

employment has fallen from 2.82 per cent during 1972-78 to 2.22 per cent during the year 1977-83. In the agricultural sector also, the growth rate has fallen from 2.32 per cent per annum to 1.55 per cent. Regarding manufacturing sector, the employment growth rate has fallen from 5.10 per cent during 1972-78 to 2.10 per cent during 1983-88. We have got three sectors where we will be able to provide more employment—the first one is the manufacturing sector, second one is the agricultural sector and the third one is the services sector. In the services sector I could find that during 1972-78, the growth rate was at the rate of 3.67 per cent which has fallen to 2.5 per cent during 1983-88. The only silverlining in the intervening years is when it touches 4.69 per cent. For the last several years, the main opportunities of employment have increased only in the construction and mining sectors. One can find this picture, if one goes through the details. In the other sectors in our country where we face a grim challenge of unemployment, the growth rate of employment is being reduced year after year.

18.00 hrs.

This is a serious problem for which we have to address ourselves to find out some remedial measures. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member may continue his speech next time.

Now the Minister of External Affairs shall make a statement regarding the Pakistan Prime Minister's interview to the Newsweek Magazine of the 19th August, 1991.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : I know after the Foreign Minister's statement, you will not allow for any clarification. Therefore, I would like to know now itself whether he has drawn the attention of the Prime Minister to his interview or not. He should mention about this also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Everybody knows here that after the statement is made by the hon. Minister, no clarifications are permitted in this House. Of course, it is there in the Upper House.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : It is just a statement. There might be opportunity for the hon. Members to seek clarifications at the time of the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the Minister may make the statement.

18.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Pakistan Prime Minister's interview to the Newsweek magazine of 19th August, 1991

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : Several Members had expressed concern at the reported interview of the Pakistan Prime Minister published in the Newsweek magazine of the 19th August, 1991, stating that the Kashmir issue is increasing tension between India and Pakistan and has the "potential to be the cause, God forbid, of yet another

war between India and Pakistan".

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, a Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Pakistan visited India from August 18 to 21, 1991. He brought the message from his Prime Minister to our Prime Minister, that the Government of Pakistan was sincerely interested in resolving all bilateral problems through serious and constructive dialogue for normalising relations between the two countries. This was reiterated in his meetings with the External Affairs Minister and Defence Minister. The Special Envoy was informed that the Government of India had consistently worked for the establishment of tension free and good-neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla Agreement. We believe this to be in the interest of the peoples of our two countries and of peace and stability in the region.

Through the Special Envoy, we sought clarifications on the apparent discrepancy between the message which the Prime Minister of Pakistan sought to convey and the impression created by his remarks in the interview to the Newsweek magazine. The Special Envoy clarified to us that the interview, as reported in the Newsweek magazine, did not fully convey what the Prime Minister of Pakistan had really intended, particularly his desire for a peaceful resolution of all differences between India and Pakistan.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware, the current tensions in Indo-Pak relations have been caused by Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion in the Indian States of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, its concerted campaign to internationalise the

Kashmir issue and its hostile propaganda directed against India in violation of the Simla Agreement and universally accepted norms of conducting inter-State relations. For a meaningful and sustained improvement in Indo-Pak relations, this must stop. The frequent incidents of border violations and shelling along the border by Pakistan in an attempt to provide cover for the infiltration of terrorists and arms across the border, have added greatly to the tension along the border in recent months. Instead of frequent references to war to meet their extraneous propaganda purposes, Pakistani leaders should address themselves to these activities which constitute the root cause of the present tensions in our relationship.

We sincerely hope that in the coming months, the message conveyed by the Prime Minister of Pakistan for normalising relations with India will be translated into concrete action. The situation on the ground will provide the real test.

I would like to assure the Hon'ble Members that we are watching the situation very closely. While we shall respond in full measure to any action taken by Pakistan on the ground for improving relations with India, let it be fully understood that the State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India and that there will be no compromise with the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, August 26, 1991, at 11.00 A. M.