

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 16, 1990/Sravana 25,
1912 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHING OF 'AKASH MISSILE'

[*English*]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think nobody in the House will object if we join you in complimenting our scientists for this feat that they have achieved the successful launching of Akash Missile.

MR SPEAKER: I think the entire country is proud for successful launching of this missile.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It was launched from your State.

MR SPEAKER: Thanks to Dr. Kalam, the great scientist. The House is proud of our scientists...(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER: Let us welcome the Zambian Parliamentary Delegation.

WELCOME TO THE ZAMBIAN PARLIAM- ENTARY DELEGATION

MR SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon'ble Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. F.M. Mulikita, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia and the Hon'ble Members of the Zambian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other Hon'ble Members of the Delegation are:

- (1) Hon. Mr. P.R.G. Chanshi, M.P.
- (2) Mr. M. M. Nkunika, M.P.
- (3) Mr. J. Sichonga, M.P.

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 14 August, 1990 afternoon. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the National Assembly, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Zambia.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Purchase of Arms by Pakistan from USSR

102. SHRI GULAB CHAND
KATARIA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PURO-
HIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-
FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is purchasing 72
M tanks, armoured fleet, large quantities of
ammunition and such missiles which can be

launched from various vehicles and aircraft from the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Government is not aware of any moves by Pakistan to purchase arms and ammunition from the Soviet Union.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to Univarta Newsreport of 29th instant, it was in the course of a press conference that a spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs disclosed to newsmen that Pakistan was receiving USSR made weapons through East European countries. I have furnished detailed information in this regard. Is it a fact that the spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs gave such information? There are press reports that India is feeling concerned over the purchase of arms by Pakistan from USSR?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, I have said that there is no definite information with the Government that USSR is supplying arms and ammunition to Pakistan.

SHRI GULAB CHAND KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply to my question the hon. Minister has stated that he does not have any such information.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: The Government has definite information that Pakistan has not received the supply of any kind of arms and ammunition from the USSR.

SHRIGULABCHANDKATARIA: If there is no such information with the Government I would like to know about the source through which this information was divulged to news-

men and who authorised the publicity of this news which has appeared in all the newspapers.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, apart from Soviet Union, Pakistan has all along been trying to procure weapons from other countries, especially the east European countries. But so far as I know, I can say that Pakistan has not been successful to procure arms and ammunition for itself from any other east European country except the USSR.

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is all right that the hon. Minister gave a reply to the question, but it was a very simple question as to what is Pakistan's move with regard to the purchasing of T-72 tanks and A.P.C. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is making preparations to wage a war on us. This thing becomes more clear from the very fact that it is receiving arms and ammunition very fact from a number of countries. It is procuring weapons from Australia etc. Due to our good relations with USSR, Pakistan has not been successful to get weapons from that country. But it is trying to purchase weapons from Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Iraq and Syria which possess tanks and other such weapons, as per the information available with me. What is the factual position? Please do not take it lightly. It is very necessary to take the Parliament into confidence in this regard. The way Pakistan is behaving these days and encouraging disruptive activities in Jammu and Kashmir, is something very serious. Please state it clearly whether the Government has received any information from their intelligence and if so, please let us know as to what is that information you have got with you and also as to what efforts are being made by Pakistan for the purchase of weapons. Today, Pakistan wants to establish its hegemony over India in arms and ammunition. It is making all out efforts to acquire latest Soviet weapons. Please let us have all these details. There is no need to hide any information.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, there is no question of suppressing any information. The Government is fully alive to the concern expressed by the hon. Member. The question is very simple as to whether Pakistan has been able to achieve success in its effort to procure arms and ammunition from the U.S.S.R. In this connection I would like to tell the House that Pakistan has not so far achieved any success in this regard and we have received full assurance from the USSR. As I have said in the beginning itself, Pakistan is trying to acquire weapons from East European countries and we are full aware of it. We have taken diplomatic steps in this regard and we have been successful in it. Now Pakistan has not achieved success in procuring weapons from any of the East European countries.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Sir, it is all right that Pakistan will not be successful in purchasing weapons from the USSR, but what are the reasons that Pakistan has piled up large cache of arms during the last 2-3 months. Please let us know as to whether the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs has been given guidelines to ask his Pakistani counterpart as to why Pakistan has been piling up arms on such a large scale, during the foreign Minister level talks with them. Today, everyone is apprehending that Pakistan may attack our country at any moment over the Kashmir issue. Will the hon. Minister please clarify that if Pakistan is not making a direct purchase of arms from the U.S.S.R. it could be possible that it is piling up large cache of arms from other friendly countries.

There are also reports in the press that Pakistan has started manufacturing nuclear bombs. If so, I would like to know whether India is in a position to go in for manufacturing of nuclear bombs. If not, please give the required information to the House and take the members into confidence.

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not emanate from it. Please give reply to the first part of the question.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my reply I have made it clear that it has always been Pakistan's effort to procure arms and that too from countries with whom we have friendly relations. But Pakistan has not so far achieved any success in it.

So far as the stand of Pakistan in respect of India is concerned; it is known to all and the Government is determined to meet any challenge from them.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that Russia has not supplied any tanks or any arms and ammunition to Pakistan. But the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister, time and again, have alleged that Pakistanis are helping the terrorists in Kashmir and in Punjab. And it is also a known fact that these terrorists in the past—I do not know of late—have used some Russian rockets and arms and these were seized by the para-military forces and army from them. In view of the fact that the Government of India has said that the terrorists are being trained and harboured by the Government of Pakistan, how is it that the Pakistan trained terrorists are getting the Russian arms? At one stage, it was told that it was coming through Afghan rebels. If this is the fact, what steps Government have taken to stop this?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: The question was specific. But the hon. Member is a very seasoned parliamentarian. It is possible that some arms might have got through to the terrorists from the Afghan rebels. That we cannot prevent. But the Government has been taking all possible steps to prevent supply of arms to the terrorists crossing the border and we have, in recent months, been quite successful in implementing it.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large quantity of arms supply is coming to us from the USSR. But in the light of the politics scenario that is chang-

ing both in Russia and in Eastern Europe and if Russia is reassessing its own role in global politics. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that in the event of the crisis or the war, these arms supply may dry up, do we have any assurance from the Eastern European countries and from Russia to see that such a thing will not happen?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Yes, Sir. We have full assurance from our friends, particularly the Soviet Union that our relations will remain the same.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, does the Government have any information that Pakistan is receiving arms and ammunition from the USSR? Does the Government know as to how much amount has been provided in Pakistan's defence budget and how much of that amount Pakistan has earmarked for the purchase of arms and ammunition from abroad? Will the hon. Minister please let us know as to what steps are being taken by the Government at the diplomatic level to check the flow of foreign arms to Pakistan?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has received definite information that Pakistan has failed to have arms and ammunition from the USSR or any other east European country. So far as the information with regard to its defence budget is concerned, it has provided a sum of 3 billion dollars in its defence budget. Nothing can be said as to from which of countries of the World, Pakistan is procuring arms and ammunition. However the only thing we can do in this regard is that we may put pressure on our friends not to supply arms to Pakistan.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I would like to make a request to the hon. Prime Minister with reference to his address from the ramparts of the Red Fort...(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER: Please. Please take your seat. Agnihotri ji, please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: In his address to the nation, without making a reference to Pakistan, he had said that our army and our police are not solely responsible for the security of the country, rather all other countrymen are also equally responsible. In an emotional expression he said that he would take the lead if 80 crore people come forward to raise a wall at the border. I would like to know as to whether Pakistan, while mobilising its strength is also aware that India apprehends war threat from Pakistan for which the entire countrymen are required to raise a wall. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, Pakistan is receiving the supply of arms. What for it is receiving the supply of arms? Is it for making toys? Just now, the hon Minister has replied that Pakistan is receiving arms not from the USSR, but from other countries. This is what the hon. Minister has said in his reply. I would like to know as to what does our country apprehend from Pakistan. From the Prime Minister's address, it seems that something must be there behind it. Please let us know as to how there is a threat to our border or do we apprehend any threat from China. In case there is a threat from Pakistan and there is nothing for the country to be worried about, then it is altogether a different thing. (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER: Please take your seat. It is no question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Please let me know whether it is a matter of concern for the country in case Pakistan is receiving arms.

MR SPEAKER: This is a general question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: If you want to stop it you should say that there is no threat to the country.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sathe Saheb is a very senior Member of this House. As regards the views expressed by the hon. Prime Minister, we should have a word of praise for him. If there

is any threat to the country, he will lead the country. (*Interruptions*) You should commend his action.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has started that supply of arms have not been received from the U.S.S.R. or its old friendly countries. Is there any such information with the Ministry that arms are being put to sale in the open international arms market by all the east European countries and Pakistan is purchasing these arms through them. If so, what steps have been taken in this regard.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: We have no such information.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know whether, during the talks that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister had recently with the Russian leaders, this question has been raised that it is not advisable to sell such strategic weapons to Pakistan in view of the situation and the atmosphere that prevails between Pakistan and India?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, I have already said that they are not selling these arms to Pakistan. We have definite assurance not only from the Soviet Union, but also from different European countries that they have not sold and they are not ready to do it.

Central Assistance for Cyclone Affected People of Andhra Pradesh

*103. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment made by the Union Government in respect of the extent of loss of human life and property due to recent unprecedented cyclone and flood in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the financial and other assistance

given by Union Government to the State Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government of India have ensured that the affected people are provided adequate help of food, drinking water, medicines and shelter?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has indicated total damage amounting to Rs. 2247.76 crore and loss of 928 human lives. The Government of India has not made any independent assessment of extent of loss of life and property. However, a Central Team was deputed to Andhra Pradesh between 15th-19th July, 1990 to assess the quantum of Central assistance required. During the visit of the Team, the State Government has sought assistance to the extent of Rs. 867 crores.

(b) With the acceptance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State with certain allocated amount, 75 per cent of which is to be contributed by the Central Government in four quarterly instalments as non-Plan grant, and the balance 25 per cent is to be contributed by the State Government from its own resources. Following the constitution of Calamity Relief Fund, it is the responsibility of the State Government to undertake all relief measures and incur necessary expenditure in the wake of natural calamities. Andhra Pradesh has been allocated Rs. 86 crore for 1990-91 under the Calamity Relief Fund. Keeping in view the severity of the situation caused by cyclone followed by heavy rains of May, 1990 in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, the entire Central share of the