

Commodities Ordinance. I have one question to ask. I have given....

MR. SPEAKER: I will go to the Committee.

SHRI JYOTRIMOY BOSU: I have given notice in writing before 10 o'clock and I may be allowed to express myself on this point.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be looked into by the Committee. Why do you want to take up the time of the House unnecessarily, now?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Marmugao): There is an earlier ruling from the Chair that in such matters when any objection is raised about papers laid on the Table of the House, such objection will be sent directly to the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: It will be seen by the Committee.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Which Committee? There is no Committee now.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: I have quoted the authority under which I want to draw your attention to this pernicious, obnoxious legislation that you are going to bring in.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question now. The Committee is seized of the situation. We shall now proceed with the call attention motion.

13.14 hrs.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND TENSE SITUATION CREATED IN THE REGION THEREBY.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): On this question, in a meeting called by the Prime Minister..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: A call attention motion has been admitted and I have called upon Mr. Panigrahi to call the attention.

SHRI SAMAR MUKERJEE: We wanted a debate and the Prime Minister agreed to it. Let the Prime Minister speak.... (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I will follow the rules. (Interruptions).

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The tense situation created in the region as a result of the reported arms aid to Pakistan by the United States of America in the context of the recent developments in Afghanistan.”

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Calling Attention is over we can further discuss if there is.....

(Interruptions)

It can be considered after this.

THE PRIME MINISTER ((SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): I did not know that the Calling Attention had been admitted here. This matter was raised in the meeting with the opposition leaders. It can be put up to the Business Advisory Committee and they can see whether time can be allotted.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of the United States of America announced on December 29, 1979 the resumption of military assistance to Pakistan on which they had earlier placed an embargo in accordance with American legislation. According to reports that have come to the attention of Government, the US Government has decided to expedite military

[Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao]

supplies to Pakistan worth \$ 150 million as part of cash sales already in the pipe-line. The US Government has further announced a package aid of \$ 400 million for the next 20 months—\$ 200 million in economic aid and the other \$ 200 million in military aid.

Government have expressed their grave concern at the moves to step up military supplies to Pakistan as well as our apprehension that induction of arms into Pakistan could covert the South-Asian region into a theatre of great power confrontation and conflict. Government have also expressed their apprehension that the induction of arms has a potential of decelerating the process of normalisation which the governments of India and Pakistan have fostered in the spirit of the Simla Agreement. These views have been impressed upon the Governments of USA, Pakistan and other concerned countries.

Sir, the developments in the region around us in the last few months have rightly given rise to much concern in this country, which is shared by the Government. The underlying causes are not far to seek. Tensions and problems have existed between neighbours, and even inside nations. A dangerous dimension is added when the great powers start using these nations in their quest to gain advantage in their global strategy, or to seek to secure their perceived interests, or again when governments in the region render themselves amenable to this strategy for some short term gains and in the process defeat the very objectives they are seeking to achieve. The need of the hour is to stem this ominous process and return to the tried and tested path of settling problems in an environment free of great power influence or confrontation.

In this context, Sir, recent developments in Afghanistan have naturally been engaging the serious attention of the Government. India has close and friendly relations with the government and people of Afghanistan and we are deeply concerned and vitally interested

in the security, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of this traditionally friendly neighbour of ours; and we believe that they have every right to safeguard them.

It is our hope that the people of Afghanistan will be able to resolve their internal problems without any outside interference. As the Prime Minister has clearly indicated, we are against the presence of foreign troops and bases in any country. We have expressed our hope that Soviet forces will withdraw from Afghanistan.

Our entire stand is consistent with our commitment to peace and non-alignment. All the countries in the South Asian region are members of the Non-aligned Movement and, consistent with the principles of non-alignment, it is our hope that the entire area will be free of tensions.

The induction of arms into the region and the introduction of great power confrontation would further threaten the peace and stability of the region including the security of India. In this evolving situation our effort has been to take steps to defuse it rather than permit its further escalation. The Government of India has been in touch with the countries of the sub-continent, the Soviet Union, USA, China and other countries to stress that no action should be taken that could lead to an enhancement of the dangers and heightening of confrontation as we feel no worthwhile solution is otherwise possible. In this context the Foreign Minister of the USSR and the representative of the President of the United States are expected to visit India in the near future. The Foreign Secretary of India will also visit Islamabad shortly at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan.

