

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday December 14 1972 Agra-
yana 23, 1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SIFAKH in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-U S Relations

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*441 SHRI M S SANJEEVI RAO
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether President Nixon has expressed the hope of developing "a sounder relationship based on understanding and respect for mutual interest between India and USA, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Govern-
ment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government welcome President Nixon's statement and, as already indicated, shall do their best to normalise and strengthen our relations with USA on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual respect

SHRI M S SANJEEVI RAO. On behalf of the country, the hon Minister has extended the hand of friendship to USA. But unfortunately, the press in the United States, even in the *New York Times* has written that because of acute shortage of food in India we are now trying to be friends with them. I want to know what steps Government of India have taken

to counter this unfortunate propa-
ganda by the people and the press in
the United States

SHRI SWARAN SINGH The press in the United States, as in our own country, has got the right to make their own comments. We take note of them and as a policy we state our own view-point which receives adequate publicity, and we do not resort to the practice of trying to counter-act the opinion or the views of the press whether it is Indian press or the United States press or the press of any other country

SHRI M S SANJEEVI RAO I want to know whether the United States of America has given any genuine proof that it really wants to develop a sounder relationship based on respect with India

SHRI SWARAN SINGH Our position in this regard has been clarified, and after studying our statements and our attitudes, we have received a positive response from the Secretary of State, Mr Rogers, about which I have already made a mention. The statement of Secretary of State Mr Rogers, of December 1, is to this effect

"We welcome the positive note struck both in the statement by Foreign Minister and that of President Giri in reciprocating their expressed intentions regarding friendly and cooperative relations between our two Governments. It is important that India and the United States work together towards this end."

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR May I know, apart from the speech of the President of the United States and also that of the US Secretary of State, Mr William Rogers, what con-

crete steps or measures the United States Government have taken to see that dialogue with India is restored on a normal basis and, further, may I know what concrete steps Government of India are taking in conformity with the self-respect and honour of our country?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Concrete steps for dialogue cannot be taken. Concrete step will be the start of the dialogue. We cannot take any concrete steps for starting the dialogue. If there is any concrete step, our willingness to improve relations and their positive response can be regarded as concrete steps which might lead to purposful dialogue.

About what we do or what we have done, we have, I believe, given ample proof of our desire to improve relations on the basis which I spelt out in my statement.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The hon Minister has said that we are prepared for a dialogue with the United State. But, seen in the case of admission of Bangladesh in the U.N.O., which is the utmost desire of the people of India and the Government, the United States have not taken any positive step. So far, the United States have not taken any positive interest to improve their relations with India. How can our Government be ready for a dialogue?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would like to remind the hon. Member that the Government of the United States did recognise Bangladesh and that is a step towards recognition of the new situation in this sub-continent and acceptance of Bangladesh as a sovereign, independent country. It is true that, during the year 1971, the United States appreciation of the developing situation in the Indian sub-continent was not impartial, to say the least. But, if by subsequent events, the Government of the United States does accept the sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh which they have done by according recognition,

that, to a certain extent, does show the acceptance of the changed situation here and it will perhaps be not wise to remind them all the time that 'Although now you are right, but last year, you were wrong.' That perhaps would not be helpful.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: May I know from the hon. Minister if he could get any assurance from Mr. William Rogers, Secretary of State, that America would not supply arms to Pakistan...

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate on foreign affairs. This is a very simple question. You are expanding it too much.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: It is very much connected. How can our relations improve if they go on supplying arms to Pakistan?

अभिनवात्मक रूप रिलेशन खराब तो इसी ने हुए थे और इसी ने और खराब हो सकते हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय यह फुल डिबेट थोड़े ही है ।

It is relating to a particular thing.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAUTHAM: Will the hon. Minister be able to tell us whether the greeting sent by India to President Nixon on his success in the elections is anything more than a formal greeting or is there any gesture for better relations? Is it a formal greeting or is it something more than that? That is the question.

MR. SPEAKER: The same question was asked by another member and he has answered it.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM: Do we mean anything more than a formal greeting by this message on the success of the President, or is it a gesture by India or is it a 'love call' as they call it?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would like to clarify that there is no question of any gesture either on our part or on the part of the United States. We are a sovereign and independent country and when I made the statement, there is no question of any gesture in that.

