

[Shri Saugata Roy]

ing another notice on a subsequent day, you are not giving an opportunity to that member I would suggest that this rule 197(5) should be strictly adhered to so that equal attention can be clearly distributed to all the members concerned. Since we are going into the revision of rules, this aspect may be considered.

MR SPEAKER Hon Members will remember that I was following that procedure. But what happened was, whenever a notice is listed for a later day, a large number of persons began to give notice and when a ballot was taken, the very members who earlier gave notice did not get their chance. So, Shri Saugata Roy and others objected to my doing it. Thereafter, I have strictly followed the rule. Now they turn round and say something else. When the rule is changed, we will consider it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) You know Members are hard up of resources. They cannot go on typing, go on repeating. If you allow this procedure to be followed, a day will come when I shall be sending 250 notices in one day.

MR SPEAKER Even otherwise, I am getting 25 per day.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I pray very humbly to you to realise what the difficulties are that confront a Member.

MR SPEAKER I was adopting the procedure suggested by Mr Saugata Roy. But when the Kashmir question came, there was a big agitation.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU They are masters of contradictions.

MR SPEAKER I cannot adjust myself to every situation.

12.11 a.m.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

TALKS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE CHINESE GOODWILL MISSION

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH (Hoshangabad) I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon.

'The recent talks held between him and the Chinese Goodwill Mission during which the Chinese representatives are reported to have conveyed to the Prime Minister the desire of the Chinese Government for a settlement of the Sino-Indian border dispute through direct and peaceful negotiations.'

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) As the House is aware, various occasions have occurred since 1976 resulting in the improvement of contacts and relations between us and the People's Republic of China. The process commenced with the exchange of Ambassadors. Since then various steps based on the principles of reciprocity and mutual benefit have been taken, including the resumption of trade and shipping links, exchange of expert-level delegations and officials in diverse functional fields.

In September 1977, the All India Dr Kotnis Memorial Committee sought Government's permission to invite a delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries to visit India in the winter months of 1977-78. The Indian Committee had visited China on the Chinese side's invitation on two occasions in 1974 and 1976. The present visit of the Chinese delegation led by Mr Wang Pin-nan, who is the President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and a seasoned Diplomat

of long standing, is in response to this invitation by the Indian body. Government had facilitated the visit and extended due courtesies.

Having regard to the standing of the leader of the Chinese delegation, H.E. Mr. Wang Pin-nan and reflecting our willingness to improve relations with China on the basis of the Five Principles, I decided to receive him and the members of the delegation. The meeting took place on 11th March, 1978. Earlier, the Minister of External Affairs received Mr. Wang Pin-nan and the members of the Chinese delegation on 8th March, 1978.

During my meeting with Mr. Wang Pin-nan, I reiterated Government of India's consistent policy to develop friendly relations with all countries particularly our neighbours. In this context, we reviewed the development of relations in diverse fields between India and China. We agreed that exchanges between India and China in various fields should be expanded. I also took the opportunity to recapitulate the history of our relations since India achieved independence, the consistently friendly attitude of the Indian Government and people towards China and the strains that developed in India-China relations owing to past Chinese actions. In this context, the border question came up briefly for discussion and I stated, and Mr. Wang agreed, that all outstanding matters, including the border question, could be solved through negotiations and only through peaceful means on the basis of Panchsheel. I also made it clear that full normalisation of relations, of course, cannot be attained till the main outstanding issue—the border question, is resolved to our mutual satisfaction by negotiations and peaceful means.

During the meeting between the Minister of External Affairs and Chinese delegation led by Mr. Wang Pin-nan, the latter extended an invitation to the Minister of External Af-

fairs on behalf of the Chinese Foreign Minister, H.E. Mr. Huang Hua, to visit China at a time convenient to the Minister of External Affairs. The invitation was accepted in principle. The Chinese side has been informed that the visit could take place only after due preparations and at an appropriate time.

While agreeing to the desirability of a peaceful solution for the sake of friendly relations between the two countries, no further discussion on the border question has taken place.

Our policy is, of course, as has been stated frequently by the Minister of External Affairs and by myself, to seek an improvement of beneficial bilateral relations with China, as is appropriate between two big Asian neighbouring countries, on the basis of the Five Principles, which, it may be recalled were founded by India and China as early as in the fifties and the adherence to which was also emphasised by Mr. Wang

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Mr. Speaker, it is a matter for satisfaction that the Prime Minister has assured the House that a satisfactory solution of the border dispute is a sine qua non for the full normalisation of relations between China and India. He also stated, the Prime Minister stated, that the dispute should be solved through negotiations and only through peaceful means on the basis of Panchsheel. Panchsheel, I say with considerable trepidation and hesitation, evokes a sad memory. One of the tenets of Panchsheel is non-aggression. Does it not, therefore, imply that China will have to vacate aggression which they committed some years ago? You will recollect—not you, you were not here in this House at that time—that on 14th November, 1962, on the then Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru's birthday anniversary, a resolution was adopted by the House with acclamation, all standing, for the first time and till now the last

[Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath]

time, which urged the House... It was moved by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and piloted by him and finally it was adopted by the House. The resolution concluded with the magnificent declaration that "with hope and faith"—these were the words—"this House affirms the firm resolve of the Indian people to drive out the aggressor from the sacred soil of India however long and hard the struggle may be."

