

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Sorry, it is about the sailing of ships. Because many ships are stranded in that area. It is difficult to get out.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: You actually used it.

India's Mediation in Iran-Iraq War

***43. SHRI JANARDHANA**

POOJARY:

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq-Iran have approached India for mediation in their conflict; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b). Shortly after the Iran-Iraq conflict began, special envoys from the two countries visited India to project their respective view points. While they did not ask for an exclusively Indian mediation effort, there were indications that they would be willing to consider any efforts that India could make to resolve the problem. Special envoys of the Prime Minister visited Tehran and Baghdad to further understand the Iranian and Iraqi positions. Meanwhile, the Coordination Bureau of the Movement of the Non-aligned Countries in New York had initiated efforts to bring about peace. India took an active part in these efforts as well as in the informal deliberations in Belgrade to consider how best a peaceful resolution of the dispute could be found.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, it is unfortunate but true that the Iran-Iraq war shows signs of continuing, in spite of the best efforts to bring it to an end. Now the response to the most recent efforts of the non-aligned countries including India to

bring to an end the war has been disappointing. India has to play a great role. That is also an active role due to the mounting presence of the U.S. in the Indian Ocean and the fact that the U.S. is trying to explore the bases in the Indian ocean. In view of all these facts, if the conflict is prolonged, is there any danger of the war extending right up to the doorstep of India?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, I made a detailed statement on this subject day-before-yesterday which covered all the points raised by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Poojary?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir, because of this Iran-Iraq war may I know from the Minister, how many Indians were killed and injured and what is the nature of the protection which has been given by those countries to those Indian?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is another question coming on this.

श्री मूल चन्द डागा : अभी आपने जो उत्तर दिया था मेरा प्रश्न है

"shortly after the Iran-Iraq conflict began, special envoys from the two countries visited India."

जब आप गुटनिरपेक्ष नीति को मानते हैं तो आपने उनका इंतजार क्यों किया ? आप कह रहे हैं "shortly after their visit"

हम लोग अपनी तरफ से शांति की स्थापना करना चाहते हैं : आप कह रहे हैं

"shortly after the Iran-Iraq conflict began, special envoys came to India and then you started suomotu—?"

मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपने अपनी तरफ से इस कदम को शुरू में क्यों नहीं उठाया। अब यह शार्टली आफ्टर का क्या मतलब है ?

श्री पी. वी. नरसिंह राव: जब यह लड़ाई शुरू हुई उस वक्त संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की बैठक हो रही थी और मंत्र से पहले तो सिवयोरिटी काउंसिल का यह काम था कि इस बात को अपने हाथ में लेती जिस की हम कोशिश करते रहे और इसके बाद इराक और इरान खुद भेजा अपना एनवाय यहाँ। हमने दुलाया नहीं लेकिन वे चाहते थे हिन्दुस्तान की तरफ से कोई न कोई ऐसा रोल अदा किया जाए जिससे दोनों की मदद हो। उससे हम इतिफाक करते थे। उनकी बात सुनने के लिए हमारे भी एनवायज वहाँ भेजे गए। इतने में हम ने नान एलाइंड इनिशिएटिव को वहाँ शुरू किया।

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: There has been a non-aligned initiative in the matter the present situation is such that it has reached some sort of a stalemate. On the other hand, the United Nations' Secretary-General is taking the initiative and he has placed his responsibility on a very senior diplomat. I would like to know the efforts that are being made to coordinate the non-aligned initiative with the initiative taken by the United Nations' Secretary-General and bring the initiative taken by the Secretary-General within the parameters of the non-aligned initiative?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: The United Nations' Secretary-General has assigned this task to Mr. Palme in pursuance of the resolution of the Security Council. So, as per the decision of the Security Council the

Secretary-General has made appeals earlier on and now he has sent a very senior diplomat there. What will happen after he comes there, we will have to see. What I can say at the moment is that we wish him well.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: The envoys of both these countries came to India. Did the Government discuss any concrete proposals with them? As far as the non-aligned initiative is concerned, will India take up the initiative to convene the conference of non-aligned countries?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: I have already said that they did not ask for an exclusively Indian mediation effort. There were indication that they would be willing to consider any efforts that India would make to resolve the problem. They mainly told us their respective points of view. There were no mediation proposals and there were no demands for mediation. It will be a dangerous thing for any country to think of mediation even before such an indication comes from the concerned countries.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Iran and Iraq are our best friends. They are also non-aligned countries. Why India is not taking a bold steps to solve this problem? Why are we looking at the UN and other agencies/countries for a bold step? What stands in the way of India for not coming forward to take this position? Why cannot our External Affairs' Minister go to Iran and Iraq and try to solve the matter? If possible, he can use the influence of Shrimati Indira Gandhi so that these two friends do not fight between themselves. The global countries may want them to fight but it is in our interest that they do not fight with each other.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Personally I do not propose to go to these countries alone. I did intend to go along with five or six other Foreign Ministers of the non-aligned coun-

tries. That was the proposal which was discussed. But as I have stated the day before yesterday in my statement, since there was an initial difficulty and until we are able to get over that difficulty, there is no question of any one going over there either singly or along with others.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: I wanted a clarification. The hon. Minister has already stated what discussions had taken place with the envoys etc. I am not probing further into that. I know my responsibility. I want to know whether India on its own, has made certain constructive suggestions to put an end to this conflagration?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, this is no time to spell out matters like this. It will have to be considered. Consultations are going on. I can assure the hon. Members that India is very active in this.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the exact position of the mediation today?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: No mediation.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN: India is unable to take the initiative which we used to take in matters like this during the days of late Pandit Nehru.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: There is no question of inability. The initiative has been taken. India is very much a part of it.

Goods Transportation by Railways

*44. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the transport of goods by the Railways

continues to be in a poor state because of shortage of wagons;

(b) if so, what was the month-wise availability of wagons during the current year so far; and

(c) the measures, if any, taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There has been some deterioration in loading in the recent months for which corrective action has already been initiated. It is expected that the position will improve in the coming months to enable us to pull up the arrears in loading to the maximum extent possible.

The daily average number of wagons loaded during the first seven months of the current year i.e. April to October, 1980 was marginality loss to the extent of 3.2 per cent as compared to the loading during the corresponding period of last year. Availability of wagons for loading of goods depends upon the wagon turn-round which has deteriorated in the recent months because of various reasons such as power cuts in different States particularly in the eastern sector leading to less production and affecting operations in the yards on the railways, agitations in Assam, breaches dislocating train services, etc. Most of these reasons are beyond railways' control. Movement has also been affected in some sectors due to agitations by railway staff.

(b) The number of wagons loaded per day with originating traffic during the months of April to October, 1980 has been as follows: