

12.46 hrs.

**MANIPUR (HILL AREAS) DISTRICT
COUNCILS BILL***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
K. C. PANT) : I beg to move for leave to
introduce a Bill to provide for the establi-
shment of District Councils in the Hill
Areas in the Union territory of Manipur.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce
a Bill to provide for the establishment of
District Councils in the Hill Areas in
the Union territory of Manipur.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I introduce† the Bill.
12.47 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

REPORTED STATEMENT BY INDIAN
HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ISLAMABAD

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore)
I have sought your kind permission under
rule 377 to raise this very grave matter
which has been agitating the minds of many
hon. Members since they had the news
in yesterday's paper. At the first oppor-
tunity, we are seeking to get the clarification
from Government.

I am referring to the news report which
has appeared in all the papers yesterday to
the effect that the Indian High Commissioner
in Islamabad, Shri J. K. Atal has made
a public statment there saying "that the
quick formation of a civilian regime in
Pakistan could cut the chances of war by
half."

If I may just quote a futher paragraph
from this report. It says :

"In connection with India's demands
that East Bengal refugess return home,
the High Commissioner said "I am sure

my Prime Minister would have more
patience to wait longer because the
formation of a national government soon
would be a sign that something was
happening in the right direction".

I do not know whether this has been
rightly reported or not. But if it is a correct
report, then it was an extremely extraordinary
statement for a representative of this country
to make abroad. Everybody knows, and you
know, Sir, that an attempt is being made by
people in Pakistan including to Mr. Bhutto
to try and bluff people that they are going
to bringin a civilian government by some sort
of sham elections I think the Prime Minister
and other authorised spokesmen of the
Government in this country have made it
quite clear that this will make no difference
to the situation because it is a sham thing,
until Sheikh Mujibur Rehman is released and
the elected representative, that is, those who
were elected before March 25, are allowed to
decide what form of government they want,
there could be no question of a political
settlement.

I would like to know from the hon.
Minister firstly whether this statement
attributed to Mr. Atal is correct or
not and whether he has been correctly
reported or not. If not, why have Govern-
ment not bothered to contradict it ?

It is a very serious matter which I think
would be the best weapon at the moment
that could be given to Yahya Khan in his
hands.

If this is what he is reported to have
said, then I would like to know what busi-
ness the High Commissioner has to go about
making public statment which are in direct
variance with the public statements made
here by Government and the clear line that
Government have taken on this matter. Or,
are we to take it, because he had
brought Id greetings from Yahya Khan to
our PrimeMinister and he is reported to have
carried back some message from here to
Yahya Khan, that this is the actual confi-
dential view of the Government, which I
would not like to believe, which is not
being reveled to the country.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary. Part II, section 2, dated 29-11-71

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

It cannot be so, I don't believe it. There fore, I would like to know what basis Shri Atal has to make statements of this type highly irresponsible, highly dangerous to the national interests of this country at this critical juncture. I would like the hon. Minister to clarify the whole position again. I want to know whether they will recall this gentleman who is certainly not fit at this critical moment to be our High Commissioner at Islamabad.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वह समझने में असमर्थ हूँ कि श्री अटल पाकिस्तान में भारत के हाई कमिश्नर हैं या भारत के नाम के किसी पश्चिमी देश का वहाँ प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे हैं और हमें सलाह देने की घृष्टता दिखा रहे हैं। वह भारत के प्रतिनिधि है लेकिन सार्वजनिक रूप से ऐसे भाषण कर रहे हैं जो भारत की स्थिति को बिगाड़ने वाले हैं जो उन शक्तियों के हाथ मजबूत करने वाले हैं जो सारे मामले को यू० एन० की सिक्योरिटी काउंसिल में ले जा कर और भारत पर दबाव डालने के लिये रास्ता तैयार करना चाहते हैं वह हाई कमिश्नर हैं और कहते हैं कि मैं जो कुछ विचार प्रकट कर रहा हूँ वे परसनल हैं। उनके परसनल विचार क्या होते हैं ? क्या अपने निजी विचारों को वह सार्वजनिक रूप से प्रकट कर सकते हैं ? यह अधिकार उनको दिया है ? वह हमारी प्रधान मंत्री की तरफ से कह रहे हैं कि प्रधान मंत्री अधिक प्रतीक्षा करने के लिए तैयार हो जाएँगी अगर वहाँ नेशनल गवर्नमेंट का नाटक रचा गया। अगर उस तथा कथित सरकार का नेतृत्व मि० भुट्टो ने किया तो उसके भारत विरोधी विचारों से कोई अप्रिचित नहीं है और हमारे विदेश मंत्री तो उनके विचारों को अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं। यह बात वहाँ कहने की आवश्यकता क्या थी, उस पर मुझे आपत्ति है।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब हम लोग प्रधान मंत्री से मिले थे तब मैंने वह प्रश्न

