

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.

[Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee]

When I landed in Mauritius on the afternoon of Friday, 10th March, I was deeply touched by the presence at the Airport of the Mauritius Prime Minister, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, and Lady Ramgoolam and several of his colleagues in the Cabinet and a large number of other persons representing different walks of life in Mauritius. During a brief statement that I made at the Airport, I observed that Mauritius would remain independent so long as the sun and the moon shine in the sky and also that the unbreakable bonds of friendship between India and Mauritius will continue to grow from strength to strength as long as the waters of the Indian Ocean continue to wash the shores of India and Mauritius.

During my stay in Mauritius, I had the opportunity to visit practically every part of Mauritius and to meet a very large cross-section of the people of Mauritius who, as the House is aware, have succeeded in forging a nation in spite of the diversity of the cultures, religions and languages of its people. As I mentioned at the Banquet hosted by the Prime Minister, Mauritius is the living proof of the basic unity of the family of Man.

I visited the Mahatma Gandhi Institute which was set up in 1975 with our assistance with the objective of developing as a Centre for Indian studies, cultures and traditions. The Institute is already equipped with a good library and a printing press, and is running a Higher Secondary School where the medium of instruction is Hindi. In the very near future, the Institute will have a full-fledged Centre for Indian studies and other oriental studies.

During the course of my visit, I had a tour d'horizon with the Mauritian leaders on international matters and bilateral relations. There was complete identity of views on the subject of the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and the related question of the convening of a

conference of littoral and hinterland States for furthering the objectives of the United Nations Resolutions on the subject. Our two countries will co-operate within the framework of the UN Ad hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and endeavour to ensure that all Great Powers and major maritime users will participate in the proposed conference.

We exchanged views regarding the current deliberations in the Security Council on the subject of Zimbabwe and agreed that, steps should be taken for an effective, time bound and constitutional transfer of power to genuine African majority rule.

We agreed that all efforts should be made to prevent the development of an internal solution of the Namibian problem as a result of South African manoeuvring and machinations.

**SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:** (Hoshangabad): By the end of the year.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** We agreed that Non-aligned countries should concert their moves when the Namibian question comes up next month at a Special Session of the United Nations.

**SHRI HARI VISHNU KAMATH:** I hope you will attend.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** I pointed out to the Mauritian leaders that the continuance of the conflict in the Horn of Africa would, apart from vitiating the generally improved climate of international cooperation and detente, also contribute to the escalation of military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean. We agreed that a mutually acceptable political solution should be found and that all possible support should be given to the on-going OAU mediation efforts on this question.

While exchanging views on the West Asian situation, we were of the opinion that everything possible should be done so as to facilitate irreversible

progress towards a just settlement of this protracted problem.

I explained to the Mauritian leaders our stand on the Disarmament problem and the need for the Non-aligned countries to work out a strategy for the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament and also to ensure that the necessary follow up action is not ignored. We agreed that the meeting of the Non-aligned Bureau, scheduled to be held in Kabul in May, should devote special attention to the Disarmament problems.

While reviewing the progress towards the establishment of the new international economic order, we agreed that the steps taken so far have been meagre and tardy and that all aspects of the inter-dependence of the world economy should be taken into account.

As the House is aware, Mauritius has been an important beneficiary under our Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. There are 49 Indian experts working in different fields. Mauritius is the largest beneficiary of our Scheme for admission of self-financing foreign students in technical and medical colleges in the country. A grant of Rs. 13.1 million was made available to Mauritius in 1975 towards the capital assistance and this has been largely utilised by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, the Industrial Trade Training Centre and the Mauritian Central Electricity Board. In addition to the earlier Government of India credit of Rs. 50 million extended to Mauritius, a new credit of Rs. 100 million was recently agreed to 84 per cent of the credit is proposed to be utilised for purchase of capital equipment and the remaining for the purchase of agricultural commodities. Besides, a commercial credit of Rs. 50 million was extended last year for facilitating Mauritian purchases from India of commercial vehicles, machinery, medicines, etc.

11 Indo-Mauritian Joint Ventures have been approved and 7 of them are already functioning. In my discussions with the Mauritian leaders, I informed them that we would be glad to provide further assistance in the fields of irrigation, ground water resources, power generation, transmission and distribution, urban and rural water supply as well as technical assistance in the agricultural and animal husbandry areas.

On the morning of the day of my departure from Mauritius, I, together with Prime Minister Ramgoolam, signed the Agreement establishing a Joint Commission on Economic, Technical, Education and Cultural Cooperation between our two countries. The establishment of the Joint Commission will contribute significantly to the further strengthening of the existing close and friendly ties between India and Mauritius.

I am convinced that continued friendship between India and Mauritius is in the best interests of the peoples of India and Mauritius and will contribute to the establishment of peace and stability in the region to which we both belong.

12.32 hrs.

MOTION RE. FOURTEENTH REPORT  
OF BUSINESS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR  
(SHRI RAVINDRA VERMA): I beg to  
move:

"That this House do agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 15th March, 1978."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Here in this House we are facing a lot of difficulties--difficulties are that we are not getting