

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जिसको मैं ठीक समझता हूँ, ठीक कहता हूँ लेकिन जो गलत है वह भी मानने के लिए तैयार हूँ मैं मानता हूँ यह सवाल ठीक नहीं है मेरी समझ से, लेकिन मेरे स्टाफ ने इसको एडमिट किया है ।

It is wrong. I totally disagree with it.

लेकिन जब एडमिट कर देते हैं तो गवर्नमेंट आन्तर देगी ।

They are bound to do it. That I admit. I said it was wrong; it should not have been done. I am not going to allow a discussion on the question. This is a State Subject. Now, Calling Attention. Shri Paswan.

(Interruptions)

I am not going to allow anybody. It is so simple; whether you take it or not, I shall be guided by the principles. I have taken my decision and I am not going to rescind it.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing. Not allowed.

(Interruptions)**

MR SPEAKER : Don't record. I am not going to budge an inch.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Calling Attention. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

(Interruptions)**

Don't record. I am not going to allow anybody on this subject. Calling Attention now—Mr. Paswan.

12.18 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported multi-million dollar contract by Pakistan with United States of America for purchase of sophisticated arms and ammunitions

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The reported multi-million dollar contract by Pakistan with United States of America for purchase of sophisticated arms and ammunitions and the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation”.

The Minister of Defence (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the concern of this House on the massive arms build-up in Pakistan with the assistance of the U.S.A. and some other countries.

(Interruptions)

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी (हिंसार) : अध्यक्ष जी, मेरा प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ना प्वाइंड आफ आर्डर ।

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष जी, नियम 222 के तहत ।

MR SPEAKER : There is no point of order; there is nothing to discuss.

Now, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने नहीं सुना है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपने नहीं सुना तो मेरी जिम्मेदारी है क्या ।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मैं तो चुप हूँ ।

(व्यवधान)

(Interruptions)**

MR SPEAKER : Not allowed. I have not allowed Mr Vajpayee.

I am firm on my decision. I will stick to it.

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बोलिए साहब, यदि बोलना है तो ।

(व्यवधान)

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad) : Sir, the Minister has made a very comprehensive statement. He is keeping the interest of the country at heart. His able major Mr. K P Singh Deo is assisting him. He has assured the country that there is no danger from Pakistan to the security of the country.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मैं कैसे बोलूँगा हाउस को आर्डर में लाना तो आपका काम है ।

... (व्यवधान) ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उल्टा चोर कोतवाल को डांटे आज ।

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : It is your duty to bring the House to order. What can I do? I don't know what the Defence Minister has stated.

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आज उल्टा चोर कोतवाल को डांटे ।

... व्यवधान ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जरूर बैठिए ।

(Interruptions)**

MR SPEAKER : I will not allow. Not a single word is to go on record because I have not allowed anybody. I will not allow. I will adjourn the House for ten minutes.

12.23 hrs.

THE LOK SABHA THEN ADJOURNED FOR TEN MINUTES

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-nine minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

एक माननीय सदस्य : अध्यक्ष जी, क्या फैसला हुआ है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पंचायत का जो फैसला होता है, वह अच्छा ही होता है । बिजनैस एडवाइजरी कमेटी की मीटिंग करेंगे और जो बात आपने उठाई है, उस पर विचार करेंगे ।

श्री राम अवतार शास्त्री (पटना) : पूरे हिन्दुस्तान के मामलों के बारे में चर्चा होनी चाहिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मन्त्री जी होंगे, आप भी

होंगे और दूसरे सारे होंगे और मिलकर फैसला कर लेंगे।

SHRI RATAN SINH RAJDA
(Bombay South) : The reply given by the Defence Minister was inaudible.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : दुबारा सुनवाएं आपको। ठीक है।

(व्यवधान)

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, नियम 222 के अंतर्गत मैंने आपको लिखकर दिया है। कल सारी लोकदल पार्टी ने सदन का त्याग किया था इस सवाल को लेकर कि श्री मुलायम सिंह पर फायरिंग हुई...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : फिर वही बात हुई यह भी।

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : आकाशवाणी ने उस वाकआउट की चर्चा तक नहीं की।

अध्यक्ष : महोदय आप लिखकर दे दीजिए मैं देख लूंगा।

श्री अटल विहारी वाजपेयी : (नई दिल्ली) यह पार्लियामेंट के विशेषाधिकार का मामला है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं देख लूंगा।

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी (हाथरस) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह इनकी मिली भगत है, मैं आपको बता सकता हूँ... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वहां कौन सा डिसकस हो रहा है। कोई डिसकस नहीं हो रहा। कुछ नहीं है बैठ जाइए आप।

No; nothing has happened. There is nothing on record here.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : विशेषाधिकार का...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं देखूंगा, आपने जो 222 में दिया है, इस पर विचार करूंगा, फिर आपको बताऊंगा।

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Sports and Works and Housing (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : I have to make a request. Now that we have already consumed so much of time to-day in business outside the agenda paper, I would request you kindly to forego the Lunch Hour, and continue the business.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : आज भूखे नहीं रहेंगे। या तो खीर खिलानी पड़ेगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इनको खीर खिला दीजिए।

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

12.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir I share the concern of this House on the massive arms build-up in Pakistan with the assistance of the USA and some other countries. Arms transfers under the foreign military, sales programme of the USA are at rates that are substantially subsidised and money figures publicly quoted in this context are likely to be much smaller than the real value of arms that Pakistan has been receiving from the United States. We have also reason to believe that with a part of this aid package, Pakistan has already acquired sophisticated weapon systems including some F-16 aircraft, missiles, guns, radars and other offensive equipment. Several more are in the pipeline. Government have also seen reports that some of these newly acquired sophisticated weapon systems have been tried out in the recent winter military training exercises in Pakistan.