उठाया था कि श्री अटल वहाँ क्यों आए ? वह गए वहाँ और उन्होंने अपना परिचय-पत्र दिया। दिल्ली आए और विदेश मंत्री ने कहा था कि उन्हें हमने बुलाया। अब वह चले गए। वह कौन सा सन्देश लेकर आए थे और कौनसा लेकर वापिस ले गए हैं ?

"Mr. Atal said a message he carried from Mrs. Gandhi urged Pakistan to create conditions for the return of nearly 10 million refugees who fled into India following the army crackdown in March on the Awami League."

"He said Mrs. Gandhi repeated her desire that the Pakistan Government seek a political solution to the East Bengal crisis by negotiating with the recently elected representatives of the people there".

"रिसेंटली इलेक्टिड" इनवार्टिड कामाज में है। रिसेंटली इलेक्टिड तो वे हैं जो कठपुतली उम्मीदवारों के नाम से पाकिस्तान के पिछलग्गू हैं, जो आवामी लीग के सामने जीते नहीं थे। चुनावों का अब वहाँ स्वांग रचा जा रहा है उस में जो जीत कर जा रहे हैं, वे रिसेंटली इलेक्टिड हैं। अब क्या हमारा मतलब उनसे है ? अगर नहीं है तो जो कहना चाहता हूँ कि उन्हें शब्दों का चयन करना भी नहीं आता है। श्री अटल ने अपने पद को दुरुपयोग किया है। उन्होंने अन्तराष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में भारत की स्थिति को बिगाड़ा है और जिस पद पर उनको बिठाया गया है उस पद पर बिठाने लायक वह नहीं है। उन्हें शब्दों का चयन करना नहीं आता है। अगर ऐसा हाई कमिश्नर इस संकट काल में इस्लामाबाद में रहेगा तो वह हमें कठिनाइयों में फंसा सकता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगर उनका वक्तव्य जो समाचार पत्रों में छपा, वह सही है तो उन्हें तुरन्त वापिस बुला लिया जाना चाहिये और इस तरह के सभी जगह जो हमारे विदेशों में राजदूत हैं उन्हें तम्बीह दी जानी चाहिए कि इस संकट के समय में वे जरा बोलने में विवेक से काम लें बोलने के लिए वाणी चाहिये लेकिन

[श्री प्रटलबिहारी वाजपेयी]

बुप रहने के लिए वाणी और विवेक दोनों चाहिये। हमारे हाई कमिश्नर विवेक नहीं रखते, यह साफ हो गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि यंत्री महोदय, इस बारे में सदन को तथा देश को विश्वास में लें और आश्वासन दें कि सरकार की वहाँ पाकिस्तान से कोई बातचीत नहीं चल रही। मुक्तिवाहिनी सफलतायें प्राप्त कर रही है। इस समय मुक्ति वाहिनी के पैरों में किसी तरह की जंजीर डालना सहन नहीं करेगा और न बंगाल की स्वाधीनता के लिए लड़ने वाली जनता सहन करेगी।

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA *Rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : No.

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA (Maharajganj)
I have sent in a call attention notice on this.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARN SINGH) : Sir, as this is a vital matter in which there can be some confusion in the minds of the people here or abroad, and misunderstanding also, I would like first of all take to opportunity of clarifying our stand in unmistakable terms.

