MR. SPEAKER: During Question Hour there is no point of order.

SHRI NATH PAI: The question, which was placed before this nation when the Constitution was framed, is that there should be common civil law applicable to all. Marriage is a civil institution. It is a contract. What is the religious sanctimony about it? Even in Muslim nations the law of monogamy has been imposed as more progressive. May we know what Government is doing to persuade the community concerned to have a common civil law regarding monogamy in this country?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR: So far as the marriage laws of the minority community are concerned, any move for a change therein should come from the concerned community itself. So far as the Muslim citizens are concerned, most of them consider any interference in their marriage law, which is a part of the Shariat, as an interference. Lastly, the Special Marriages Act, 1954, may be regarded as a common civil code relating to marriage. Although it is only an enabling statute, not only citizens of India irrespective of faith and religion but other persons also can solemnize marriages under the Act in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Short notice question. Shri Hem Barua.

SHRI HEM BARUA: This was a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I know, but it is 12 o'clock

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Tele-Communication Links with Pakistan

SNQ 18. SHRI HEM BARUA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for improving telegraphic and telephonic communications between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the agreement in question has yet to be approved by the two Governments.

(b) The broad details are:—

(1) To instal improved equipment in their respective countries on the three major routes, namely, (i) Lahore-Amritsar-New Delhi, (ii) Calcutta-Dacca, and (iii) Karachi - Jodhpur - Bombay. Every effort will be made by the two countries to complete these installations by the middle of May, 1968.

(2) To ensure free flow of traffic between the two countries, in regard to both Telegraph and Telephone Terminal Traffic, the two countries will keep their own collections and there will be no sharing of revenue with effect from November 1, 1967.

(3) There will be one uniform rate in respect of telephone calls from any place in one country to any place in the other country. It was also agreed that the Telegraph and Telephone rates for traffic from one country to the other will be streamlined, and these should be comparable in the two directions.

(4) Depending upon the growth of traffic, further upgrading of the circuits both in respect of quality and capacity, would be kept under review.

SHRI HEM BARUA: In view of the fact that after Pakistan's attack on us in 1965, for which—please re-

member it—the communication link between Karachi and New Delhi was disrupted deliberately by the Pakistani authorities although the line did not break up because of the aggression, may I know whether this particular aspect of the problem was discussed at this conference, namely, that the communication line will not be disrupted by Pakistan deliberately as Pakistan did after the Pakistani attack on our territory in 1965?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: All aspects of the matter were gone into. After the Tashkent Agreement this was one of the decisions that telecommunication link between the two countries should be restored. Therefore, there was a meeting in October last year and again from the 30th March to the 2nd April. These points were discussed but ultimately the agreement that has emerged is what is stated in the reply.

SHRI HEM BARUA: Those points were discussed but ultimately no conclusion was arrived at, but I want that Pakistan does not resort to that sort of disruption. May I know if improved accounting so far as revenue collecting is concerned and improvement in the quality of service were discussed in the conference; if so, what was the opinion of Pakistan in this matter?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: These factors were gone into very thoroughly and the agreement is that whatever be the revenue in one country must be maintained by that particular country. Now there will not be any claim either on behalf of India or by Pakistan and any revenue that accrues from telephones or telegraphs in this country will be kept by India and in that country by Pakistan. Regarding quality, I read out in the main reply that Pakistan has undertaken to improve the telephone and telegraph system in its own area and we are going to improve it in our area. Our system is already improved up to the border, both near Amritsar as well as Jodhpur and also in the eastern wing.

