

to be opposed in it. I do not think that the hon. Minister of Finance will withdraw the Bill and it is not possible for us to support the Bill in its present form too.

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan called on the President and the Prime Minister. I also had a separate meeting with him.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER*

17.11 hrs.

Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan at New Delhi

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): Sir, Hon.able Members are aware that the Sixteen Round of Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan was scheduled to take place in New Delhi on 17-19 August, 1992. These talks have concluded today.

The Sixth round of talks was to have been held in June, 1992 but was postponed due to the climate of bilateral relations having been vitiated by the abduction and brutal treatment meted to a senior Indian diplomat in Islamabad and Pakistan's conduct in violation of accepted norms of diplomatic functioning.

The Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan during their meeting at Rio de Janeiro on 14th June, 1992 had agreed that, despite recent setbacks, it was necessary to reduce tensions and set the bilateral dialogue back on track. We believe that there is no option but to continue this dialogue. We believe that channels of communication must be kept open with Pakistan and efforts under taken to reduce tensions.

During the visit to New Delhi, the For-

During the course of these meetings, we have reiterated that Pakistan's continued support to terrorism and subversion and interference in our internal affairs must stop and this issue must be put at rest without any further delay. We impressed upon the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan that concrete evidence of this happening alone will provide the atmosphere for building up friendly relations with Pakistan.

The Foreign Secretary of Pakistan has handed over a letter from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif addressed to our Prime Minister. Our Prime Minister has indicated that after due consideration of the contents of the letter, a reply will be sent.

The Sixth Round of foreign Secretary level talks did not have a fixed agenda but covered the whole range of bilateral issues between India and Pakistan. The views on regional and international issues of mutual interest. During the talks, the Foreign Secretaries have reached agreement on a schedule of official level meetings in the coming months on certain pending issues of bilateral concern. These include Siachen, Sir Creek, the issue of missing Indian defence personnel and civilian prisoners in Pakistan as well as the next round of meeting for the India-Pakistan Committee to Combat Drug Trafficking and Smuggling. At the end of the talks similar agreed press statements were made. A copy of this statement is placed on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2603/92]

The bilateral talks with Foreign Secretary of Pakistan were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere. They were useful in that they have afforded us the opportunity to strongly urge that Pakistan must desist from

(Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings)

[Sh. R.L. Bhatia]

and realise the dangers inherent in, its continued support for terrorism and subversion in India and to take urgent corrective action. The actual proof of Pakistan's sincerity in developing friendly relations with India will lie in Pakistan giving concrete evidence on the ground. We shall carefully watch the situation in this regard.

At the conclusion of the Sixth round of talks, the two Foreign Secretary exchanged the Instruments of Ratification of the Agreement on Prevention of Air Space Violations and the Agreement on Advance Notice of Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troop Movements, which were signed in New Delhi in April 1991 and subsequently ratified by the two Governments. The Foreign Secretaries have also signed a Joint Declaration on Complete Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and a Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel of India and Pakistan. These three documents signify a step forward in the pursuance of confidence building measures.

We have kept communication channels open with Pakistan. The Prime Ministers of the two countries are scheduled to meet during the NAM Summit in Jakarta.

I assure Hon'ble Members that Government is committed to normalise relations with Pakistan and to try and resolve all issues peacefully, through bilateral negotiations. In our view a dialogue is essential to keep tension in check and to lower temperatures. While we are willing to discuss all issues with Pakistan, meaningful discussions on bilateral issues, specially once more complex bilateral questions, can only be held on Pakistan stops its support to terrorism and subversion in Punjab and J & K.

(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHARAD DIGHE): It is not allowed. Please do not record anything. I have not allowed. *(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not to be recorded. *(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you to speak. *(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you. I have not given permission. Please do not record anything. *(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ansari may speak on the Banking Companies Amendment Bill.

17.18 hrs

BANKING COMPANIES (ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS) AMENDMENT BILL - CONTD

[English]

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): Sir, the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Bill is before the Parliament for its passage or for its enactment. I find that this is a very limited Bill, for a limited purpose - that the paid up capital of the banking companies must be raised from Rs. 500 crores, in the year 1980 - as it was pointed out.

It was Rs. 50 crores in the year 1970 - to Rs. 1500 crores. So, it is a salutary Bill and it will have salutary effect on the banking companies also. It must be praised and it must be supported. But certain conditions must also be imposed thereon.

First, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to why this paid up capital is going to be increased. This is a