

LOK SABHA

Monday, June 28, 1971/Asadha 7, 1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Statement made by Spokesman of U.S.A. Regarding Restraint by India and Pakistan on Bangla Desh Development

*751. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a State Department Spokesman's statement in Washington that the United States had counselled both India and Pakistan restraint in respect of Bangla Desh development; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government considers any attempt at even obliquely equating India and Pakistan as unfortunate and uncalled for. I made this quite clear both during my private and public statements in Washington.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The US has not only tried to equate India with Pakistan, but even after our External Affairs Minister's visit abroad, particularly to the US—and I think he returned with hope—arms are being supplied to Pakistan by that country. Would Government here and now denounce this attempt of an imperialist power like the US to equate India with Pakistan in this matter?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: About the question of arms supply by the US, I made a statement in reply to a call attention notice the other day. It has also been put down for discussion today so that he will have ample opportunity to put across his viewpoint.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: When a question is there, naturally he has to answer it. Discussion may be there today, but does that mean he is debarred from asking questions?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The US imperialists are mounting their attack on India and are not only trying to equate India with Pakistan but are supporting Pakistan in this case. This statement was issued, but Government kept quiet about it, though they expressed their concern. This kind of attempt has been there not only on the part of the US but even from UK; Home had also made a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: No speech; only a question.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will Government denounce these attempts in this House?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: We have not kept quiet. We have made it clear to them in no uncertain terms that any attempt to equate us with Pakistan is absolutely uncalled for and we greatly resent any such attempt.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: In view of the fact that this kind of equation of India and Pakistan as mischief-makers—more than equation, making India a great deal more mischievous than Pakistan—has been part of the conduct of the US so many times before, specially at the time of the 1965 conflict, and in view of the further fact, which has recently come to light, regarding the despatch of ships carrying US arms to Pakistan, may I know why it is that Government

appears content with merely saying in regard to certain offensive statements by the US that it is unfortunate, and at the outside, uncalled for? Why don't we put it strongly enough to make it clear to the American Government that we are not in subsidiary alliance with them? Or is it the Minister's idea that India has got a subsidiary alliance with the US?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: The hon. member knows that there is no question of any alliance, primary or subsidiary, and I would like strongly to dispel any such feeling. We have told the US representatives in very clear and unmistakable terms—I have made public statements also—that we will not tolerate this attempt on their part to tarnish India in this manner, and any attempt, in the present situation prevailing in Bangla Desh, to equate India and Pakistan is something which is totally uncalled—for and we are totally opposed to it. We greatly resent it; I have left nobody in any doubt about that.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: Has he ever sent an official diplomatic protest even in regard to recent events?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: To say publicly that this is something which is totally uncalled—for is much more than an official protest.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE: That is how he thinks.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It is true the hon. Minister has made certain public statements. Even in this House he has made a statement which, in my opinion was just to give a certificate to the U. S. imperialists for their attempt to massacre people of Bangla Desh. I would like to know whether, in addition to what he has said outside and inside this House, any letter through diplomatic channels as a protest has been handed over to them, if so, the contents of that protest, and whether it has been made clear to the Government of the USA that this sort of statement and their attempt to get the people of Bangla Desh massacred is an unfriendly act.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: No Sir, I have not written any letter in which I have described this attitude of theirs as, . . .

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: He has not not written that sort of letter, but has he written any letter or not?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I have said that this statement that was made by them was also oral, and we had also made public statements and conveyed them to them orally. There was no occasion for writing a letter or a note, and I have not written any letter or note.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the hon. Minister would be so kind as to tell this House whether, during his last visit to the United States and other countries, at any time he said that what was happening in Bangla Desh was almost genocide, not genocide?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I have said in some of my statements that what is happening in Bangla Desh is genocide.

Indian Diplomats in London engaged in Business

*757. **SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports about the Indian nationals posted in the Indian High Commission in London who have indulged in business activities and acquired their own properties there;

(b) the steps which Government have taken or propose to take to regulate this activity; and

(c) whether many Indian nationals posted in the Indian High Commission in London have resigned and taken up business in the U.K.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Service Conduct Rules prohibit Government servants from engaging themselves directly or indirectly in these activities.

(c) 16 India-based officials tendered their resignations during the last two years but so far resignations of only 4 persons have been accepted. To the best of our knowledge