2. Government have viewed with deep concern the recent press reports

on Pakistans bid to acquire medium range air-to-air missiles systems for their F-16 aircraft. This has to be seen in the context of other acquisitions such as the F-16 aircraft, air defence systems, naval and air missiles, night vision equipment, armed helicopters, tanks and the very latest communication systems. Such massive induction into our sub continent can only give new impetus to the arms race and heighten tensions in the area.

3 In quantum and sophistication all these acquisitions are far in excess of Pakistan's legitimate defence requirements. Induction of all this sophisticated weaponry and systems in this small time-frame is being sought to be justified on grounds of meeting a possible threat from or through Afghanistan. Hon'ble Members would, however, see that a bulk of the equipment being supplied would *prime facie* be unsuitable for deployment against Afghanistan. Our experience since Independence has been that arms acquisition by Pakistan has invariably resulted in their use against us.

4 Honible Members are aware that Pakistan has been vigorously pursuing efforts to achieve uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing capability. Government have now noted with concern the recent media reports about Pakistan having attained the capability of production of weapons grade enriched uranium. This will have serious security implications which Government cannot ignore.

5 The adverse impact all this will have on the process of normalisation of relations between our two countries has been clearly conveyed to the Government of the USA and Pakistan. We have also made it clear to Pakistan that while we accept that country's sovereign right to acquire arms for self defence, we cannot but feel deeply disturbed by the acquisition by her of weaponry far in excess of her legitimate defence requirements.

6 I would like to assure this House that Government are fully alive to the gravity of the situation and have initiated all necessary measures to ensure that our armed forces are adequately equipped and fully prepared to meet any threat to our security.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हम लोग अत्यन्त ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर यहां चर्चा कर रहे हैं। पाकिस्तान और यू० एम० ए० के बीच अब खरीददारी का ही मामला नहीं रह गया है बल्कि जहां तक मुझको जानकारी और मंत्री महोदय ने भी बताया था कि पाकिस्तान ने अमेरिका को बेस फैसिलिटी भी दे दी है। उस फैसिलिटी के तहत अमेरिका, पाकिस्तान के हवाई अड्डे और बंदरगाह का उपयोग भी आवश्यकता पड़ने पर कर सकता है। यदि यह बेस फैसिलिटी उसे मिल गई है तो इसका मतलब है जिसके लिए वह प्रयत्नशील था, इंडियन ओशन में उसका पांव जम गया है। इसके लिए पाकिस्तान चाहे अमेरिका को पैसा दे या नहीं दे, इतनी बड़ी चीज को प्राप्त करने के लिए अमेरिका को मुफ्त में भी पाकिस्तान को अर्थ की सहायता देनी पड़े तो वह देने में नहीं हिचकेगा। मंत्री महोदय ने अभी कहा है कि पाकिस्तान को एफ-16 जहाज 80 से ज्यादा मिल गए हैं। यदि आवश्यकता पड़ेगी तो और भी दिए जायेंगे। लेकिन, सरकार ने कहा है कि हम हर दृष्टिकोण से उसके लिए तैयार हैं। मंत्री जी से मैं दो-तीन बातों की जानकारी लेना चाहूंगा। गूट निरपेक्षता की जो नीति है, उसके आधार पर आपका रशिया से कितने समय तक का समझौता है। मेरे जैसा आदमी यह समझकर चल रहा है कि ये दोनों महाशक्तियां, जो आपकी गूट-निरपेक्षता की नीति है और भारत जिसका चेयरमैन है, उसको वह चलने नहीं देना चाहती। यह कारण है कि दोनों के पांव अपनी तरह से बढ़ रहे हैं। पाकिस्तान पर कब्जा होने का मतलब पड़ोस में ईरान है और ईरान के बगल में साऊदी अरब है। वहां उसका ग्रिप जम रहा है। अफगानिस्तान में रशिया जो बेस बनाए हुए है, उसको भी छूलेगा। इस तरह से जो इन इन्टरनेशनल क्राइसिस है, वह बढ़ जायेगी। और जब बढ़ेगी तो नतीजा उसमें भारत को भुगतना पड़ेगा

अन्ततोगत्वा । पाकिस्तान की बगल में ईरान और साऊदी अरेबिया है इसलिए आपकी जो नान-एलाइनमेंट की पौलिसी है वह खतरे में है और दोनों सुपर पावर्स नहीं चाहती हैं कि आपका गुटनिरपेक्ष आन्दोलन और नीति चल पाये । हमारे जैसे लोगों को कहने में हिचक नहीं है हम गुटनिरपेक्ष के चेयरमैन हैं, थोड़ा बहुत शतरंज खेलने में दिलचस्पी भी लेते हैं और खेलते भी हैं, तो जैसे शतरंज में होता है कि एक प्यादा आगे बढ़ता है तो दूसरा प्यादा आटोमेटिकली आगे बढ़ता है । यही दोनों महाशक्तियों की हालतें हैं । जब अमेरीका का प्यादा बढ़ता है तो रशिया भी अपना प्यादा बढ़ाता है, और इसमें चाहे रशिया आड़ ले ले अमेरीका कि अमेरीका ने पाकिस्तान में बेस बना लिया है इसलिये डैमोक्रेसी लाने के लिये हमारा अफगानिस्तान में रहना जरूरी है । या पाकिस्तान में अमेरीका यह कह कर बात करे कि चूंकि अफगानिस्तान में रशिया का बेस बना हुआ है इसलिये हमें पाकिस्तान में बेस बनाना जरूरी है । दोनों ही हालत में भारत का नुकसान होने वाला है, और जो हमारा इंडियन ओशन और मिडिल ईस्ट कन्ट्रीज हैं उस पर खतरा उत्पन्न हो चुका है ।

