

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Friday, March 13, 1987/Phalguna
22, 1908 (Saka)*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely Smt. Shashank Manjari and Dr. Suresh Chandra.

Smt Shashank Manjari was a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Palamau constituency of Bihar. Earlier, she had been a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly during 1957-62.

An able parliamentarian, Smt. Manjari took keen interest in the proceedings of the House.

Smt. Manjari passed away at Hazaribagh on 29 January, 1987 at the age of 88 years.

Dr. Suresh Chandra was a Member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57 representing Aurangabad constituency of the then State of Hyderabad.

A veteran freedom fighter and a revolutionary, Dr. Suresh Chandra was associated with Shri Subhas Chandra Bose and took active part in the freedom struggle. He suffered imprisonment several times.

A widely travelled person, he attended the United Nations General Assembly at

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Paris during 1949-50 as a Press Attache to the Indian delegation. He served as Information Officer in the Indian Embassy at Paris during 1948-50. He also attended the 43rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference held at Vienna in 1954 and was associated with several international, social and cultural associations in France and Germany. A journalist and teacher by profession, he served as Professor of French at the Osmania University and was the author of several works in French.

Dr. Suresh Chandra passed away at Hyderabad on 14 February, 1987 at the age of 75 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Situation on Indo-Pak border

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*245. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :
DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether tension persists on the Indo-Pakistan border despite the continuing withdrawal of troops in the Ravi-Beas sector by India and Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the progress of the steps taken to reduce the tension and bring normalcy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The tension on the Indo-Pakistan border has been substantially reduced following two rounds of talks which were held at our initiative from January 31 to February 4 1987 and February 27 to March 2, 1987 respectively. These consultations provided for substantial withdrawal of forces of both sides in certain sectors. A third round of talks is to be held in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : The Minister has stated that the tension on the Indo-Pakistan border has been substantially reduced. But it is the other way round. There is tension throughout the country. People are agitated. I would like to know as to whether it is not a fact that Pakistan's nuclear programme is weapon-oriented and also whether it is not a fact that the Pakistan's scientist is reported to have said that they have manufactured Atom Bomb. If that is the case, how are you going to counter the situation that has arisen out of this ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are travelling far and wide from the scope of this question. The question that comes first is the escalation and second the subsequent de-escalation of tension on the border which has been also a major event recently. Since the Member has made the reference to the Pakistan's nuclear programme, I would say that the information that has been published recently is nothing new. It is part of a series of information which point out to the non-peaceful dimension of Pakistan's nuclear programme. We are fully alert to these developments. We are watching the situation and our security arrangements are reviewed from time to time to respond in an appropriate manner to any threat including the threat from Pakistan to the integrity and defence of the country which are of paramount importance.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA : The Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister is reported to have stated in the National Assembly that they are negotiating separately on the question of AWACS from the United States. This

also pertains to the tension between the two countries, I don't know why the Minister laughs. They have unnecessarily commented about the rise in our defence budget. Everything points to the fact that they are concentrating on the manufacture of atom bomb. So, I would like to know whether our Government is contemplating to manufacture atom bomb to combat these things.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : As I have said, our security environment is under constant review. The Hon. Member knows and the House knows that it has been our consistent policy to move towards nuclear disarmament. We, at this point of time, don't intend making the bomb and we do hope that we will not be forced to deviate from this position.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister let us know the details of these two rounds of talks ? Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that Pakistani forces are still firing on Indian Pickets across the border in places like Siachen Glacier ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : As the Hon. Member is certainly aware, I had, a few days ago, laid on the Table of the House the minutes of consultations between the Secretary Gonsalves and the Foreign Secretary Sattar which contained the details. Earlier, when the House was not in session, the minutes of the meeting held in Delhi at the same level were made public.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : There were certain talks between Shri Natwar Singh and the head of the Pakistani delegation. They were not disclosed. They were closest for an hour. We want to know what transpired between the two.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Well, Shri Natwar Singh, my distinguished colleague, gave the direction.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Directions to his Pakistani counterpart ?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : This persistence of tension between India and Pakistan, I think, has wider ramifications than mere bilateral relations. Because this tension will persist so long as Pakistan is being armed by United States in violation

of agreements. In view of the news that Pakistan is acquiring an atom bomb and in view of the fact that there is a possibility of dilution of the Symington amendment, may I know from the External Affairs Minister whether this matter has been taken up with the United States Government and what efforts have been made ?

