

12.16 hrs.

STATEMENT RE.: RECENT VISIT TO INDIA OF H. E. LT. GENERAL HUSSAIN MUHAMMAD ERSHAD, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): His Excellency, Lt. General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, ndc, psc, paid a State visit to India on October 6 and 7 in response to an invitation extended by the Prime Minister.

I am placing on the Table of the House the Joint Communique issued at the conclusion of the visit, the Memorandum of Understanding on the future course of action to be taken by the two Governments with regard to Ganga waters, the Agreement on the terms of lease in perpetuity of Tin Bigha and the Agreement on the establishment of a Joint Economic Commission between the two countries, all of which were exchanged between the Bangladesh Foreign Minister and myself on October 7, 1982. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—5477/82*].

These documents, Mr. Speaker, are their own testimony to what was achieved during the visit. The question of Ganga waters has been a matter of the deepest concern and considerable debate in both India and Bangladesh. During the recent discussions, it was the endeavour of both sides to move forward, so that the shortages which have to be shared today, do not become a permanent feature of our lives and that the optimum necessary augmentation takes place at the earliest. The two governments therefore decided that pre-feasibility studies be carried out within the next 18 months and an optimum solution agreed upon for implementation at the end of that period. In the meanwhile, we have arranged for a new basis for sharing the available waters which does require us to continue to bear the burden of shortfalls, but in a more cooperative way and only for 18 months. An attempt has been

made to take into account both the problems of Bangladesh as well as the difficulties being faced by the Port of Calcutta. We believe the arrangement is the best way of serving the interests of both peoples pending the studies which it has been firmly decided to complete in a short period so as to reach a long-term solution.

There had been some concern in India that with the lease of the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh, the area of Kuchli Bari would be cut off from the rest of India. These concerns were taken fully into account in our negotiations with Bangladesh and, as the agreed terms show, the right of passage of Indian Nationals to and from Kuchli Bari has been fully ensured. The agreement on the lease fulfils our commitment given in the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement between the two countries, and represents another important landmark in the development of our relations.

The establishment of a Joint Economic Commission would give greater impetus and content to the economic relationship between the two countries. The Commission would not be a replacement for the existing institutions in various fields but would act, rather, as a guiding and coordinating agency to ensure that progress in diverse areas, as desired by both the governments, is ensured. The two Governments also agreed to consider long-term commercial contracts and to set up joint ventures for their mutual benefit.

India and Bangladesh are two neighbours bound by many common and close ties which, however, sometimes tend to be overshadowed by temporary problems. The visit of the President of the Council of Ministers of Bangladesh provided an opportunity to both Governments to review all facets of their relationship with a view to strengthening them and to resolve some pending questions. The visit was characterised by warmth and cordiality and augurs well for the future of both countries, which, I am sure, Parliament and the people of India would welcome.

श्री राम लाल राहो (मिसरिख) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा पॉइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर है। मैंने अभी कहा कि संसद धिरो है और ईंट पत्थर चल रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इनको इनकी सूचना है कि नहीं? अगर सूचना है तो इनको तत्काल सदन को सूचना देनी चाहिये और बयान देना चाहिए।

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not record. Nobody can ask for a clarification. If you want to discuss it, you may give notice. Now Legislative Business, Bills for consideration.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): I just wanted to make one submission. In the meantime, the Foreign Minister has left the House. Anyway, it is all right.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He never expected that there will be some clarification asked for.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am only seeking your direction for the future. I do not see why the members of the Lok Sabha should be denied of the privilege, which is given to the members of the other House. Whenever these statements, identical statements, are made in both the Houses, in the other House they are permitted, at least to seek a few clarifications and ask a few questions. Heavens would not fall, if that is allowed to be done in this House, if such a procedure is allowed. Now if anybody wants to seek one clarification, the Chair immediately shuts him out by saying "No, I would not allow him to say anything". It is not fair... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have heard your point. Rule 372 says:

"A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance, with the consent of the Speaker, but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