इसलिये जैसा मैंने पहले कहा आपकी जो पौलिसी है उसके तहत अभी हमारा रशिया से समझौता है, वहां के रक्षा मंत्री आजकल देश में आये हुए हैं, रूस कितनी दूरी तक मदद करने के लिये तैयार है, हमारी अपनी शक्ति है नहीं क्यों जो हमारे पास ऐकविपमेंट है वह हमें मालूम है, हमारी फौज बहुत तेजी से बढ़ रही है, प्रयास कर रही है, लेकिन फिर भी अमेरीका और रूस जिस तरह के हथियार का प्रोडक्शन कर रहे हैं उसके मुकाबले में हमें काफी समय लगेगा । और इस बीच में उन शक्तियों से निपटने के लिए और अपने मैन्सवल को मजबूत करने के लिये अमेरीका के खिलाफ में आपको हर हालत

में हथियार लेने पड़ेंगे चाहे वह रूस से लें या फ्रांस से लें । हम भी चाहते हैं कि आप मजबूत हों, हमारी शक्ति मजबूत हो ।

अभी कुछ दिन पहले हम अंडमन निकोबार गये थे । वह हमारा अंग है । जो फाक्लैंड में अर्जेंटीना का फेट हुआ, हमारे देश से 500 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर अंडमन निकोबार हमारे देश का अंग है, वैसे ही उतनी दूरी पर लक्षादीप है, लेकिन अंडमन निकोबार की महत्ता काफी है । अगर उस पर खतरा हो गया तो पूरा का पूरा इंडियन ओशन खतरे में आ जायेगा । इसलिये अंडमन निकोबार में जो आप अपना मिलिटरी बेस बना रहे हैं उसका जितना महत्व होना चाहिये और जितना उसको बढ़ाना चाहिये क्या उतना आप कर पा रहे हैं?

इसी तरह से सैतुसमुद्रम प्रोजेक्ट है जो मंडपम और पमबन के बीच में है । अभी वहां पुल भी बन रहा है । लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान का अगर नक्शा देखेंगे तो जो श्रीलंका है, अगर कलकत्ता से बम्बई जाना हो, पूरा घूमकर जाना पड़ता है । क्या उस नहर को चौड़ा करने के लिये डिफेंस के दृष्टिकोण से उस प्रोजेक्ट को बनाने का आपने कोई उपाय निकाला है कि नहीं ? हमारे पास साधन की कमी नहीं है । और मैं जब अंडमान निकोबार गया था तो हमने वहां देखा था जब जापानी सेना आयी थी तो सबसे पहला पड़ाव उनका अंडमन निकोबार में हुआ था और तब हिन्दुस्तान पर उसने चढ़ाई की थी ।...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Without rounding the tip, if you want to go straight from Bombay to Calcutta, you must have a Sethu Canal, If you have that Sethu Canal you can do so.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : वही मैं कह रहा हूं । अन्तर इतना ही है कि मैं हिन्दी में कह रहा हूं, आप अंग्रेजी में कह रहे हैं ।

क्योंकि यह रक्षा और फारन-अफेयर्स का मामला है, इसमें चाहे सरकारी पक्ष की नीति हो या विपक्ष की नीति हो, हमारे सामने राष्ट्रीय नीति है, न इस पक्ष की नीति है न उस पक्ष की नीति है। घरेलू मामले में हम भले ही आपस में लड़ते रहें, एक-दूसरे की नुक्ताचीनी करते रहें लेकिन जहां तक एफैंस और एक्सटर्नल एफेयर्स का मामला है, हम चाहते हैं कि सब पक्ष के लोग एक हों और जब भी देश के सामने कोई खतरा उत्पन्न हुआ है हम ने देश को एक राष्ट्रीय नीति मानकर सुरक्षा और अखंडता के लिए पूरा प्रयास किया है।

यह बात सही है कि राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण से सुरक्षा के दृष्टिकोण से या स्ट्रेटेजिक प्वाइंट आफ व्यू से यह संभव नहीं है कि मंत्री महोदय सब चीजें सदन को एक्सप्लेन करें लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से इतना आश्वसन जरूर चाहूंगा कि जिस तरह से दोनों महाशक्तियों के पांव बढ़ते जा रहा हैं, रूस का पांव अफगानिस्तान में बढ़ता जा रहा है और दोनों का मिलाजुला इफैक्ट भारत पर पड़ने वाला है, हिन्दुस्तान में काले बादल मंडरा रहे हैं, आज मिडिल ईस्ट कन्टरीज और इंडियन ओशन खतरे से घिर गया है, क्या सरकार ने उसके लिये पूरी तैयारी की है? क्या हम अपनी पालिसी में कोई अमैडमेंट करना चाहते हैं? अमेरिका से जो सीधे कन्फ्रंटेशन की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई है, क्या उसको रोका जा सकता है। आपने एक बात कही है कि हमने पाकिस्तान और अमेरिका को साफ बतला दिया है कि हम वर्दाशत नहीं करेंगे। हम भी कहते हैं कि वर्दाशत नहीं करना चाहिये। हम यह भी मानते हैं कि कोई भी दुश्मन अगर हमारे ऊपर उंगली उठायेगा तो हम उसकी आंख निकाल लेंगे और हमारी इतनी क्षमता होनी चाहिये, लेकिन स्ट्रेटेजिकल प्वाइंट भी होना चाहिये, कोई भी दुश्मन को अपने घर में नहीं रखना चाहेगा। हिन्दुस्तान कभी चाहेगा