We, on our side, have clarified our position and we have spelt out our own thinking on this subject and, having studied carefully our position, the response from the United States Government through the Secretary of State, Mr. Rogers, has been that they welcome the statement of the Indian Foreign Minister and they would like to improve and strengthen the relations.

Relations between two sovereign countries do not depend on gestures. It is on an assessment of the hard realities and then the decisions are taken accordingly.

I would also like to add, with your permission, that this point that has been mentioned from this side, that is, the likelihood of military supplies being made to Pakistan by the USA, is a matter to which we attach the greatest importance and even when I made the statement, I did say and I did clarify that, in our view, any supply of military equipment by the United States of America to Pakistan will definitely be a negative factor in the situation. It will make Pakistan more intransigent and will come in the way of the establishment of a durable peace in the Indian sub-continent. We have made our position quite clear.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Very good.

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: The Government was vocal regarding the recent disturbances on language and other disturbances also in the education sphere saying that CIA was responsible for all this, but the Government was very...

MR. SPEAKER: CIA responsible for what?

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: For the language disturbances and all other disturbances.

MR. SPEAKER: What has it got to do with this? Don't bring in CIA every time. Here, a very simple question is involved.

SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR: I am putting my question. I am not speaking of CIA. We are very sure that the Government of India has a good relation with the United States, which is evident from the heavy investment of American capital in India. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he means further American investment in India when he says that our relations and our mutual respect and some other things also will improve.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I do not think that investment by the USA is at all relevant in this connection. That is a matter which has been dealt with on its own merits. We have, so far as India's position is concerned, made it clear that any investment from any foreign country which fits in with our development plan is welcome. But in regard to any investment, from whatever source it is, which does not fit in within the framework of our five-year plan and development plan, we do not encourage that. That is a separate matter on which Government's policy is very clear. And, if we want to improve relations or strengthen relations we have no such eye as some of the commentator, have said, on any investment or any economic content in this respect.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Earlier, Government did not feel encouraged to make such a statement. Naturally the question arises as to what exactly happened to bring this about, whether some preparatory work went in to make this transformation on both sides. That is the precise point to which I would like the hon. Minister to address himself.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I would not say that there has been any preparatory work on either side. A stage had arrived when we thought that if we could enunciate our position and if there was a good response, then that could become the basis for further steps to be taken by both countries to improve relations.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsii—absent.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO: Both Questions No. 443 and No. 453 may be taken up together. The other hon. Member is also here.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. We take up Questions No. 443 and No. 453 together.

Shri Arjun Sethi.

Threatened closure of Kolar Gold Mines due to Depletion of Deposits

*443. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:**
DR. KARNI SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kolar Gold Mines are facing the prospect of a slow death owing to fast depletion of its deposits and consequent high cost of working; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) The Kolar Gold Mines having been worked for many decades are faced with the problem of depletion of the reserves and resultant high cost of working. There is, however, no proposal to close the mines as such. However, as and when working in any section becomes prohibitively uneconomic or unfit for operation due to mining conditions on grounds of safety, the closure of such section alone might become inevitable.

News Regarding 'K.G.F. Mines take-over 1956'

*453. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news story appeared in the *Hindi* dated the 21st November, 1972 under the caption "Some puzzling questions about K.G.F. Mines take-over 1956" has been brought to the notice of Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since many of the aspects mentioned in the news story relate to events that took place quite sometime ago, no specific action is called for at this juncture. As far as the present condition of the gold mines (Bharat Gold Mines Private Limited) is concerned, Government is fully aware of the problems and is taking suitable corrective action.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Since the hon. Minister has stated that Kolar Goldmines are facing the problems, I want to draw his attention to a press report which is published in the daily, *Statesman*, where the Chairman and Managing Director of Kolar Goldmines Private Limited has stated as follows:

Apart from the technical challenges posed by the deep mining in Kolar, they were faced with the tremendous sociological problem of providing employment to the 13,500 staff and its family depending solely on the mines now.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this problem has been taken into consideration, and if so, the steps taken by Government.

SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN: As hon. Members probably know, these mines have been working for more