So, please change the rules. You can change the rule and then ask questions.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: If you are so rigid.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have got to conduct the deliberations of the House according to the rules. Supposing I do not conduct the deliberations of the House according to the rules, then there will be a point of order that I have avoided this rule and that I have not acted according to the rules. Therefore, I would suggest to the hon. Members for whom I have great respect, that they may raise this issue and change the rules in the Rules Committee.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Are you suggesting that there are no rules in the other House?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not concerned with the other House. What I say is this: kindly change the rules, which you can do. If you want, you can do it. Therefore, change the rules.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Jaipur): There is no need to change the rules.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Till the rules are changed, I cannot go against the rules. The rules are very clear. Rule 372 is very clear. Therefore, I go to the next subject, namely, Legislative Business.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have made the position very clear. There is nothing to state now. You have to change the rules, which you can always do.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you have framed some rules and given to us. We are conducting the deliberations of this House according to these rules. It is not as if the Deputy-Speaker has made these rules. The rules were framed by you, hon. Members, and you want us to respect the rules. Therefore, I have followed rule 372, which was framed by you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: We have been governed by the same rules for many years... (Interruptions) Some of us have been in this House for a pretty long time.

I do not mean any personal disrespect to you when I say that I was in this House before you came here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I was in the other House at that time.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You were fortunate, if you were in the other House. We were governed by the same Rules of Procedure earlier also. But I can tell you, and I am prepared to adduce evidence from the records, that in the past—I am talking about 10 to 15 years ago—although we were governed by the same rules, the Chair did permit a reasonable sort of clarification and one or two questions to be asked, and such a rigid wooden attitude was never taken that because this is written in the rules, you cannot deviate half an inch from that. So, I do not think the sovereign Parliament of India can go on like this. It has to have some conventions. Some flexibility should be there.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Satish Agarwal. You should speak only on this point not on the statement. What is your view on this point only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: As has been rightly pointed out by my colleague, Mr. Indrajit Gupta, there are certain traditions and conventions also. A little bit of clarification here or there does not violate the rules. The rules are already there. Some rules are there in the Rajya Sabha also, of which you had the honour of being a Member for long. Naturally, our only submission to you is that despite all these rules being there, certain conventions and traditions have to be there by which we can seek minor clarifications. You should always permit that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Halder. On this point only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker,

Sir, I support the argument advanced by Comrade Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Satish Agarwal. But I want to make a small submission that the honourable External Affairs Minister has placed the Joint Communiqué between India and Bangladesh on the Table of the House. It is a very important matter. The House should discuss that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give notice to the Speaker. Now, Mr. Rahi may speak. Don't go into the text of the statement, only on this.

श्री राम लाल राही : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जो व्यवस्था का प्रश्न उठाना चाह रहा था, उससे इस सदन की मर्यादा भी जुड़ी हुई है। मुझे जहां तक पता है, सुबह अकाली दल के कुछ लोग अध्यक्ष महोदय से मिलने आये और मिलकर चले गये, वह कोई अपनी मांगें लेकर मांग पत्र देने आये थे।

(व्यवधान)

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर यह हाउस, संसद घिर जाए, कुछ लोग इसे घर लें और अगर सरकार को इस बात का पता हो कि लोग इस पर हमला करेंगे या घेरेंगे या अपनी मांगों को लेकर आयेंगे तो क्या इस सरकार का यह दायित्व नहीं है कि पहले से तैयारी रखे और कोई अप्रिय घटना न होने दे ?

मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जब सरकार को जानकारी थी, तो इस तरह से लोगों की जान खतरे में क्यों डाली गई ? जन धन का नुकसान हुआ है, संसद पर पत्थर चले हैं, शीशे टूटे हैं, लोग मारे गये हैं, मोटर साइकिलें फूक दी गई हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि आप गृह-मंत्री से कहें कि वह स्टेटमेंट दें और लोगों की जान-माल की सुरक्षा की गारन्टी दें। . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, no. I am not permitting this.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not record.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. I am not permitting. Do not record.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You give notice, I will communicate it to the Speaker.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. I am not permitting. Please do not record. You cannot speak on anything that happens everywhere.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not record.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Unless you give notice, I cannot permit you. You will speak only for your satisfaction.

(Interruptions) **

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not record.

