

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : Yes Sir. Namibia was very much there in the Political Declaration. It was discussed and other political matters too.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Mr. Speaker Sir, one of the main questions in the North South Dialogue is the question of debt owed by the developing countries, particularly of Latin America and Africa, to the developed countries. These countries are not in a position to pay under the stringent conditions imposed at that time, if they are to maintain in their own countries a minimum level of development and a minimum standard of living for their people. In this context, there are suggestions from the developing countries, particularly from Latin America that the debts should be written off. And there are other types of suggestions also. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the approach of the Government of India to these suggestions? Secondly, may I know from the hon. Minister as to what follow up action has been taken on the Conference on International Money and Finance, on which a dialogue was enunciated by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in New York around 1982? What steps are you taking to see that this international Conference on money and finance is going to take place?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : We are concerned here with the approach of the Non-Aligned Movement. The hon. member knows about it. But for the benefit of the member, I may inform that India's position on these issues, as well as the position of the Non-Aligned Movement on these issues, is coterminous; they are equal. So far as the question of calling an international conference on money and finance is concerned, we are pursuing it and even in this last meeting, we have made a specific suggestion about it. But so far, it has proved to be a non-starter, mainly because of the negative attitude of the countries of the North, *i.e.* the richer countries.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, hon. External Affairs Minister knows that a large number of countries including the countries in the Latin American region and other areas have recommended complete writing off of their loans. What is your view about his question?

Secondly, in view of some recommendations made at the meeting of the industrialised nations, currently being held in Tokyo, is there any likelihood of improvement in restructuring the international economic order?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : The Non-Aligned Movement has been taking initiative in these matters and it is trying to deal with the global economic issues. We are aware of the various suggestions in respect of various matters like debt, etc. One of the suggestions is that debt should be written off.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Do you favour it?

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT : I am not concerned with it. It is for the Finance Minister to determine India's position. I am concerned with the NAM's position. This is one of the specific issues that will be dealt with by the Ministerial Committee. That is the suggestion given. So, this is the view of the Government.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : What about the recommendations.....

MR. SPEAKER : Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Earthquakes in Himachal Pradesh

2. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether high intensity earthquakes occurred on 26 April, 1986 in Himachal Pradesh and other areas in North India;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any study has been made to ascertain its causes;

(d) if so when and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether any precautionary measures were taken in this regard, if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any devices exist of forecast such earthquakes; and

(g) if so, whether any warnings were announced to the people in the affected areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). An earthquake shock of moderate intensity occurred in Himachal Pradesh at 1305 hours IST on 26 4-86. Two other earthquakes of moderate intensity (magnitude 5.7 on Richter Scale) with their epicentres in Burma and Afganistan-Pakistan Border were also recorded by the seismographs maintained by the Indian Meteorological Department on the same day. All these earthquakes have occurred in the Himalayan-Burma region which is a well defined seismically active zone.

The occurrence of these earthquakes is attributed to the collision of Indian and Eurasian plates which have caused weak zones in Himalayas. As soon as the rocks slip inside the earth due to the forces of geological origin, earthquakes take place.

(c) and (d). Investigation and enquiries have been initiated and field data is being collected for further analysis.

(e) No precautionary measures could be taken as forecasting of earthquakes is not yet possible.

(f) and (g). At present no technology exists to predict occurrence of earthquakes in advance. As such, the question of advance warning does not arise.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the world famous Seismologist and Hydrologist Dr. H. Tidemann had predicted in the month of October, 1985 that there would be a likelihood of earthquake of severe nature in India, particularly in the North and North-Eastern Zones of the country in the near future ? If so, what precautionary measures are you taking in this regard ?

May I know, whether it is a fact that our Indian Standards Institution has published a Seismic Zone Map of the entire country dividing our country into five zones; whether those maps are available to be purchased by the general public and whether the zones 4 and 5 are more exposed to such types of earthquakes which would cause much damages; if so whether Himachal Pradesh and the neighbouring areas are included in the zone number 4 or zone number 5 and what precautionary measures are you taking to caution the people of that areas ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, predicting earthquake is very difficult. We do not have science and technology available in the world itself to predict correctly the time and the places where the earthquakes can take place.

As far as India is concerned, it is divided into five zones and hon. Member has asked whether Himachal Pradesh is in Zone 4 or Zone 5. "Yes", a part of it is in Zone 4 and a part of it in Zone 5. And the North-Eastern Region as well as North-Western and the Himalayan areas are prone to earthquake and we have the systems, the equipments placed in the areas which are prone to earthquakes, so that we can measure the vibrations in the earth and we can try to predict the time. But this is not very clear and the science is not perfect. It has not yet matured and it is not possible to predict.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, regarding Seismic Zone Map, I wanted to know whether that Map is available to be purchased by the general public and whether the zones 4 and 5 are more exposed to such types of earthquakes which would cause much damages; if so, whether Himachal Pradesh and the neighbouring areas are included in the zone number 4 or zone number 5 and what precautionary measures are you taking to caution the people of that area ?

My another supplementary is whether the landslides which are a regular phenomenon in that area have any relation with such collusion of Indian and European plates which has been replied by the hon. Minister in his statement. May I know

whether the recent earthquake in Himachal Pradesh, Burma, Afghanistan and Pakistan areas were due to the recent explosion of nuclear bomb by the U.S.A. and if so, whether our Government lodged any protest to the U.S. Government ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, the maps are published and they are available. I can give a copy of the maps to the hon. Member. The earthquakes are taking place because of the pressure developed and because of the movement of the earth in the North-Eastern Region. And these areas are seismic areas. We do not think that earthquakes have taken place because of the explosion. So, there is no question of sending any complaint or asking for any action.

SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether keeping in view the heavy damages caused by the earthquake in the Kangra Valley, a team has already been sent to assess the damages. Would the hon. Minister consider giving an outright sanction for a minimum Rs. 10 crores straightaway to help the people to rebuild their houses before the monsoon ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The assessment of the damage caused there is continuing. The State Government is doing it. As far as the scientific Ministries are concerned, it will be difficult for me to say...and if it is necessary, after assessing those things, it can be worked out.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Meeting in Delhi

*955. **SHRI JAGANNATH PATTAIAK :**
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers Coordinating Forum meet was held recently in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed during the meeting and resolutions passed by them;

(c) whether the draft resolution sought intensification of non-aligned efforts in support of the struggle of the people of Southern Africa and condemned its racial regime for continued illegal occupation of Namibia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir; a Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Nonaligned Countries was held in New Delhi from 16-20 April 1986.

(b) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

A Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of Nonaligned Countries was held in New Delhi from 16-20 April, 1986.

The Ministers held wide-ranging discussions covering major issues in the prevailing international political and economic situation which included, *inter alia*, disarmament, recent developments over Libya, the situation in the Mediterranean, Southern Africa, Central America, Middle East and Palestine, the Iran-Iraq conflict, the problem of international terrorism, the crisis facing the U.N. System, the deteriorating international economic situation with special reference to the problems facing developing countries such as the problem of external debts, high interest rates, decline in transfer of resources, collapse of commodity prices, rising protectionism, the critical economic situation in Africa etc. The Meeting adopted a Political and an Economic Declaration as also a Statement on the Crisis Facing the United Nations and Challenges to the process of multilateralism.

The political Declaration of the Meeting stressed that apartheid constitutes a permanent threat to peace and security in Southern Africa in particular and the world in general. It reiterated the support and solidarity of non-aligned countries to the anti-apartheid struggle and called for greater moral, political, and material support for