कि हमारे घर में रशिया बैठ जाय, पाकिस्तान कभी नहीं चाहेगा कि उसके घर में अमेरिका आकर बैठ जाये, अफगानिस्तान कभी नहीं चाहेगा कि कोई बाहरी शक्ति उसके घर में बैठ जाये। तो घरेलू मामले में जो बाहरी शक्ति आकर पंजा जमाने की कोशिश कर रही है, हो सकता है पाकिस्तान के सामने उसकी लाचारी आ गई हो, वेवस तरीके से उसको यू० एस० ए० की मदद लेना जरूरी हो, तो उससे हमको मुकाबला करना है ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार ने कोई स्ट्रेटेजी तय की है या नहीं? एक तरफ जब हम खुलेआम पाकिस्तान और अमेरिका को कह सकते हैं तो हमें दवे पांव से रशिया को भी कहना चाहिये। यह भी देखना है कि कहां तक यह संभव है कि पाकिस्तान से अपनी फौजें अमेरिका हटा ले और रशिया अपनी फौजों को अफगानिस्तान से हटा ले जिससे भारत पर जो बादल मंडरा रहे हैं, वह कम हो जायें। जहां मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा वहां यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार अपने सैन्यबल को मजबूत करने की दिशा में कौनसी कार्यवाही कर रही है और आगे आने वाले खतरे से निपटने के लिए सरकार ने क्या विशेष योजना तैयार की है?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: At the outset, I would like to thank Paswanji for the re-statement of basic principle that whatever the differences internally amongst ourselves in respect of economic and other issues, so far as the defence and the external affairs of this country are concerned there is perfect harmony and understanding among all Members and sections of the House. Such a re-statement will strengthen not only the Government of India but also will instil some fear in the other people that they cannot try to play politics by taking advantage of internal differences. One of the things which erode national strength is the weaknesses arising from the differences within the country. But once the enemy knows that whatever the differences in respect of other matters, so far as defence is concerned, the country will stand solid together then they will think

many times before they engage themselves in any misadventure. I am very happy and I am grateful to Paswan Ji for restating it from that side of the House.

13 hrs.

The points which Shri Paswan Ji has raised are certainly well-known. For instance, United States is said to have obtained base facilities in Pakistan and also in certain other countries. This has been officially denied by United States. Yesterday, in the course of the debate, the Minister for External Affairs very categorically stated that they had taken it up with that Government and they have received answers categorically denying that any bases have been secured by United States. Whatever the assertions whatever the denials, so far as the Defence Minister is concerned, he will always have to take note of the possibility of such a threat emanating in these quarters and, therefore, has got to be prepared. Therefore, my approach to the question is whether they have bases or not, whether they have got these or not I will have to prepare my defences in a way taking note of the fact that if they had the bases what would be our answer to the point.

I can only say that the Government have taken careful note of the various media reports that have appeared and we are now trying to fill in such of those gaps which we have seen in our defence systems. For instance, we are now improving and increasing our naval strength, we are increasing our submarine strength. If bases are got in other places, then it cannot be met by any other method than through a fleet, the navy, the submarine and all the defence equipment associated with that Government have taken measures to acquire sufficient navel power both for surveillance as well as for strike in the event of any misadventure. I am sure this will be sufficient to inspire confidence in the country about our preparedness in respect of these bases.

The second point which my hon. friend raised is with regard to F—16 and more F—16s which they are getting. It is true that F—16 is a very agile aircraft. It has

the capacity to look down and shoot and look up and shoot, it has a low flying capability and therefore, this is one of the sophisticated aircraft now in use. As far as India is concerned. It is not that our defence system is in any way inferior merely because the other side has got F—16 or one particular type of sophisticated aircraft. The Jaguar as the hon. Member knows, is a deep penetration aircraft and it has a very important role to play for deep strike. We have the Mirage which has equal agility as the F—16 and we are requesting our Soviet friends to give us an improved version of the MIG which according to the military journals is far superior to the F—16 class.

AN HON. MEMBER : How much of MIG 29 ?

Shri R. Venkataraman : I can only say improved version of the MIGs the numbers I myself do not know. We are asking for the improved version of the MIG variety and according to the journals who do comment on the various aircrafts being used by various countries in the world they are said to be superior to the F-16 and the Mirage.

Therefore, we have adequately taken care of it.

So far as artillery and the ground force of the army is concerned, our tanks are far superior to the tanks of the Pakistanis. Our weaponry and our systems are very good. Therefore, there need be not any apprehension in this area also.

It is true that the Indian Ocean has become a hot-bed of super-power rivalry. In fact, the whole of the Indian Ocean is today riddled with submarines, frigates, battle ships and so on from many countries, not only the two super-powers, but so many other countries like the United Kingdom and France.

So far as our position is concerned, we are a defensive force. We have no intention of attacking anybody or engaging on any offensive ourselves. All that we want to do for our defence is to see that we equip

adequately to see that our borders, coastline, economic interests like Bombay High, off-shore territories like Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands are fully protected.

I am glad that the hon Member went to Andamans. He must have heard that we are taking steps to build defence in that area. That is now being strengthened. Andaman and Nicobar Islands will have a nucleus of defence forces.

The question of approach from west to east around Sri Lanka has also been engaging our attention. There are two or three proposals which Government are examining at this time. One proposal, as the hon. Deputy-Speaker, said, is the Sethusamudram project, cutting the isthmus at a particular area so that it may give access. The second proposal is to deepen the Palk Strait and allow our missile boats to go. It will not be possible to take big carriers or even Rajput class battle ships,; but it will be able to carry missile boats, which will have very fine striking capability. This is one of the things which we are considering. There are number of alternatives which we are looking into. The hon. Members know that it involves enormous cost. We have all the time to go on balancing between the urgency of our needs and the expenses that may be involved in it. So, we are taking note of it and we are examining this aspect.