First of all, I would like to say that we are totally opposed to the establishment of any puppet regime or any regime with breakaway groups or any regime as a result of the recent rigged and sham elections that are being conducted in East Bengal. Our position has consistently been that it is those elected representatives who were elected as a result of the December, 1970 elected elections who represent the people. There was no justification for declaring those elected or some of those elected representatives as having lost their membership. Therefore, all this process of fresh elections is something which is totally unacceptable, and we do not accept this at all. We have always said very clearly that the political settlement has to be such which is acceptable to those already elected. This expression, "recently elected" causes misunderstanding. Therefore,

I want to say quite clearly that the persons elected in December, 1970 are the people who represent really the people of Bengal Desh and it is they alone who can negotiate a settlement or arrive at a settlement, and it they who can deliver the goods.

Mr. Vajpayee has asked about any message having been brought or not. On this also I want to clarify. It is a fact that we did ask our High Commissioner to come to India because we had briefed him about the various aspects. We also wanted him to have such contacts as he may have at the high level in Pakistan and then we sent for him for further consultation. It is quite common. It is not a message as such, or any letter or any such thing to be conveyed to us. But the result of his contacts with the high-ups there will be a matter of concern and interest to us. Therefore, it is quite common for the High Commissioner to be sent for, so that we may be able to see as to what is his information, his thinking, and what is it that the Pakistani leaders mentioned to him. As a result of his presence here and as a result of further consultation, he has gone back, and on the basis of those consultation and instructions given to him, he will explain, if an opportunity arises, our viewpoint on the important issues. (*Interruptions*) This is clearly our position.

Then, about the statement, I would like to say that this statement has come through AP - Associated Press of America. It is not uncommon that statements which are made in Pakistan are distorted in transmission. Our own means of communication with Pakistan today are very extremely limited. You may be aware that they have stopped the sending of telegrams from Pakistan to India. But they have also said that it does not apply to official telegrams. So, some official telegrams are being exchanged. But even these are delayed by two or three days.

I would also like to say further that in order to judge exactly what he said, I would like first to have our own High Commissioner's version. Our foreign office has already sent him a telegram yesterday, as soon as this information was available, and I would appeal to the House that we should wait to

know what exactly his version is. It is not uncommon that anything said in Pakistan can be distorted and presented to us, but, at the same time, without waiving for his version, I have clarified the Government's position so that nobody should be in any doubt.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East) : There is one important aspect of the matter. On account of his very close association with the Prime Minister's family he went as High Commissioner, as Prime Minister's representative..(Interruptions) The Prime Minister is not present in the House. The hon. Minister says: I shall get information. Why has he not got in touch already and got an answer? Are our diplomatic channels not functioning at the present moment ?...(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : If the Statement as reported is substantially correct, will the Government take a serious view of it or not? Such a High Commissioner should be withdrawn, in that case...

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I think I have left no doubt by clearly stating the Government's position on the substantive questions that were mentioned; I have already stated that. If it is established that he has said anything contrary to our policy, we shall take proper action. I cannot say anything more unless I know the High Commissioner's version of the statement.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, चौबीस घंटे से ज्यादा हो गये हैं। क्या हाई कमिश्नर से टेलीफोन पर सम्पर्क नहीं किया जा सकता है। क्या टेलीफोन काट दिये गये हैं? क्या पाकिस्तान हमें अपने हाई कमिश्नर से बात नहीं करने देता? वह बात साफ होनी चाहिये। क्या तार भेजना जरूरी है?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : There are great difficulties in establishing contact on telephone; we should be realistic. This could be the first thing that would occur to us also; we had tried but we could not get contact...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : We adjourn now for Lunch to re-assemble at 2'clock when we shall take up the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha Adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill. There are 15 operative clauses and there are no amendments. I shall put them together.

The question is ;

“That clauses 2 to 15 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 15 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : I beg to move. :

“That the Bill be passed.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill be passed.”