

the Indian system of control on poppy cultivation. In spite of resources constraints, Government of India attaches very high priority to tackle illicit trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and the results achieved by Indian enforcement agencies have been appreciated by I.C.P.O.-INTERPOL and the International Narcotics Control Board. Successive reports of the INTERPOL indicate that now about 70% of the heroin emanating from South West Asia reaches Europe via Iran and Turkey through the Balkan route instead through India which has been mainly attributed to the stringent enforcement measures taken by the authorities in India.

12·00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Developments in Soviet Union

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday, the House wanted to get the information on what is happening in Soviet Union. I think, the Foreign Minister is ready with the information. I would request him to make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Hon'ble Members will recall that on the 20th August, 1991, I had informed this august House of the developments that had taken place in the USSR on 19th August, 1991. Since then, events in the Soviet Union have moved at a very fast pace. On 21st August, the Soviet Parliament's Steering Presidium formally declared the ouster of President Gorbachev illegal and reinstated him as President. President returned to Moscow in the early hours of 22nd August. He has since

resumed his duties as President at Moscow.

Yesterday, our Prime Minister sent a message to President Gorbachev, expressing his relief and happiness at his and his family's well-being and expressing the satisfaction of the Government and the people of India at his resumption of duties as the President of the U.S.S.R. Prime Minister has also sent a message to Mr. Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republics (RSFSR) appreciating his role in the restoration of constitutional order in the U.S.S.R.

What has happened in the Soviet Union is a reassertion of democratic values and a triumph of the will of the people. These are the values to which we ourselves are deeply committed and on which our polity is based.

Hon'ble Members are aware, of the unique role of President Gorbachev in initiating the process of *glasnost* and *perestroika* and a vision of a world based on disarmament, peace and cooperation—a vision which we share and which has been reflected in the Delhi Declaration on Principles for a Nuclear Weapon-Free and Non-Violent World, signed by the former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and President Gorbachev on 27th November, 1986.

President Gorbachev has also played a stellar role in adding new dimensions to the time-tested, warm and friendly Indo-Soviet relations based on mutual interest and trust. The Government of India is convinced that these relations will grow from strength to strength.

I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our best wishes to

President Gorbachev and to the friendly people of the Soviet Union, for their success in the challenging tasks that lie ahead of them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Better late than never. This should have been done much earlier, as had been categorically stated by us.

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: We have made it clear earlier.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): We have lost the moorings of our foreign policy.

12.04 hrs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF USSR

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole House must join in felicitating President Gorbachev, Mr. Boris Yeltsin and Soviet people and also convey our best wishes to them.

[*English*]

SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: With your permission, it may be recalled that during the discussion yesterday, honourable Members had referred to a news-item on developments in the USSR and had sought a clarification. I have ascertained the position from our Ambassador in Moscow who has categorically denied the remarks attributed to him.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): There had been difference between the Government and the

Parliament. The stand taken by the Government is almost the same as that of the Parliament. I agree with Mr. George Fernandes and he has rightly said that both the Parliament and the hon'ble Speaker should extend their felicitation to the Soviet people.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I totally agree with the views expressed by Mr. Manoranjan Bhakta yesterday. Sir, you and the House in general must felicitate them.

[*English*]

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that already we have lost the opportunity. We should have conveyed our greetings yesterday. We are losing time. We are losing the opportunity. The Government of India has lost the moorings of our foreign policy. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. When I am standing, you should sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, the hon. Foreign Minister has expressed the hope that the House will join him in conveying the best wishes to President Gorbachev and the friendly people of Soviet Union for their success in the challenging tasks that lie ahead of them. We associate ourselves with his view... (*Interruptions*)... Sir, I said it yesterday. I do not depend upon their good certificate... (*Interruptions*)... We know who are patriotic and we know what is patriotism. I do not want their certificate... (*Interruptions*)... I am conveying our good wishes to the people of Soviet Union in the tasks