I think I have covered all the points he has raised.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is also satisfied. He is never satisfied when a reply is given. This time I find he is very much satisfied.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I made a point about using moral pressure on both the super-Powers.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : In at small and concise statement the hon. Minister has given all the facts and figures and he has given the assurance to the nation that there is no danger to the security of our country. Fortunately, we have got two Generals. Actually, the hon. Minister is a

freedom fighter and a general ; he has grown with the freedom movement. The House has got tremendous faith in his leadership. The other General is the actual fighting General, who is assisting our Minister. We have visited Ladakh and other areas. While we have gone only upto 11,000 ft. the Minister has gone upto a height of 18,000 ft.

And there he did not use even oxygen also. That has boosted the morale of our Jawans and our people there.

Sir, the only eye-sore to Pakistan is that we are prosperous and that it wants to destroy our prosperity and divert out funds to defence preparedness. Now, it has got the enriched uranium. We have already exploded atom for peaceful purposes and now we are using it for electricity and other welfare purposes of the State. Now when Pakistan is embarking on atomic bomb, I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to change its attitude and also its policy in this regard. If the Minister does not want to make any statement, I am not going to insist on it.

Sir, the statements made by Pakistan are all innocent type of statements, but actually they are not innocent. They have a deep-rooted conspiracy. In our open-heartedness when we had captured 7,000 kilometres of Pakistani land, we vacated it as a friendly gesture. We had captured one lakh Pakistani Prisoners of War and have honourably returned them back. In spite of this, Pakistan is harbouring ill-will against our country. We have shown our friendly spirit to them. And then Simla Spirit is there and other 'spirits' are also there, but I want to know whether they are actually working towards that spirit or not. We should not be deceived by the statements. We want to know what concrete steps the Minister is going to take against Pakistan's designs. Unfortunately, America, which once upon a time was helping us with food and also when China attacked us, had come o our help, but now I don't know why has suddenly changed. Sir, we are the biggest democracy and America is the oldest democracy, In spite of that America is not supporting democracy. It is supporting all dictatorships throughout the world. I would like to know whether on such points eithe

our Defence Minister or our Prime Minister had discussions with Mr. Reagan and his Administration. Can we not tell them point-blank that they should not interfere in this manner in their internal affairs. Thousands of crores of rupees we are spending for defence. Of course, it is a necessity. It is not because we need it for attacking. If we had any design of acquiring land of other people, we would not have vacated the land of Pakistan which we had captured in the last wars. That has not happened once, but twice or thrice. Now, we have to take precautions. And Pakistan should know that we mean business. This time if at all it attempts in any way against us, it should get a suitable reply from us.

The only threat is to the Bombay High. It is an eye-sore to them because it is giving oil to us and the country is going to become self-sufficient in oil. That is a heart-burning to Pakistan and to other nations also, because already we have achieved self-sufficiency in oil. That is an eye-sore to all these nations which do not want to see us prosperous. In spite of our problems and in spite of our population our country is becoming prosperous and we are in a position to defend ourselves against any power.

Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Minister for having made such a nice statement. Our country is safe in the hands of Mr. Venkataraman and our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Sir, I have mentioned about the Bombay High where we have struck abundant quantity of oil. We are further exploring it. Now, they want to harm us. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how he is going to defend our installations which are within the easy reach of Pakistan?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I thank the Hon. Member for all the compliments he has showered. The only point which requires any explanation or clarification is the question which he put : Whether we had taken up this matter with the United States of America? Already the Prime Minister has taken up this matter with the United States of America and said that the induction of sophisticated arms in

this neighbourhood poses a security problem to us. It is not done in any other way. It has been done through diplomatic channels as it is usually done.

It is not as if the other Governments do not understand that induction of these sophisticated arms, equipment etc. will necessarily cause some security problems to the neighbours. They are not such innocent or ignorant people as not to understand the consequence of what they are doing.

So far as the general defence is concerned, I have already explained that on all the three arms we have strengthened ourselves and the process of strengthening is a continuous one, and we shall continue to do it and we will see that the defence of the country is maintained at the top level at all times.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am decidedly against violence, and therefore this arms race at global level has always pained me. But I feel relieved, our country stands for peace. But this does not mean that we shall not have adequate defence preparedness. We have professed peace. The Prime Minister and her colleagues, particularly the Defence Minister, have expressed their opinion on issues relating to the one that is being discussed here. But I feel that for the first time the Government of India is required to pay rather full attention to the problem. The hon. Minister has explained in the statement, he has agreed that Pakistan has acquired sophisticated weapons. So far as bases of Pakistan are concerned, I do not think our hon. Defence Minister is yet sure about these bases that Pakistan is going to offer to America. But he has risen to the occasion; already, I feel. He asked for increase in the Defence Budget by Rs. 450 crores, although that is not a very big amount so far as defence is concerned, because Defence would carry the first importance. But I congratulate the hon. Minister that he has succeeded in getting more funding for Defence. I also congratulate him for the concluding part of the Statement that he has made here. He says therein :

“ I would like to assure this House that

Government are fully alive the gravity of the situation and have initiated all necessary measures to ensure that our armed forces are adequately equipped and fully prepared to meet any threat to our security."

That shows that we are prepared to meet any challenge. And this assurance is very good, I will never ask for any detail because there are things which should not be put forth in discussions in this House. Some details he can withhold.

