

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

assertions that it does not have a nuclear weapons programme.

(e) Government have seen reports that Pakistan may test a nuclear device either on its own territory or in another country.

(f) Government are concerned at the likelihood of Pakistan acquiring nuclear weapons which would result in a qualitative change in the security environment in our region. Government will continue to keep a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : As a new Member of the House, I regret to mention that the answers given to my questions parts (a) and (b) are neither clear nor categorical.

You please look into the question. In question (a), I wanted to know whether Government are of the view that Pakistan is likely to explode a nuclear bomb in the near future. I wanted to know whether Government feels that it is going to be immediately. But the answer is something different.

In my question (b), I wanted to know the names of the countries supposed to be supporting Pakistan technically and financially. When the basic issue remains that Pakistan has acquired nuclear capability on the testimony of US experts and willingness of China, it has not mentioned even a single line. Anyway, I am going to ask two supplementary questions.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask question.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : My question has not been taken proper care. Was there a proposal from America for South Asian nuclear pact? If so, what is our Government's reaction to that? My second supplementary would be...

MR. SPEAKER : One at a time.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We are not aware of the American proposal which the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : My second supplementary is this. All available

evidence suggests that Pakistan's nuclear programme has non-peaceful dimension and many intelligent sources are said to believe that Pakistan is working on the manufacture of an atomic bomb suitable for being carried by F-16, a latest model fighter bomber, which creates danger to our country. Keeping this in view and without any basic change in our nuclear policy of peaceful utilisation, may I know what other option have we to prevent Pakistan from using nuclear blackmail in future?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is difficult to get to the real import of the question when the hon. Member reads out his question. He has to ask a question. So far as I have followed, he wants to know whether there has been any change in our nuclear policy as a result of Pakistan's going in for a nuclear weapons programme. I have said that there is no change in our nuclear policy as a result of this development. But the fact that Pakistan is going ahead with a nuclear weapons programme introduces a new element into the entire security dimensions in this region. We are keeping that in our mind and we are alert and are keeping a constant vigil on this.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister. Our prime Minister has made this point very clear during his visit to U. S. A. to the American President, he has also made this position very clear to China when the talks went on in Delhi and he has also made it very clear to the USSR. The reaction of the U. S. President was about the 'nuclear activity in this region'; he reminded India about 'nuclear activity in this region' and not of Pakistan's nuclear capability. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the actual state of preparedness so far as Pakistan is concerned, so far as its nuclear bomb is concerned, we want to know whether they have already exploded this bomb in some other country as our Army Chief of Staff had also mentioned and if so, what is the real position. The House would like to know this and also what was the positive reaction from the USSR and China so far as Pakistan's nuclear capability which is endangering the security of this area is concerned. What was the positive response of those Super

Powers to our point which we made very clear to them ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : It is very difficult to state precisely on this matter at what stage the nuclear weapons programme is, but it can be said precisely that Pakistan has nuclear weapon grade material and if they want, they can produce a few bombs, three to five bombs, small-sized bombs.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : There has been no answer to my question. Mr. Bhagat is well aware of all these things...

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The procedure is that you have to ask one question. If you jump to so many questions, it will be very difficult for me to answer. I have picked up the main question and answered. You should ask a pointed and straight question and not put so many questions together.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Please let us know as to what is the reaction. Our Prime Minister had six meetings with President Zia...

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : On a point of correction, I have not had six meetings with President Zia.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : What is the positive reaction of the Pakistan President himself, that we should know.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : If you permit me, Sir, I can answer, since he has put a seaprate question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He has already given the ruling that more than one question is not permitted. As a former Speaker, he has given the ruling.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The Hon. Member knows the procedure well. Sir, as I said in my reply, the Prime Minister expressed India's concern at the nuclear weapons programme of Pakistan. President Zia, in response denied that and said that

all their nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes. He has suggested that we can go on mutual inspection and various other things. The Prime Minister told him that he is not convinced and in fact the proposal that he has made is not a proposal to us. In fact, it is a proposal to the US Congress where their request for more aid at concessional terms is pending and there he wants to be reasonable that he is not making a nuclear weapon programme ; but a peaceful purpose programme.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, in the recent past, two very important statements have been made on this subject. One has been made by the Prime Minister who has said that Pakistan has acquired the requisite capability to manufacture a bomb and she may manufacture a bomb soon and the second statement has been made by the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dr. Ramanna. He has said that as far as his knowledge goes, Pakistan is no where near acquiring that capability. These two are contradictory. They have created a confusion in the minds of all of us. May I know from the Hon. Minister as to which one of these statements is near or the truth ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : That is not what Dr. Ramanna told us. What you have said is not what Dr. Ramanna told us.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is what he told the country.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In answer to a question the Minister said that there are reports that some countries have extended both financial and technical assistance to Pakistan for embarking upon nuclear weapons programme. Would the Minister mention the names of the countries which have extended financial assistance and the names of the countries which have extended technical assistance ? Does he have any reports ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, I need not mention the names of the countries. They have been published in our newspapers. They have been published more in the U.S. papers. It is common knowledge.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am asking a question to the Minister for External

Affairs, whether the Government has any reports ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : In future all the Ministers will refer us to newspapers.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This is a very evasive reply.

MR. SPEAKER : When he says about the papers, you take note of it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : In his answer to the question, he did not refer to newspaper reports. He referred to the reports. That means the reports received by the Government. I am here to address the question to the Government and the Minister is here to answer the question. I don't think the question should be taken so lightly.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : It would not be in public interest to disclose that in the House at this stage. If you like, I can talk to you confidentially and tell you the fact.

DR. C. P. THAKUR : There was a categorical statement by the Prime Minister that India is not going nuclear ; we are going for nuclear activity for peace. But seeing the activities in this region, we are keeping the nuclear option open. Now, we have to do something if we stick to the first principle and we have to do something else if we stick to keeping the nuclear option open. Because if you keep the nuclear option open, we have to proceed in that direction. What are the reaction and activities of the government in this direction, in the light of these statements ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : We keep all these developments in constant review and we have stated our position that so far as our nuclear programme and nuclear policy is concerned, there is no change at the moment but the security aspect of it and the security dimensions as a result of the developments in the region we keep constantly under review.

Exploitation of Tribals by Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies

*43. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Large Size Multipurpose Cooperative Societies set up in Orissa to end exploitation of tribals have turned out to be instruments of draining out resources from them ;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard or Union Government have sought any report from the Orissa Government ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Large-Sized Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) have been set up in tribal Sub-plan States of the country with the three-fold objective of providing credit, arranging marketing of tribal products and supplying essential consumer goods to the tribal people. No specific instances is reported wherein LAMPS have become instruments of draining out resources from the tribal of Orissa.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It is good that the LAMPS are operating in the tribal Sub-Plan States and particularly in the tribal dominated areas, to help the tribals. But as it is found in the field, some of these societies, instead of helping the tribals, are exploiting them.

The objective of setting up such societies, especially the LAMPS, is three-fold as stated in the reply by the hon. Minister and out of these three objectives, as stated, only one objective, that is, helping the people by giving them loans is being achieved and is being implemented in the field, and not the other two—that is, arranging marketing of the tribal products and supplying essential consumer goods to the tribal people in Orissa. In respect of arranging marketing of tribal products, marginally in some areas, only one or two commodities are being procured and there too, proper price is not being paid because they take it under the monopoly scheme. For instance, tamarind which is a forest produce. The tribals are supplying and selling it in the open market at Rs. 3 per kg, but these societies are taking it only at