

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, November 20, 1985/
Kartika 29, 1907 (SAKA)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBERS SWORN

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR
(Gurdaspur).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Amendments to the Citizenship Act and
Foreigners Act

*41. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to under-
take any amendments to the Citizenship
Act and Foreigners Act to endow certain
foreign nationals staying in Assam for the
last several years with some special rights ;
and

(b) if not, whether any such under-
taking was given to the leaders of the
AASU when they met the Home Minister
recently ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME
AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) :
(a) and (b) : In pursuance to the
Assam Accord, a Bill for the Amendment
to the Citizenship Act, 1955 has been
introduced in the Lok Sabha on
18.11.1985.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Sir,
the mountain has given birth to a mouse

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after much prolonged parleys and the
accord and this Bill has failed in this
respect to allay the fears and apprehensions
or misapprehensions of a large section of
the population of the state of Assam. I
don't want to go into details. What is
more, it has failed to allay the fears of
large section of people who feel that they
are citizens and the position would be
changed because the Union Government
has abandoned them to a section who will
be hounding them out. In the context of
this I want to ask the Home Minister
through you, Mr. Speaker, whether Govern-
ment thinks that no further amendment to
the Constitution or the Foreigners' Act is
called for ? It that the final and considered
view of the Government ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : At least for the
time being we don't think that any amend-
ment is necessary.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : This
calls for the definition of the word 'time
being'.

AN HON. MEMBER : Time-bound.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I
want to know whether it is not a fact that
Mr. A. K. Sen, the Law Minister specifi-
cally suggested in a letter to you on
11-10-85 that Section 2(a) of the Foreign-
ers' Act be amended to include the
definition 'foreigners' means a person who
is not a citizen of India but does not
include any person who is included in
clauses 5.4. and 5.6 of the Assam Accord
and with an Explanatation or a Proviso to
Section 2(a). If so, why is it that the
Home Ministry has turned down this
opinion of the Law Minister ?

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : What the hon.
Member is saying is not borne out by the
facts. What is the advise which the con-
cerne Ministry gives us is a matter which I
cannot possibly disclose in the House.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Is he taking the plea of public interest? Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know whether he is taking now the plea of 'public interest'? I want to know. It is very important. The hon. Minister has used earlier the word 'time-being'. Now the hon. Minister says "I cannot disclose" what it is I would have to disclose later. But let us forget that. I want to know whether the Hon. Minister is saying now that it is not in public interest to disclose the opinion of the Law Minister.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I think you are trying to put words which I have not used. That is exactly the position which I am explaining. I have never said that in public interest I would not like to disclose the opinion which is given to us. It is our internal matter as to how many Ministries are to be consulted, what opinions are given and ultimately it is the final decision which is taken in the House.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Has he given an opinion? That is the question.

MR. SPEAKER : It is an internal matter. I cannot force him to divulge.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is his own interest.

MR. SPEAKER : He should look after his own interest.

Mr. Chintamani Panigrahi, we have got a Bill now. We have a full Bill before us for discussion. The Bill is coming. This is what I am saying. Do you want to put a question now?

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether this amendment has come in accordance with the Assam accord and whether it is not a fact that vast number of minorities, almost all sections of minority in Assam, have welcomed this amendment. Every body is welcoming this amendment. I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of it.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN : I am fully aware of it and I am in full agreement with what the hon. Member says.

Manufacture of Atom Bomb by Pak

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***42. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :**
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are of the view that Pakistan is likely to explode a nuclear bomb in the near future ;

(b) names of countries supposed to be supporting Pakistan technically and financially ;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit abroad brought to the notice of heads of those countries India's apprehensions and repercussions of Pakistan's move to manufacture the bomb ;

(d) whether the question of exploding nuclear bomb was taken up with Pakistan's President by the Prime Minister during his talks with him in New York recently ; and if so, reaction of Pakistan's President thereto ;

(e) which is the likely site at which Pakistan will probably test her nuclear bomb ; and

(f) what is Government's assessment of the likely effect of the Pakistani Nuclear Bomb on the security environment of the region ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Available evidence suggests that Pakistan's nuclear programme has a non-peaceful dimension.

(b) There have been numerous reports suggesting that Pakistan's nuclear programme has received technical and financial assistance from different countries.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Prime Minister conveyed to President Zia India's concern over Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme. Government remains to be convinced about Pakistan's