About supply of sparrow missiles to Pakistan, I feel the Government of India has definite information to this effect and Pakistan had already possessed F-16s. That poses a very great security threat to us unless we respond to the situation. Our Indian Air Force needs latest version of combat aircraft and that is particularly necessary, as you saw in the war between Syria and Israel the MIG-23s got destroyed and now you are thinking of obtaining MIG-29, and subsequently you will try for MIG-31. Whatever you do, you have to ensure that you are fully prepared to defend your frontiers, be it Navy, be it Air Force, be it Army, everywhere you have to be prepared. But I feel America has got a pretext, in that it feels that Russia is present in Afghanistan.

I personally feel, it is only a pretext because they want their allies everywhere and they are in search of satellite etc. But so far as Afghanistan is concerned, our Prime Minister has on a number of occasions politely, but firmly, told friendly Russia that India has not appreciated its presence in Afghanistan.

Why I brought in this question here is because I feel that on the question of bases in Pakistan and other allied matters acquisition of Sparrow Missiles and other sophisticated weapons, may be, they possess many more weapons which we do not know. Our hon. Defence Minister may also not know and if he knows he may not tell us. I see a ray of hope-perhaps, next month we shall be having negotiations with Pakistan on the question of bases in Pakistan and we can bring in other factors such as lethal weapons. There-in lies my question.

I personally feel that Pakistan should see reason come forward for friendship with India.

It wants a lot of funding for its development. It did not have land reforms of any kind. Pakistan certainly wants to be on the industrial map. It wants a lot of money for industrial development in that country. Therefore, it must live in peace with India. Pakistan belongs to this cultural scenerio. The sub-continent is the same, has been the same and Pakistan is a part of this cultural scenerio. Could the hon. Minister say something that when the negotiations are held with Pakistan that we shall be trying in that direction. Not that we shall be buying peace from Pakistan, because the hon. Minister has assured the House that we can meet any challenge, be it Pakistan or be its supporters.

We also require to grow richer and we also require to establish the Socialistic pattern of society. We also want to respond to the situation wherein we find people in want misery and poverty. Of course, there is poverty line and there are people. a great chunk of people living below that line. So, we also require peace. When our Ministers have negotiations with Pakistan, will they try this time rather effectively to make Pakistan understand that it is to that country's advantage and to our country's advantage also, if we live in peace and if Pakistan takes positive initiative towards peace.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The relationship between India and Pakistan is one of cordiality even now. In fact the joint Commissions are meeting and continuing dialogue takes place. It must be very clear to all the world that India has no territorial ambitions of any kind. India has not launched on any war in which we have acquired even an inch of extra territory to ourselves. In fact, it was pointed out by Shri M. Ram Gopal Reddy that we have given up areas under Simla Agreement and so on. Therefore, it must be clear to anybody that so far as India is concerned, it has absolutely no territorial ambition of any kind and it will not launch on any mis-adventure, I would call it for making territorial gains. It is the basic policy of

ours. This should be a good starting point for all discussions between Pakistan and ourselves.

And that is why, when Pakistan said, "We will have a no-war pact", we offered, "We will have a treaty of friendship" going beyond the no-war pact. So, there is no effort lacking on our part to normalise relationship between India and Pakistan and try to wean or win over. I would not say "wean" but "win" over Pakistan to a friendly attitude towards India. This is our great desire. But even as a person who has all good intentions a man who trusts God has still to keep his powder dry. Even with all good intentions when we find that there are lethal weapons accumulating on one side when somebody is gathering gun powder on the one side, it is very necessary for me to take precautions against either intentional or even unintentional explosion of this gun powder. All that we are doing is carrying on an operation of a fire engine. We are not collecting gun powder for the purpose of entering into a conflict. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member and Members who think like him to feel completely satisfied that as far as India is concerned, it is honestly, sincerely and genuinely interested in having normal friendly relations with Pakistan. At the same time while we profess all these things, if we find the other side is gathering equipment and other weapons of destruction, then we cannot be blind to it. We will have to make adequate protection and precautions against it. What do we find? All the equipments which they are getting are far far in excess of their defence requirements. After Bangladesh was formed, the defence requirement of Pakistan has gone down. But we have figures which shows that Pakistan has increased defence equipments to more than what they had before the separation of Bangladesh. Therefore, when one country goes on acquiring equipments and armaments far in excess of its defence requirements, then, we will have to make adequate preparations on our side also.

Second point which the hon. Member raised is about using the Sparrow missiles. We have seen the reports about it and we have also looked into this matter. We do not think that sparrow missiles could be fitted into F-16. They are a different class

and the Government are not unduly exercised over such newspaper reports. The excuse which the Pakistan Government gives that it has to protect against the situation in Afganistan does not bear Scrutiny because if the equipments machinery and weaponry are intended to be used against a situation arising in Afganistan, Harpoons will have no value. Harpoons are sea skimming missiles. Nor do the submarines have any value. You cannot use submarines against Afganistan. Therefore, why do they get a gearing class destroyer which cannot be used? Therefore, the explanation does not stand scrutiny.

We have taken all the measures which I have said to protect our interests and I am sure, we will be able to defend ourselves.