Considering our relations with the Congressmen of the United States and in view of this news item of manufacture of an atom bomb, it has to be seen that America's own agreement may not be violated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : We are taking all steps with the United States Administration and also with Congressmen. We will continue taking all steps that are diplomatically permissible, that are permissible under diplomatic customs and conventions.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Can you indicate some of the steps after this news item has come ? Because Mr. Reagan seems to have indicated that they will continue to give aid in spite of that fact. They are diluting therefore, I would like to know whether any positive steps are being taken after this news item has come.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : We are keeping in touch with them in a manner that is diplomatically permissible and admissible and we will continue doing that. (Interruptions)... To satisfy the Hon. Member, I would like to say and I agree with him, that US administration has a great deal of leverage and can influence to a great extent the Pakistani Government. We are not satisfied that they have used all the leverage possible to them in this matter and we are, therefore, attempting to bring it to their notice. We have brought it to their notice and we will continue doing so.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : A statement has to be made on this by the Minister. You will direct him, Sir, to make the statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether after this renewed tension on the Indo-Pak border and the deployment of Indian troops on the border, whether this

important step that was taken by the Government as required by Article 78 of the Constitution was communicated in time, before being communicated to the editors of the Press, to the commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of India ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : The Hon. Members should know—he is an intelligent and one of the leading member of this House—that this Government acts fully under the scope of the Constitution—not merely Article 78 but all other Articles included.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he has talked of my intelligence but he has not given a specific reply whether the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces was informed before the editors were given the information ?

MR. SPEAKER : Professor, in military tactics there are manoeuvres.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I accept your ruling that it was an evasive manoeuvre.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Sir, they should say whether they gave this information first to the editors or not.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, it is a serious matter. They should reply to it in a straight-forward manner.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I join the Deputy Leader of the Congress party in asking for the clarification. Please give the reply whether you first informed the editors or the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces ?

MR. SPEAKER : As a matter of fact I will not entertain Prof. Dandavate's question regarding Commander-in-Chief.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Sir, we all know there was tension on the border and there were attempts to bring about de-escalation. As such, several meetings were held. I would like to know whether the causes which led to the tension were identified by both the parties. If so, what were those causes ?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : The causes were identified. While India and Pakistan annually conduct winter military exercises it is customary for them to withdraw their forces immediately thereafter to peace-time locations. During the current winter season Pakistani forces which had moved to their forward positions in October-November, 1986 did not move back on schedule and indeed were deployed in strength in their launch areas. These moves were accompanied by other actions like forward dumping of ammunition and mines, stoppage of all leave and posting orders of all Army officers, continued holding of reservists who had been called up earlier, etc. The Indian response to these provocative actions was restraint and our international border throughout this period was manned by the Border Security Force. However, in January Pakistan re-located some of its strike formations. The Pakistan GHO Reserve was moved into the Khanewal-Sahiwal area and the GHO Reserve North was moved into the Gujranwala and Sialkot sector. The combination of these moves posed a threat to India which could no longer be ignored and left us with no alternative but institute essential defensive measures involving preventive deployment of Armed Forces.

Sir, it is good we took the initiative in diplomatically defusing the situation. The situation as at this moment stands defused.

Central Authority for export processing zones

***248. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up a Central Authority to improve the operational efficiency of the various export processing zones;

(b) if so, whether a high level committee was set up for examining such a policy;

(c) if so, by what time the decision for setting up of the Authority is likely to be taken; and

(d) to what extent such Authority will be helpful in increasing exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Various aspects of the proposal for setting up such an authority, including inter-alia, its role in increasing exports, are under consideration and a decision is expected shortly.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Sir, there are six export processing zones in the country. A meeting of the Development Commissioners of export processing zones was held in December 1986. They had discussed various subjects and a number of points were raised by the Development Commissioners regarding their difficulties.

So, what were the main difficulties, Sir ? To what extent, have their difficulties been solved ? I want to know whether any proposals for simplifying the advance licensing scheme in force in various sectors are being considered and also whether introducing a system of revolving guarantees instead of separate bank guarantees to reduce the financial burden had been discussed and, if so, what is the outcome ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, the question seems to be all embracing. In fact, it is beyond the scope of the question itself. But I would like to submit, Sir, we had called a meeting of the Development Commissioners from the different zones, that is, the six Export Processing Zones which are presently existing. The idea was to discuss as to how best to improve the working of these Export Processing Zones, the labour relations, what are the facilities that the various industries, that are already there, are getting; what are the difficulties that the Development Commissioners are facing in the working of the export promotion zones itself. It was more to understand the various problems that are confronting these authorities and to resolve them that the meeting was called.

Sir, it is precisely in this background that the Government had been considering to have one single authority for all these six Export Processing Zones and to have a single window clearance of all the issues that are confronting these zones that we were con-