We deem it important to have a continuing dialogue with Pakistan as indeed with the other countries of the region to ensure that this region does not become the theatre of great power confrontation. It is vitally important that the Governments of India and Pakistan have a clear understanding of each other's perceptions and that

nothing is done in the meantime that could damage the interests of our region or cause a set back to the process of normalisation between India and Pakistan.

We welcome President Zia-ul Haq's reference to the Simla Agreement in his message to the Prime Minister. This Agreement, in our view is the basis of the efforts to normalise relations between India and Pakistan. The Agreement states that relations between the two countries shall be governed by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. Both countries have further committed themselves to peaceful co-existence and respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty. There are, in our opinion, positive and obvious advantages in co-operation between our two countries through the process of normalisation. It must be our hope that we will jointly be able to travel further along this path of reason.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our region and our neighbourhood has been in turmoil over a long period. Working together in harmony and cooperation, we can do much to establish a climate of peace and stability in order to promote development for our collective benefit. Let it be clearly understood that in pursuit of this vision, we will steadfastly oppose all attempts by any power to turn the clock back and revert to an era of confrontation and cold war. Government is confident that the House and the people of India stand united behind it in supporting their efforts to gain these objectives.

**SHRI CHITAMANJ PANIGRAHI:** Sir, while we fully appreciate the positive stand and the line that the Government of India is committed to and while we all support the stand that has been taken by the Government, I would like to know from the hon. Foreign Minister whether the Government is aware that in another five to six months Pakistan is fully going nuclear and in view of that, when it is turned into a kind of military yard by the United States and China also. I want

to know whether, when our Foreign Secretary is going to Pakistan and when President Carter of the United States is sending his special representative to India, our Government is in communication with the Chinese Government also so that they should also not supply arms to Pakistan in view of the effort that the Government of India is making to make this region peaceful because big power rivalry is going to escalate the present cold war to hot war in which India is going to be engulfed. May I know what positive steps the Government has taken in this matter and what fruit it has borne?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** I have already submitted that we are in touch with all the concerned Governments. Beyond this, I need not say anything at the moment, because as I have submitted, we are in a constantly evolving situation.

**SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor):** I have gone through the statement of the hon. Minister. After reading it, I have an impression that the real danger or gravity of the situation that has arisen as a result of the massive supply of arms by the United States to Pakistan has not been recognised even now, and some of the realities which ought to have been noticed have been ignored. The statement has been wrapped in diplomatic jargon. Now, Sir, supply of American arms to Pakistan had always been a serious source of threat to our country and whatever arms America had previously supplied to Pakistan had been used against India in the two earlier wars, in 1965 and in 1971. This has been our experience. This has happened despite the assurance given by the then American Government leaders. Now, apart from America agreeing to reopen the arms supply to Pakistan, there are certain other developments which also help Pakistan to acquire weapons. That is, many of the West European countries who are members of the NATO alliance are also giving arms to Pakistan. And thirdly, there is also a report that the Karakoram Highway that has been built by China....

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, the question should be asked. It should be relevant.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Yes, I am trying to come to the point.

MR. SPEAKER: The question should be related to the subject matter of the Call Attention. Please come to the point.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): He is giving the background.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Certain facts are missing from the statement. So, unless I explain the background....

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask the question, you cannot make a statement.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: He has to give the background. He has to formulate the question. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, 5 to 15 minutes should be given to each Member on the Call Attention. There are five Members and the Minister has to reply. So, you can use your judgment in any way you like.

MR. SPEAKER: It should be relevant and to the point. Please come to the point.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: I have already mentioned that there is a report that the Karakoram Highway is being used by China for sending arms and armaments to Pakistan. Therefore....

MR. SPEAKER: What is the operative point?

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: The operative point is this. Here the statement says that "we will steadfastly oppose all attempts by any power to turn the clock back and revert to an era of confrontation and cold war." This

kind of statement has been given on innumerable occasions when this question of supply of American arms to Pakistan was raised in this House. I want to know what concrete action is taken to oppose the supply of arms in the light of our experience in the past that despite our repeated opposition, America had been continuing helping Pakistan with modern weapons. And the second question is....

MR. SPEAKER: Only one question.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: It is (b) The development in Afghanistan is directly related to this and the development in Afghanistan should be viewed against the background of the developments in Pakistan. Now, the Soviet Union has entered into a treaty of friendship and Afghanistan being the neighbouring country, any hostile development in that region would seriously affect.....