श्री हरीश रावत (अल्मोड़ा) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, 1971 की लड़ाई के बाद पाकिस्तान ने अपने रक्षा बजट में जो हमको ज्ञात है उसके अनुसार 500 प्रतिशत से भी अधिक की वृद्धि की है और अमेरीका सरकार का यह ग्लोबल इंटरैस्ट हमारे देश के साथ क्लेश करता है। अमेरीका सोचता है कि हिन्दुस्तान में जब तक स्थायी सरकार, मजबूत सरकार रहेगी, वह हमेशा उसके इंटरैस्ट को चुनौती देगा। इसलिए उसकी बराबर कोशिश रही है कि यहां पर अस्थायित्व पैदा हो और हमारी सीमाओं पर खतरा बना रहे।

आज हमारे महान मित्र देश रूस के रक्षा मंत्री यहां आए हैं। रूस ने हमेशा आवश्यकता के अनुसार हमें मदद दी है। उसने हमें वेस्टर्न ब्लाक का जो पोलिटिकल ब्लैक मैलिग है, उससे बहुत बार उबारा है। हम रूस को इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद देना चाहेंगे और यह भी सत्यता है कि केवल हथियार से कोई सेना या देश मजबूत नहीं होता। सबसे बड़ी ताकत है हमारी जनता की एकता, देश का दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व और सेना की संकल्प शक्ति और ट्रेनिंग। इन सारी परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए भी जो खबरें

अखबारों में छपी हैं, उसके अनुसार ऐसा लगता है कि रक्षा संतुलन आज पाकिस्तान के पक्ष में है। पाकिस्तान ने लेटेस्ट आर्म्स अपने यहां इकट्ठे कर लिए हैं। जिस प्रकार अमेरीका और गल्फ कंट्रीज में उनको ट्रेनिंग दी जा रही है उससे हमको चेतना जरूर चाहिए। मैं रक्षा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि लेटेस्ट सिचुएशन जो है, उसके अनुसार डिफेंस बेलेंस क्या पाकिस्तान के पक्ष में है। यदि पाकिस्तान के पक्ष में है तो शक्ति संतुलन बना रह सके भारत के पक्ष में, इसके लिए डिप्लोमेटिक स्तर पर और डिफेंस प्रिपेयर्डनेस के स्तर पर क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं।

मान्यवर, जैसे हारपून मिसाइल्स का जिक्र किया गया। अखबारों में छपा है कि हारपून मिसाइल्स की वजह से कोस्टल एरियाज में जितने डिफेंस इंस्टालेशंस हैं, ट्रांबे या दूसरे जो इंस्टालेशन हैं, उन पर एक तरह का खतरा पैदा हो गया है। मैं रक्षा मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसी स्थिति में हमारे कोस्टल एरियाज की रक्षा की क्या व्यवस्था की जा रही है। अखबारों में खबरें छपी हैं कि चीन के राष्ट्राध्यक्ष और पाकिस्तान के राष्ट्राध्यक्ष की बातचीत हुई है। उसमें उन्होंने तय किया है कि आक्यूपाइड कश्मीर में कुछ इस प्रकार के हवाई अड्डे बनाएंगे और वहां पर इस प्रकार के हवाई जहाजों को रखेंगे जिनके लिए बहुत लंबे रनवे की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती और शाटंटाइम में टेकअप कर सकते हैं। इस वजह से हमारे नार्दर्न पार्ट में, कश्मीर, पंजाब हरियाणा में जितने हमारे सैनिक संस्थान हैं उन सबके लिए खतरा उत्पन्न होने की बात कही गई है। क्या ऐसी स्थिति है? यदि ऐसी स्थिति है तो जो आक्यूपाइड कश्मीर में चीन की मदद से पाकिस्तान हवाई अड्डे बनाने जा रहा है, इसका सामना करने के लिए आप क्या व्यवस्था

कर रहे हैं? इसके लिए क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, पाकिस्तान की सीमा की बात कई बार उठी है और अमेरीका, पाकिस्तान और चीन, हालांकि चीन के साथ संबंध सुधारने की बात चल रही है, उस दिशा में हम काफी हद तक आगे भी बढ़े हैं, लेकिन इन तीनों देशों का इन्डरेस्ट इसमें है कि भारत में कमजोरी पैदा हो, इसकी सीमाओं पर खतरा पैदा हो। पाकिस्तान की तरफ हमने अपना सारा ध्यान लगाया है, लेकिन चीन की तरफ भी कोई गफलत न रहे, इस विषय में भी मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से आश्वासन चाहूंगा।

बहुत पहले अखबारों में यह खबर छपी थी कि पाकिस्तान की सीमा पर हमारा राडार सिस्टम अप-टू-डेट है, लेकिन चीन की सीमा पर उतना अप-टू-डेट नहीं है जितना होना चाहिए था। क्या यह खबर सत्य है, इस विषय में बताने की कृपा करें? ट्रांसपोर्ट एयरक्राफ्ट की रक्षा सेवाओं में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। हमारे इन सब पुराने एयरक्राफ्ट्स को बदलने की बात सदन में कई बार उठी है। उन एयरक्राफ्ट्स को बदलने के लिए आप क्या कदम उठा रहे हैं और कब तक रक्षा सेवाओं के पास नयी टेक्नोलॉजी के ट्रांसपोर्ट जहाज उपलब्ध होंगे? हमारे मित्र रेड्डी साहब ने मांग की थी, उनके साथ मैं भी अपनी भावनाओं को जाहिर करना चाहूंगा। वहां के सैनिक संस्थान के निदेशक ने यह ब्यान दिया था कि हथियार खरीदने के लिए हम किसी भी सीमा तक जा सकते हैं चाहे अमेरीका को अड्डा बनाने की इजाजत ही क्यों न देनी पड़े। बंगलादेश की लीडरशीप को अमेरीका द्वारा प्रेशराइज करने की बात हो चुकी है। श्रीलंका की बात आपने खुद ही कही है। डिएगो-गार्शिया में भी उसी प्रकार की स्थिति है। हो सकता है पाकिस्तान ने वहां

अणु-बम बना लिया हो और वह बात हमें मालूम न हो। क्या आप अणु-बम बनाने के प्रश्न पर भी विचार करेंगे। यह हमारी मांग है, चाहे आप इस विषय में कुछ कहें या न कहें, ताकि लोगों के दिमाग में जो पाकिस्तान का खतरा पैदा हो जाता है कि वहां अणु-बम न हो जाए, उस भय से मुक्त हो सकें।