(Interruptions) **

श्री मनोराम बगड़ो (हिसार) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सदन बैठा हुआ है, दो मुल्कों का फैसला हुआ है और बड़ा गम्भीर मामला था। इस में जब जमीन के लेन-देने का सब ल था और भारत को जनोन् परमानेंटली पट्टे पर दी जाये और सदन यहां बैठा हो, तो उसको मंजूरी के बगैर राष्ट्र का जमान देना गलत है, यह नहीं होना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mayathevar, you should speak only on this issue.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Yes, only on this issue. We are not travelling beyond this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not on the text of the statement, but on the point raised by Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: The honourable External Affairs Minister made two statements on the Prime Minister's visit to USSR and on the visit of the Bangladesh Prime Minister here. It is a very important matter concerning the entire country and the policy of the External Affairs Ministry. As my hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta put it aptly and correctly, the rules are framed for our convenience.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: By you.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: At least not by me!

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Yes, by us. But the rules should be flexible. Our privileges are very much limited or restricted when compared to those of the other House. That House is not even directly representing the people. We are directly elected by the people. But our limitations are very much and privileges are very much restricted. (Interruptions). What is your advice, Sir? The External Affairs Minister has disappeared from the House immediately after making a statement.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Thevar, he will have some other work in the other House. He has only acted according to the Rules.

श्री रामधन शस्त्री (पटना) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मेम्बरों के अधिकार के बारे में सवाल उठा रहा हूँ। हम लोग डेरे से आ रहे थे, तो हमें नहीं आने दिया गया। बहुत घूम कर आना पड़ा। वहां पर ईंट पत्थर फेंकने वाले लोग भी थे। कोई व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए कि मेम्बर के आने में कोई कठिनाई न हो, स्कावट न हो। (व्यवधान)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): Sir, on the statement made by the External Affairs Minister, it is a well-laid precedent that whenever the Prime Minister goes to visit a country, she or he makes a statement in the House. Sir, for your information, I can quote precedents. Pandit Jawahar Lal

Nehru when he used to go outside, even with his daughter—the present Prime Minister—he used to make a statement....
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, even before making any statement in Parliament, he would not have even granted a bit of news to the newspaper-men. But, unfortunately, our present Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi is showing rather less importance to the House. We, as Members of Parliament—representatives of the people—are not informed first. She does not come to the House and keep us....(Interruptions). This is a question of right of the Members of Parliament.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can have other occasions to raise this. No. This is not the occasion.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, you are the presiding officer. Allow me to submit. Allow me to finish.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, I cannot go on allowing discussion on this Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Mayathevar pointed out something on which I wanted to know the opinion. Whenever a Minister makes a statement, according to Rule 372, no clarification can be sought. Now, all of you expressed the opinion that the clarifications are allowed in the other House and therefore it should be allowed here also. This has been noted by me; the appropriate place where it should be taken up is the Rules Committee for which I would recommend the case. Let it be taken up in the Rules Committee and you come with an amendment of the Rule and give me provisions to allow you to ask for clarifications on a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, legislative business.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I want to

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have gone to the next item. Mr. Shankaranand will reply.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing other than the Minister's speech will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: You should appreciate. This has never been done in the House of Commons. It is a question of propriety. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Professor, you please see me. That is the last weapon in my hand. That is the last Gandhian weapon.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: I am consistently trying to see you. Thank you, Sir.

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री (सैदपुर)
मिस्टर डिप्युटी स्पीकर मेरा पायंट आफ़ ग्रांडर है। गोलियां चल रही हैं गोलियां अभी मैं दो मिनट पहले था रहा हूँ। एम पीज के फ्लैटों में तमाम आदमी घुसे जा रहे हैं। वहाँ घासू गैस के गोले चल रहे हैं। अभी अभी पांच मिनट पहले गोलियां चली हैं। नाथ एबन्यु में एम पीज के फ्लैटों में तमाम लोग घुसे जा रहे हैं। हम लोगों की औरतें और बच्चे खतरे में पड़े हुए हैं। गोलियां चल रही हैं, आदमी मर रहे हैं।.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not permitting you.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: On a point of order, Sir....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No point of order. The proceedings of the House cannot be stopped like this. No.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever is being said without the permission of the Chair shall not go on record. I am not permitting them. Don't record.

(Interruptions)*