MR. SPEAKER: Why can't you be precise about what you want to ask so that he may answer you?

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Therefore, so far as Afghanistan is concerned, it is fighting for its freedom and independence and it being a non-aligned country and a country very friendly to India, what are the steps Government of India intends to take to help the Government of Afghanistan and their people in this hour of peril.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The Calling Attention Motion in terms refers only to the reported arms aid to Pakistan by the United States of America in the context of the recent developments in Afghanistan. So, I would submit that all reference to China and other countries and other sources from which arms supplies are reported to be made to Pakistan would not be covered by the Calling Attention Motion. (*Interruptions*).

So far as the Afghanistan question is concerned, I have made a very comprehensive statement.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI (Thane): But vague.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I really do not know what we can do in the internal matters of another country beyond hoping, wishing and trying for something which we want to happen there, and this is what we have been doing. I have already submitted that we are in an evolving situation, and it will be very difficult for us to take a final stand, a definitive stand a unilateral stand in a situation like this. We are aware of the situation and we are doing everything in our power to see that tension is relieved in this area.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): I would like to know whether Government, while considering this serious matter, has taken the following points into consideration: firstly, that the scheduled arms supply to Pakistan and the delivery of the arms as stipulated do not seem to aim at meeting the immediate situation in the area and is a long-term aid agreement which goes into 20 months to begin with, and is likely to be extended further. It should be considered by the Government whether this has any significance in the present situation and the House should be informed about it.

Secondly, the question of the quality and range of the various arms seems to indicate that they are meant for a much larger territory than is covered by the present area of tension, i.e., Pakistan and Afghanistan. The large missiles and other things cover much larger territory up to the farthest length of India. May I know whether this has any significance and whether this portion of the agreement has been properly analysed by the Government?

While appreciating the steps already taken by Government for lessening of tension if the area I would like to know whether Government are contemplating any further action to still more defuse and lessen the tension in the area.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Both the quantum and the nature of the arms aid have been thoroughly analysed, and

we have pointed out that the professed purpose for which this aid is being given does not tally with the nature and the quantum of the arms. This has been brought to their notice. We are still hoping that in view of what we have told the countries concerned, some improvement will be found in the coming weeks. As I have submitted, some very important personages and representatives of Heads of State are coming here. We will continue the dialogue and we hope that it will bear fruit.

As for the second part of the question, it will depend on what happens during the talks. As I have said it is an evolving situation. We have to watch the situation as it evolves and take steps at the proper time.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): May I first draw your attention, Sir, to the wording of the Calling Attention Notice? It has been completely changed, and it gives only one side of the picture. Therefore, there cannot be a full discussion. It is only limited to U.S. arms aid. I am drawing your attention for the future.

MR. SPEAKER: We have not changed anything.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: The other part has been taken away, and only this part has been retained.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing has been deleted. It is Mr. Panigrahi's motion which has been admitted by ballot.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): The procedure is when you try to club a number of names together if there are certain complementary aspects of other call attention motions, they are to be clubbed. Mr. Panigrahi's call attention motion has been admitted, but Dr Pandit has given notice of a motion in which the entry of Soviet Russia was also mentioned. If you club these motions together, then club all the countries referred to also together.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pandit will put a question now.

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:**

The statement made by the Minister is totally unsatisfactory. It does not say anything about the part played by our Permanent Representative at the UN, who took a stand that the Soviet stand as far as Afghanistan is concerned is satisfactory to India I quote from *Indian Express* dated 13th January, wherein it has been stated:

"We are against the presence of foreign troops and bases in any country. However, the Soviet Government has assured the Government of India that its troops went to Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan Government."

It is this leaning and tilting in our stand that has made the situation worse. What is the Government's final judgment as far as the involvement of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan is concerned? We want to have that clarified first.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** It is aggression.

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:**

They have treated it as their internal affair. The Government knows about the recent news that Pakistan guerillas are there in Kabul, Chinese troops are there on their border. How long can it be treated as their internal affair, when it has become an International problem. It is coming right on the border of our country. I would like to have the Government's stand in most certain terms as far as the situation in Afghanistan is concerned.

As far as the massive arms aid to Pakistan by us is concerned, as my friend Shri Shukla said, it is much beyond the requirements of the situation. Sophisticated arms are being given to Pakistan and if the U.S. could change their law as regards the supply of arms to Pakistan what efforts have made by the Government of India to secure nuclear fuel for us?

**SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT**

(Ahmedabad): On a point of order. This discussion is being converted into a debate. Under the Rules of procedure, no debate shall be allowed (Interruptions). I am a new Member so far as this House is concerned. But I know the rules and conventions (Interruptions).

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have taken your point. Mr. Pandit, you put the question now.

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** References have been made to the Simla Pact and the normalisation of our relations with Pakistan. I would like to know what exact steps they are going to take in the comity of nations to enlist world opinion against any country resorting to aggression over another country. What steps are you going to take beyond the Simla Pact in getting the support of all other non-aligned countries on this issue?

We would like to have a clarified stand of the Government on all these three points.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:**

Presumably, the hon. Member is referring to the statement made by our Permanent Representative at the UN. Now, the Permanent Representative has stated no more and no less than stating what happens to be our information, not our judgment because judgments cannot be made in a situation like this. What he has stated is as follows:—

"The Soviet Government has assured our Government that its troops went to Afghanistan at the request of the Afghan Government first made by President Amin on December 26, 1979."

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Do you agree?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** Beyond this, there is no question of our having agreed or having endorsed it. We have said very

categorically that we are opposed to the presence of foreign troops on any soil. This is the exact position.

So far as bilateral relations with Pakistan are concerned, the latest between the two countries happens to be the Simla Agreement. Whatever happened before the Simla Agreement, it is best forgotten and the Simla Pact spirit has to be maintained hereafter. Some normalisation has taken place in respect of certain matters, like cultural relations and to some extent, trade. But much remain to be done. As hon. Members are aware, the actual implementation of an agreement between two nations is not a simple thing. It is attended with so many other tensions so many other influences and so many other events supervening between the conclusion of the agreement and the time we are referring to. Therefore, in the first place, we should address our appeal to Pakistan. After the new Government has taken over, a very congenial climate has been created in the sense that President Zia of Pakistan has himself sent a very warm message to our Prime Minister where a pointed reference has been made to the Simla Agreement. Now, we are working on that, following it up and we have talked to them. Our Foreign Secretary is going to Islamabad; we are not allowing any souring of these relations and we are not losing any time in taking further steps and having further talks in regard to all the outstanding matters which have got to be decided by bilateral agreement. This is the position.

श्रीमती कृष्ण साहू (बेगूसराय): मंत्री महोदय ने जो वक्तव्य सदन में दिया है उस में उन्होंने काफी व्यापक रूप से सभी बिन्दुओं पर प्रकाश डाला है। मैं इसका सहर्ष समर्थन करती हूँ।

आप सभी जानते हैं कि हमारे पड़ोस के क्षेत्रों में कुछ महीनों से जो घटनाएँ घट रही

हैं, उससे हम सभी का चिन्तित होना स्वाभाविक है। अपने वक्तव्य में मंत्री महोदय ने भी बताया है कि सरकार काफी गम्भीर रूप से इस पर चिन्ता प्रकट कर रही है और कार्रवाई भी कर रही है। इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना है। मैं समझती हूँ कि उनका उत्तर काफी संतोषप्रद है। लेकिन मैं केवल एक स्पष्टीकरण चाहती हूँ। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि तत्कालीन सरकार ने उस समय क्या इस के सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रोटेस्ट किया था या नहीं और इस संबंध में तत्कालीन सरकार ने कौन सी कार्रवाई की थी?

श्री पी. बी. नरसिंह राव: ये जो घटनाएँ घटी हैं, लगता है कि ये दो सरकारों के बीच घटी हैं। एक तरह से हमने अपनी प्रतिक्रिया प्रकट कर दी है-----

श्री जी. एम. बनावाला: अनईक्वी-वोकल कंडेमनेशन होना चाहिये।

Let there be a firm and an unequivocal condemnation.

श्री पी. बी. नरसिंह राव: अपनी प्रतिक्रिया को इस सरकार ने स्पष्ट शब्दों में प्रकट किया है।

13.45 hrs

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1979-80.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (Shri R. Venkataraman): I beg to present a statement showing Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1979-80.

13.45 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (FORTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT) BILL\*

गृह मंत्री (श्री जेल सिंह): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि भारत के संविधान का और संशोधन करने वाले विलेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति दी जाए।