

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

श्री राज बिजलत वासवान (हाजीपुर):
सनापति महोदय, मैं गैर सरकारी सदस्यों
के विशेषकों तथा संकल्पों सम्बन्धी समिति
का 23वां प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

15.18 hrs.

STATEMENT RE VISIT OF MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Madam, Chairperson, in my very first major statement in this House after assuming the Office of Foreign Minister, I had placed special emphasis on recognising the vitality and importance of Japan—something which we had been somewhat slow in doing in the past. Even as I was making that statement in this august House, word came from Tokyo that the then Foreign Minister of Japan, His Excellency Mr. Hatoyama, intended to visit India in July, 1977. When that visit took place, it was decided that the institution of Annual Consultations between the two foreign Offices, should be upgraded to the level of Foreign Ministers. In pursuance of that decision, I was very happy to visit Tokyo at the kind invitation of the Foreign Minister of Japan, H. E. Sonoda between the 14th—17th August to inaugurate the first round of Ministerial-level Consultations between Foreign Ministers of Japan and India.

This visit reflects the shared recognition of India and Japan that as major democratic States in Asia, both of them have a strong interest in the peace, economic growth and progress in Asia as a whole. The primary purpose of these Annual Consultations is to try and consolidate our multi-faceted relations with Japan to the

mutual advantage of our two countries. It is evident that viewed in the context of Asia as a whole, India needs to work for closer understanding and friendship with all the countries of East Asia. Japan too is interested in the reduction of the tensions prevailing in that region and the emergence of friendly relations between all countries in that area.

At the talks with my counterpart we exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest such as the situation in Asia, the Middle East and Southern Africa, Disarmament, Peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the North-South problem and the Bonn Summit of industrialised nations and the non-aligned Movement as well as bilateral relations between India and Japan. As for the situation in Asia, we agreed on the need to reduce tension and enhance stability to ensure the more rapid economic growth and development of the countries of the region. It was felt that Japan and India could cooperate in various fields towards this end.

My Visit to Tokyo coincided with the conclusion of the Treaty of peace and Friendship between Japan and China, with Foreign Minister Sonoda having returned to Tokyo only a day prior to my own arrival there, after having signed the Treaty in peking on 12th August, 1978. Mr. Sonoda gave me a background to the negotiations and the Treaty. We noted from his remarks that it records the pledge of the two countries to establish friendly relations between Japan and China on the basis of the well-known principles of peaceful co-existence and the U. N. Charter. He also drew my attention to the specific Article in the Treaty laying down that the Treaty shall not affect the position of either contracting party regarding its relations with third countries. The Japanese side particularly explained to us that the controversial clause relating to hegemony should be read in this context. One may note the statement by Prime Minister Take Fukuda made on August