श्री चन्दजीत यादव : क्या यह बात सही है कि पिछली बार पाकिस्तान के आक्रमण के बाद हमारा करोड़ों रुपये का सामान पाकिस्तान ने जहाज में जब्त कर लिया था तथा पाकिस्तान ने हमारी जिस टैरिटरी पर कब्जा किया था उस में इस विभाग के बहुत से सामान पर कब्जा कर लिया था ? अब जो समझौता आपस में बातचीत से हो रहा है क्या भारत सरकार ने उन के सामने इस बात की शर्त रखी थी कि जो सामान पाकिस्तान ने कब्जा कर लिया था, उसको जब वह वापस कर देंगे तब वह समझौता लागू होगा ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : यह सही है कि पाकिस्तान ने 1965 की लड़ाई में टेलीफोन का काफी सामान करीब 25 लाख रुपये के सामान पर कब्जा कर लिया था और जगहों पर भी जहां उस का कब्जा हुआ था थोड़े से क्षेत्र में कुछ डिसरप्ट किया था। इस समझौते की दोनों बैठकों में इस बात की और हमारे प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा काफी बल दिया गया था उन्होंने इस को काटा तो नहीं मगर यह कहा कि जब भारत और पाकिस्तान में ओवर-ग्रौल बातें होंगी उस बातचीत के अन्तर्गत इन सारी बातों पर भी विचार किया जायगा। फिलहाल यह तय हुआ है कि टेलीकम्यनिकेशन सिस्टम को रेस्टोर किया जाय और जब्ती की बातों के बारे में आगे बातचीत की जाय।

श्री मधु लिमये : हमारा जो नुकसान हुआ है और जो सामान उन्होंने लिया है उसको वापस लाने के हेतु या मुआवजा लेने के हेतु क्या सरकार ने पाकिस्तान के साथ कोई बातचीत चलाई है ? साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि अभी जो सम्मेलन हुआ—तार और टेलीफोन व्यवस्था के बारे में, क्या उस सम्मेलन में विमानों के आवागमन के बारे में, गैर-फौजी जहाजों के आवागमन के बारे में कोई सवाल उठाया

गया था तथा क्या उस के बारे में भी कोई समझौता होने जा रहा है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : यह एक सीमित प्रश्न था । इस में हमारे प्रतिनिधियों द्वारा जो बात उठाई गई थी, वह यह थी कि जो सामान पाकिस्तान ने जब्त किया है और जो रेवेन्यू उन के यहां बकाया पड़ा है उन चीजों को उन्हें देना है । उन्होंने कहा कि जो ओवर-ओल समझौता अलग से होगा उस में इन बातों पर विचार किया जायगा ।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने पूछा था कि उस को वापस लाने के लिये मुआवजा प्राप्त करने के लिये आपने द्वारा कोई बात चलाई गई ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : बातें हुई हैं लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि हम को यह अधिकार नहीं है गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इण्डिया और पाकिस्तान के प्रतिनिधियों के बीच में ओवर ओल बातों पर जो बातचीत होगी उन में इन प्रश्नों को लिया जायगा ।

श्री मधु लिमये : ओवर आल सेटिलमेन्ट क्या है उस को स्पष्ट करें, सारे विवादों के लिये या केवल इस के बारे में ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : सारे विवादों के हल के समय जब्ती की बात आयेगी—यह इन का तर्क था ।

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या आपने इस तर्क को कुबूल किया है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : हमने तो इस को उठाया था, कुबूल कहां किया ।

श्री मधु लिमये : उनके द्वारा जीत के दिया गया क्या उसको आपने कुबूल किया है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : नहीं कुबूल किया ।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : जैसा मिनिस्टर साहब को मालम है कि फीरोजपुर-लाहौर वाला जो रास्ता है वह एक तरह से ब्लाक्ड है, क्या इस लाइन को खोलने की बाबत भी कोई विचार किया गया था ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : अमृतसर लाहौर लाइन की बात हुई है ।

श्री रणधीर सिंह : मेरा सवाल था कि फिरोजपुर लाइन खोलने की बात हुई है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : नहीं हुई है ।

