

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

*Thursday, May 10, 1990/Vaisakha 20,
1912 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Discussion with South Korean Foreign Minister

760. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 5 April, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 3659 regarding outcome of the visit of South Korean Foreign Minister and state precisely the political and economic discussions held between him and the South Korean Foreign Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

During the visit to India of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea from March 15-17, 1990, detailed discussions were held on recent changes in the international scene, as well as on regional and bilateral issues.

2. The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea gave a detailed review of recent developments in the relations between the Republic of Korea and the countries of Eastern Europe.
3. India reiterated its support for the reunification of the Korean peninsula through peaceful consultations between the North and South. The Republic of Korea lauded the role played by India in multilateral bodies such as the United Nations.
4. During discussions on bilateral matters, both sides expressed satisfaction at the growing trade and commercial relations between the two countries. It was agreed that existing ties in these fields as well as in the fields of science and technology would be strengthened.

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA: Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has stated that they have discussed about the regional bilateral issues. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister as to what are the

steps which have been taken by India for reunification of both the Koreans in the international forum, because India has been fighting always for integrity and sovereignty of other countries and maintenance of cultural unity. So, has the Government of India taken it up with the UNO or created a forum where international opinion can be mobilised?

It has also been mentioned here about discussions with other countries. I would like to know whether there was any discussion about the American stand on the recent developments in Russia, like perestroika and glasnost, and the process of disintegration which has started there in favour of the American Stand. What is the Korean stand and the Indian stand? Has any decision been arrived at about that?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): So far as aspirations of the Korean people for reunification are concerned, they have our sympathy. I think, the aspirations and the efforts that they are making will one day fructify and they will get unified.

So far as our discussion with the Minister were concerned, between him and me, we talked at length about various developments in the world scene. Naturally, the changes in the Soviet Union also came in for discussion.

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA: As you know, the American stand on Kashmir is very peculiar. One day, America condemns terrorism in the international field and on another day, they are giving asylum and protection to a man like Amanulla Khan. Were these things, particularly the Korean stand on Kashmir, discussed?

There is a mention about the bilateral relations and trade. In that discussion, did the second steel plant in Orissa also figure? If the second steel plant in that State has figures, what is the assurance of the Korean Government? Was there any concrete discussion about the bilateral payment and the

trade balance position. What is the stand of the Korean Government on the new American economic colonialism?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: You will agree that my hon. friend has widened the gamut of the entire question a great deal.

MR. SPEAKER: Please reply to the question which relates to your Ministry.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: So far as our economic relations with Korea are concerned, the trade balance, at the moment, is not in our favour. So, I tried to emphasise to my colleague, the Korean Foreign Minister, to try to look at it in a way so that exports from India are also increased substantially. We have some projects in joint ventures in India. The discussion regarding the steel plant is still in a preliminary stage. Therefore, it could not be possibly taken up.

So far as the discussions regarding our relations with America are concerned, I think, this is a bilateral issue between us and America which we would never like to discuss with third countries.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Maharashtra

764. SHRI HARIBHAN SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise number of telephone connections released during last three years in Maharashtra;

(b) when connections are likely to be released to all the registered applicants; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to modernise the telecommunication network in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):