

12.8 hrs.

STATEMENT RE REPORTED TAK-
ING OVER OF POWER BY ARMY
IN PAKISTAN

श्री यशवन्त शर्मा (गुरदासपुर) :
हमारे उपमहाद्वीप के एक देश पाकिस्तान में
कुछ घटनाएं घटी हैं, उनके सम्बन्ध में मैंने
एक स्थगन प्रस्ताव लिया है लेकिन मैंने उसको
लौटा भी लिया है । लेकिन विषय
अति महत्व का है । मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि
माननीय विदेश मंत्री इस सम्बन्ध में सदन को
जानकारी दें तो अच्छा होगा ।

MR. SPEAKER: If the Govern-
ment wants to make a statement, I
have certainly no objection, but I
think you should give them time to
find out what is happening there. I
won't ask him to reply now. If some-
thing happens in Pakistan, I don't
think we should take very keen in-
terest in it in this House.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA
(Begusarai): The Minister agrees.

MR. SPEAKER: If he agrees, I have
no objection.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-
PAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir. Now that
the point has been raised in the House,
I would like to confirm that a Pakistan
Radio announcement today quoted a
statement by a military spokesman
issued in Rawalpindi that the Armed

Forces of Pakistan took over control
of the administration of the country
this morning. The spokesman stated
that top political leaders belonging to
the Pakistan Peoples' Party including
former Prime Minister Mr. Bhutto and
the PNA leaders have been taken into
"temporary protective custody". The
spokesman said the situation in Pakis-
tan is normal and peace and tranquil-
lity prevail everywhere.

While naturally we follow events in
our neighbouring countries with inter-
est, I would like to reiterate that
these developments are an internal
affairs of Pakistan. India has consis-
tently followed a policy of non-inter-
ference in the domestic affairs of other
countries. The House is aware that
after assuming office, this Govern-
ment has publicly reaffirmed the
policy of seeking good neighbourly re-
lations with all countries in the region
so that peace and stability may prevail
in the sub-continent.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
I would like a clarification. The Hon.
Minister was pleased to say that they
have heard a broadcast from Radio
Rawalpindi; has not our High Com-
mission in Pakistan informed us about
the developments there?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
Not yet.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:
Have you made any enquiries?

MR. SPEAKER: There will be no dis-
cussion now and no questions.