श्री बलराज मधोक : अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा कि यह समझौता ताशकन्द एग्रीमेंट के अन्तर्गत किया गया है उस में भारत और पाकिस्तान के संबंधों को नार्मेलाइज करने की बात थी—क्या इस संबंध में पाकिस्तान ने भी कुछ किया है ? क्या यह तथ्य नहीं है कि आज भी पाकिस्तान की ओर से आफिशियली हिन्दुस्तान के ऊपर स्टेट आफ वार कायम है और जितने हमारे वहां पर फिक्स्ड असेट्स थे उनको पाकिस्तान ने जब्त कर लिया क्योंकि वे स्टेट आफ वार में हैं । ऐसी हालत में आपने किस प्रकार एग्रीमेंट किया जबकि पाकिस्तान ने स्टेट आफ वार को ही समाप्त नहीं किया ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : असल में यह एक बड़ा प्रश्न है, ताशकन्द के समझौते के अन्तर्गत यह है । लेकिन उस समझौते के अन्तर्गत एक सीमित प्रश्न पर बातचीत हुई और उसमें जो तय किया गया उसको मैंने यहां पर बताया ।

श्री बलराज मधोक : अभी तक स्टेट आफ वार कायम है । इस लिये मेरा कहना

यह है कि जब तक स्टेट आफ वार कायम है, तब तक समझौते कैसे हो सकते हैं ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : स्टेट आफ वार डिक्लेयर ही नहीं हुई थी इस लिये कायम कहां है ।

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: May I know the total amount of arrears which are still lying with Pakistan and by what time Pakistan is going to make payment of the same? May I know whether talks were there on this matter also?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : असल में दिसम्बर 47 से मार्च 67 तक एक करोड़ 67 लाख का अपना दावा था पाकिस्तान पर और पाकिस्तान का कहना है कि उनके चार्जेज एक करोड़ 46 लाख हो सकते हैं टेलीग्राफ पर । उसी तरह से टेलीफोन में एक करोड़ 2 लाख का अपनी ओर से दावा किया गया है और 61 लाख का दावा उनकी ओर से किया गया है । तो इन बातों पर और जो जब्त सामान है उसके लिये उन्होंने कहा कि बाद में ओवर-आल समझौते में हम लोग तय करेंगे ।

SHRI RANGA: On the face of it all over India and also here there has been general welcome to this step taken by this Government as well as the other Government. But we would like to know what precautionary steps our Government propose to take in order to see that wrong, prejudiced, existing and even emotionally unbalanced news and views are not likely to be conveyed to and from which might excite people on this side or on that side on the basis of the spread of falsehood and wrong news by interested parties?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: That is a very important question, because exciting matter should not be conveyed either on telephone or by telegraph. There, we shall take every precaution to see that such written or even spoken words are not allowed to be conveyed.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बताया कि यह मामला सीमित था । इस तरह से एक-एक मामला सीमित करके हम पाकिस्तान के साथ उठा रहे हैं । उसमें हमारे लिये जब कुछ हासिल करने की बात होती है तो उसमें ओवरआल की बात आ जाती है, उसको ओवर आल समझौते में फिक्स कर दिया जाता है । मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो सीमित मामले तय होते हैं इसमें प्रधान मंत्री की इजाजत ली थी कि आइन्दा के लिये उनको ओवर आल समझौते के लिये रोक दिया जाय ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): May I say that it is a delicate question? We have got to have good relations with Pakistan. That is the desire of everybody. They also say they should have good relations with us. There are many questions pending between us. There are some questions which are very important. If Pakistan is not willing to consider all the questions as long as the question of Kashmir is not solved, should we not take step after step and issue after issue and see that the tension is released so that ultimately everything is resolved? That is the only question now.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल यह नहीं था । मेरा कहना यह था कि सीमित सवाल जो उठाते हैं—सीमित सवाल उठाने में तो कोई एतराज नहीं है—लेकिन जब उसमें पाने की कोई बात होती है तो वह मामला कश्मीर पर लटक जाता है तो क्या इसको अपीजमेंट नहीं कहा जायेगा ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : इसमें अपीजमेंट का कोई सवाल ही नहीं है । टेली कम्युनिकेशन