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Shri Rawat is a very well-informed Member. He knows lot of things about our Defence. I would like to correct his first statement. He said that the balance of power has shifted in favour of Pakistan. I hope I am right. This is exactly what you have said. Well, I want to state it categorically that at this moment—at the time, it always refers to the time when he makes a statement—the edge is still with us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He wanted a categorical reply from you. That is why he put it that way.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN : But, at the same time, I would take the House into Confidence and say that if they get all the things the newspapers report that they are getting, in the Army, in the Navy, in the Air Force, in electronic warfare and so on, every one of these things, then there will be a serious disturbance in the balance and that is why we are also making adequate preparations to meet the possible challenge. We are acquiring such of those modern sophisticated equipment as are necessary for us. So, you have to compare from point to point. You cannot say what will be the position after Pakistan gets all these things and compare with my present position. The present position is, as I said, we have an edge over Pakistan.

In future, after five years hence or three years hence, when they get a particular set of equipment, we are also getting other equipment to match it and it will have to be compared at that level and it will be the endeavour to always be ahead in view of the very heavy responsibilities that we have. The responsibilities of India are manifold, different, higher in case of India and,

therefore, taking into account this responsibility, we will always try to keep ahead.

The second point which the Hon. Member has raised is that the Gulf countries are trying to help Pakistan. This is what we hear from time to time. We have also diplomatic relations with other countries.

And we do not see why some of the countries should be hostile to us. We have very friendly relations with them. Therefore, our diplomatic relationship continues with the Gulf countries and we have nothing to apprehend now from that side.

Then the hon. Member mentioned about Harpoon missile I can only say this much that we have some answer for the Harpoon missile. I cannot say anything more than that. We have taken note of the threat and we have an answer for the Harpoon missile.

The hon. Member then referred to the air bases built by China and Pakistan in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir area, namely, in Gilgit and Skardu. In both these places, they are building. Government have taken note of it and we are strengthening our defences in Leh, Ladakh, which will take care of the situation arising in that area.

We have a very satisfactory communication system now. But in the communications area the rate of obsolescence is very high. In fact, more and more sophisticated things are coming up every day and we are trying to keep abreast of them. At the moment our communication system is fairly satisfactory. But we are concentrating our attention on the communication system is because we want to catch up with the latest technology in the world.

The hon. Member asked about the transport aircraft. I have already mentioned in the House that we are replacing the packet aircraft and we are going in for AN-32 and IL-76 aircraft. AN 31 will be delivered in the course of this year and it will be continuing thereafter.

So far as bases are concerned, Governments concerned have denied having given bases and we are accepting them at their face value. But at the same time, as Oliver Cromwell said, 'Trust in God and keep your powder dry', we will keep our powder dry.

The last point which he raised was about nuclear bomb. I have only to say that we stand by our present policy with regard to nuclear weapons, that is, our present policy is against any nuclear weapons for our country.

13.44 hrs

STATEMENT RE FIRE IN TIS HAZARI
TELEPHONE EXCHANGE IN DELHI
ON MARCH 2, 1984.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Communication (Shri V.N. Gadgil) : A fire broke out in Tis Hazari Exchange and was discovered at about 7.45 P.M. on the 2nd March, 1984. It appears to have originated in a Store Room adjacent to the Battery Room of the new Tis-Hazari exchange building. The fire brigade was immediately called and the fire was controlled in about 1-1/2 hours. There was no injury to any person on duty in the Exchange. The main H.T. Power was switched off immediately on discovery of the fire. Subsequently, the rectifiers and the batteries feeding the three exchanges were disconnected to avoid short circuit and further damage. This was done by sending two of our employees with gas masks who entered the smoke filled power room on first floor to do this job at great personal risk. The three exchanges 22, 23 and 25 feeding about 27,000 subscribers were switched off. The heat of the fire in the Store Room affected the battery cables of the SPC Exchange, which is under installation. Other batteries were immediately got disconnected by cutting the cables and disconnecting the links to prevent short circuit and permanent damage. Two telephone connections were given to the Lt. Governor the same night from Idgah

Exchange. On the morning of 3-3-84 one connection to the Chief Secretary and one to the Home Secretary of Delhi Administration were also given from Idgah Exchange.

2. The smoke and darkness in the building made it impossible to start the restoration operation the same night. These were earnestly started on the morning of 3-3-84. The rectifiers and the leads were individually tested for insulation, and it was found that these have not suffered any serious damage. As mentioned above, the battery leads were already isolated and with the help of power obtained from the engine alternator, each rectifier was switched on in turn without load and tested. With the help of the engine alternator, "23" Exchange was restored to normalcy at 12-45 P.M. DESU was asked to switch on the power to enable us to restore the service to other Exchanges also. The power was restored at 2.15 P.M. Thereafter, all the three Exchanges were energised with telephone service restored to VIP Nos. After observing operation for a few minutes the telephone service in all the three exchanges was restored to complete normalcy at 3 P.M.

3. In the Battery Room the busbars were cleaned of soot and other dirt. There is no damage to the batteries which are stand-by source of power supply in case of mains failure. These were put in circuit after proper tests at 6-P.M. on 4-3-84. Some damage appears to have taken place due to the heat to the battery which was installed for SPC Fetex Exchange, which is still under installation. A detailed examination of this battery is under way, and appropriate action will be taken on the basis of the assessment.

4. The cause of fire is being investigated. Prompt and effective action by fire brigade and the co-operation from Delhi Police and DESU made it possible to control the fire expeditiously and enabled us to restore the service within 20 hours. Appropriate action on country-wide basis is being taken to prevent such occurrences.