Now, Panchsheel has been stated to be the basis for negotiations between India and China. As I said earlier, one of the main tenets of Panchsheel is non-aggression. May I know whether this resolution still holds good, holds the field—driving out, may be not by force but peacefully driving out the aggressor from the soil of India? Does it not imply that? Secondly, may I know whether as reported in some of the daily papers, in front page, first lead stories in the newspapers for the last two or three days of the Colombo Conference proposals of six Afro-Asian Nations—in December 1962, they met in Colombo—the nations were: Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Ghana, UAR (i.e., Egypt), Burma, Indonesia and Cambodia, in all these countries except Burma, there has been a complete change of Government, providentially, perhaps, just as in India and China also, since those days, there has been a complete change of Government—whether the Colombo proposals also may be a starting point, may be a basis, for talks, preliminary talks, if not negotiations which may follow later on? Does it mean that there is any truth in these press reports?

The Prime Minister may recollect this; he was the Finance Minister at that time, in 1962, and he well knows the goings-on and the whole story inside out. Does that also mean that the MacMahon Line, which the Chinese at one time said that they would accept, in the east, may also be a point for discussion between the two countries, because, to my information, the

MacMahon Line existed then only cartographically? There was no demarcation on the ground. That is how the dispute arose, and is it the position today also that the MacMahon Line in the east exists cartographically, on the map only, and there is no demarcation on the ground?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: In our talks we did not refer to Colombo proposals or such other things because, we did not discuss the question further.

The Resolution that was passed by the House is binding on all of us and we are all pledged to it. I would, however make one modification—that the words 'drive out' must be replaced by the word 'vacated'. That is what we should say.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Drive out peacefully.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Therefore, we are pledged to it. I have made it clear that, unless this is solved, our relations cannot become close. That is what I have said and is a sufficient indication of it. And they said, "We also want to resolve it". So, we have now to see how they want to resolve it. We are, therefore, responding to what they are offering. That is all-right. We go on doing that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): You must respond adequately.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: If the offer is adequate, the response will be adequate.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: The advance is very adequate.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The MacMahon Line was not discussed. But when the whole question comes up for discussion, it has to be solved, so that at no time, in future, such a question arises. I have said that it must be to the mutual satisfaction, that is, our satisfaction cannot be

complete until we get satisfaction about our borders. That is very clear. I cannot say anything more than that at this stage.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: Is the Prime Minister in a position to assure the House that this dispute will be resolved only through bilateral talks, direct bilateral talks, and that no other nation, no other country, no other Government, will be brought into the picture?

MR. SPEAKER: In Call-Attention, you are to put only one question.

SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH: This follows from my first question; it is only a follow-up. I am the only one today in Call-Attention.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: May I assure my hon. friend that, in no disagreement between us and any other country, we will allow any third country to interfere?

12.25 hrs.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that, under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure, I have nominated the following persons as Members of Panel of Chairmen—

- (1) Shri Dhirendranath Basu
- (2) Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan
- (3) Dr. Sushila Nayar
- (4) Shri Ram Murti
- (5) Shri M. Satyanarayan Rao
- (6) Shri N. K. Shejwalkar.

12.26 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER'S VISIT TO MAURITIUS

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

visited Mauritius from 10th to 14th March in response to the invitation extended to me by Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, to participate in the celebrations of the 10th Anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius.

The House is aware of the close, friendly and historic relations that have existed between India and Mauritius. Ethnic ties between the majority of the inhabitants of Mauritius and of the people of India have established a relationship which has been sustained over all these years by intense cultural contacts and is acquiring contemporary relevance through increasing functional cooperation in economic, scientific and technical fields between our two countries.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Did you find out the treasure taken out of the country?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mauritius is our neighbour linked to us by the Indian Ocean. It is an active member of the organisation of African Unity, and, like us, a member of the Non-aligned fraternity of nations and a developing country facing similar problems. It was, therefore, with a feeling of great happiness and a sense of duty that I accepted the invitation to visit Mauritius.

Before I reached Mauritius, I had a transit stop at Mahe, the Capital city of Seychelles. The Foreign Minister of Seychelles, Mr. Guy Simon, received me at the Airport and we were able to use the short time that was available to us for discussing possibilities of establishing and further strengthening of cooperation between India and Seychelles in the fields of agriculture, education, small-scale industries and health. Specific areas of cooperation had been identified during the recent visit of a delegation from Seychelles led by their Minister of Ports and Works, Mr. Loizeau.