के संबंध में जो कुछ हुआ उसमें अपोजमेंट का कोई सवाल नहीं है ।

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK: What is this policy of 'Heads you win, tails I lose'? Whatever Pakistan wants to have, you are saying, let them have it.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA: We have had up to this time two types of agreements with Pakistan. For instance, there was the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement. It was a very far-reaching agreement, but it was never implemented by Pakistan. Then we have had a tele-communications agreement also with Pakistan before the Indo-Pakistan trouble started. We have had some agreements with Pakistan which she has unilaterally dishonoured. May I know whether in arriving at this agreement the hon. Minister has seen to it that it is not unilaterally set aside by Pakistan and that we are also a party to it whenever a question arises with reference to that aspect?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I accept the suggestion.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI: It was said that we need peace with Pakistan and it is desirable. Is it only desirable and needed for us or for Pakistan also?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Peace is desirable for both and also for the world.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: It is bilateral.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: Has this agreement any bearing on tele-communication links between East and West Pakistan? If so, has India obtained any similar concessions in respect of Indian telephonic communications with Pakistan?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: It has little bearing between East and West Pakistan, but they are also having their own system between the two wings. But primarily it is between India and Pakistan.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: I wanted to know whether we have given any concessions for which we have not got any return concession?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: No concession, it is reciprocal.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI: We have not got two territories, East India and West India. So where does the question of reciprocal concession come in that aspect.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH: As I said, it is reciprocal. So the question concession does not arise.

SHRI INDERJIT MALHOTRA: A little while ago the hon. Deputy Prime Minister mentioned the 'Kashmir question'. I would like to know whether the Government of India also recognise that there is a problem like the Kashmir question and outstanding disputes between India and Pakistan have got any connection with that problem.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The question is there, whether we like it or not. The problem is raised by them. So far as we are concerned, our policy is very clear, our attitude is very clear. We are not budging from it at all. Therefore, that is not the question.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ताशकन्द समझौते में और भी बहुत सारी बातें हैं । पाकिस्तान के पक्ष में जो बातें जाती हैं उनके बारे में तो वह समझौता कर लेता है लेकिन जो बातें उसके विपक्ष में जाती हैं उनके बारे में वह बात करने के लिये तैयार नहीं है । ऐसी दशा में सरकार अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन करके क्या यह फैसला लेगी कि पीसमील समझौते न किये जायं बल्कि ताशकन्द समझौते को, एज ए होल, अगर

पाकिस्तान पाने तभी आप भी मानें वरना न मानें ?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: We have got to see in this connection whether we are able to induce them to see what is right and give peaceful propositions. If for some time they do not do that, afterwards we can change our attitude.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: This approach has failed.

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं यह जानना चाहता हुं कि ताशकन्द समझौते के बाद इंडिया और पाकिस्तान के बीच ऐसे कितने मुद्दे थे जिन पर कि झगड़ा था—जैसे कि एक यह टेलीग्राफ का था—और उनमें से कितने मुद्दे तय हुए हैं ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : अभी तो यह प्रारम्भिक है, और मुद्दों पर आगे बात होगी ।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Old age pension scheme

*1108. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Old Age Pension Scheme has been introduced in all the States;

(b) if so, the amounts paid to persons enjoying the benefit of such scheme in different States during 1967-68;

(c) if not, whether Government have any plan to introduce this scheme uniformally all over the country; and

(d) whether Government have any plan to introduce 'Homes' for old persons without any means of living?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA): (a) and (b). The Central Government have not introduced any Old Age Pension Schemes applicable in all the States. Some State Governments and Union Territories have, however, introduced their own schemes—particulars of which are enclosed in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-817/68].

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

Survey for Oil in Cochin and Alleppey Coastal Areas

*1110. SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey Department has completed the survey of Cochin and Alleppey coastal areas to locate oil;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): (a) The Oil and Natural Gas Commission has completed reconnaissance geological survey and gravity survey in this area. Reconnaissance seismic profiles were run by Soviet offshore seismic survey ship.

(b) The various surveys have indicated that the thickness of the marine sediments in the area is very small and, therefore, the area is not considered promising.

(c) Does not arise.