter and will act with decisiveness and firmness in thwarting any danger to the country's national security.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot): I am on a point of order. My point of order is this. The hon. Minister has just now made his statement. My question related to the Ministry of External Affairs. The Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Srinivasan, whose name had appeared in all the national newspapers said that he wrote a letter. After that he had contradicted that that was a forged letter which has to do something with terrorism sponsored by Pakistan in Punjab. The question is that Mr. Srinivasan, wrote a letter to British Embassy, the Canadian Embassy and to American Embassy. It has been reported that Jathedar of Akal Takht who happens to be the Pope of the Sikhs in the country was to visit these three countries.

It is a very important matter. The letter of Mr. Srinivasan states that the Jathedar of Akal Takht should be taken care of and paid Rupees one-crore and fifty-lakh and that money was to be paid in Canada, America and England. It was on the letter-head of Mr. Srinivasan. I want to know whether that was a forged letter of a real one. It was done just to malign the Sikh institutions.

Sir, the Ministry of External Affairs had been hijacked..... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, it is a very important matter. I had asked a relevant question which is of national importance. I wanted a reply from the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this matter has been raised in such a manner that international community may take notice of Pakistan. My purpose of raising the issue Yesterday was to make

the Government of India aware that Pakistan can attack our country at any time. I want to draw the attention of the House that there is a need to hold discussion here. Government has rightly stated that it will raise this issue on international level. But the Government must state here as to what steps they are going to take in this regard?

13.44 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

First Annual Report on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Statement showing Seasons for delay in laying these Papers etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the First Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 for the year 1990 under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the said Act.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the paper mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L-T 6353/94]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions)