

12.03 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE. ALLOCATION OF A
MINE SITE TO INDIA IN THE CENTRAL
INDIAN OCEAN BY THE PREPARATORY
COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEABED AUTHORITY**

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): I rise to inform this House of an important development during the 40th anniversary celebrations of our Independence. On August 17, 1987 we have secured for our country a unique position. Our application for registration and allocation of a mine site in the Central Indian Ocean was unanimously accepted by the Preparatory Commission of the International Seabed Authority -PREPCOM- a body of the United Nations.

Hon'ble Members will recall that the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea accorded India, Pioneer Status along with three other countries in deep seabed exploration in recognition of their achievements in seabed surveys, research and development. India is the only developing country to be so recognised. This was an important landmark.

The decision of the PREPCOM, to register India's claim first and earlier than that of the other countries and allocate an area 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) square kilometers for further exploration and development is yet another landmark. This decision entitles us to explore and develop the resources of the deep seabed, which contain rich deposits of polymetallic nodules and which are a source of important minerals like copper, cobalt, nickel and manganese. However, commercial exploitation of these resources will take place only in future, after we have developed or acquired adequate technology and after the U.N. Convention on

the Law of the Sea comes into force.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Preparatory commission has determined that similar claims of other States, viz. France, Japan and USSR would be registered towards the end of this year. This will pave the way for universal participation of developed and developing countries in the new legal regime for ocean space.

The registration of our claim for a deep seabed mine site indeed provides concrete indication of indigenous scientific capabilities and achievements. It is yet another step forward in our quest for self-reliance.

I am sure this House will agree to place on record our appreciation for the excellent work done by our scientists and engineers who have taken up the challenging task to explore new horizons of science to unravel the mysteries of the ocean.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given an adjournment notice. Today hundreds of Peerless Insurance employees under the banner of All India Peerless Employees Association have assembled here in Delhi holding dharna. They are demanding nationalisation of Peerless company to safeguard the interests of two crore certificate holders and thousands of employees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a matter for an adjournment motion. You can bring it in any other form.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Finance Minister, Mr. Tiwari, is here. He can make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your adjournment motion is not accepted. That is my ruling.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why is the Government not nationalising Peerless company?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Mr. Acharia. You have already mentioned what you wanted. That is enough.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why does he not make a statement?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat Not like this. If you want to make any point each one of you can raise your hand. I will give my ruling whether I allow or not. If all of you are standing and shouting I cannot hear. I am sorry.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbub Nagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government through you to the agitation that has been caused in the minds of the people of India by the decision of the Government of India to import two types of sophisticated telephone systems-car telephone system card telephone systems. The car telephone system costs Rs. 35 crores while the card telephone system costs Rs. 100 crores. People of the country are greatly disturbed and it is a drain on our foreign exchange.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your adjournment motion is also not accepted. It is not an urgent matter.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: People of the country are deeply disturbed and there is a need for the Government of India to react to this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is enough. Now Shrimati geeta Mukherjee...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What is the reaction of the Government?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, thousands of women are demonstrating and courting arrest against price rise.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are going to discuss price rise today under Rule 193.

SHRIMATI GEETA KUKHERJEE: Thousands of women belonging to National Federation of Indian Women, All India Janvadi Mahila Samiti and Dakshita Mahila Samiti have addressed a memorandum to the Prime Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that we are discussing it today.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: I want to give that to the Prime Minister through you and I want to lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. No. Not like that.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: (Rajapur): Thousands of housewives have come including my wife also.

SHRITHAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Sir, not only Peerless but there are other private money lending institutions like Aditya financiers and others...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: About Peerless I have already told. This you give in writing I will see.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call everyone.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker].

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapur): Very good, Sir.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Repeatedly we have been trying to raise the issue of teachers' strike here...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday it was raised and the Speaker has already told...

SHRI SURESH KURUP: What is the use of discussing it in the House if the Government is not paying any attention to the demands raised in the House?

Now you are in the chair. You can use your position. You can direct the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot direct the Government.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): After the winding up of the Mineral Development Board, what will be the fate of the people who are working there for the last 10, 15 or 20 years? I have given a Calling Attention.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY ((Katwa): Some days back I gave an adjournment motion regarding the offer given to foreign multi-national companies to construct gas-based power project at Kawas.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not received your adjournment motion.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker said that it will be taken up under Rule 184. But now I find it would not be taken up. I have given a Calling Attention also. It is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: They are scuttling the lowest offer given by our Public sector company.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Are you giving any comment?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through your letter. I have not received till now. I have not seen.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It is a very serious matter.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can allow Calling Attention.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can allow Calling Attention.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see. Immediately I cannot say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You can allow tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot promise now. I will see.

MR. SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker said that it will be taken up under Rule 184. Now I find it will not be taken up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: What about Calling Attention?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kalia-bor): Sir, may I draw the attention of the House and the Government of India that after the Kalahandi starvation deaths a few months back, more starvation deaths have

taken place in the home district of Deputy Minister (Welfare) in Orissa where 400 people have lost their lives due to starvation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see. Please sit down.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: We cannot ignore the values of human lives. I want the Government of India should take immediate steps.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Vluberia): College and University teachers are on strike for more than three weeks. The Government is doing nothing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told Shri Kurup.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You should ask the Human Resources Development Minister to meet the college teachers.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): I am only pleading for justice. I request the Hon'ble Home Minister through you, Sir, to order an inquiry by CBI over the murder of a constituent of mine, one Rashid, in Karnataka. It is alleged that ** is involved in the murder. It has been reported in the press.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will not go on record. It is a matter for the State Government.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, I want the Home Minister to conduct a CBI inquiry. Otherwise will not get justice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a State subject. You can write to them.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a State subject. I cannot allow.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, my constituent Rashid has been murdered. His father has sent me a telegram.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can write to the State Minister.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Hon'ble Buta Singh is here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): The recent decision of the United States to increase its military presence in the Indian Ocean is a matter of serious concern for all of us. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to make a statement about that and about the initiative taken by India in convening a conference of the littoral States in the Indian Ocean. Sir, this is a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give in writing. I will see.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): A very serious situation has taken place in north Bihar. Large scale violence has broken out. People are looting Government food godowns.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a matter for the State Government. Please write to the State Minister. He will look into it.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): A very serious situation has arisen in West Bengal regarding the allotment of freehold rights to the refugees. Sir, it has been the declared policy of the Central Government that the refugees who came after 1971 violence, will be allotted freehold rights. Now, the State Government has been given certain powers to make these allocations among the refugees. A clear policy has been declared by the Central Government. My grievance is that the State Government is making discrimination.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want?

12.17 hrs.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: We want a statement from the Home Minister.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Give in writing and I will see.

Forty-First Report

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: It is a serious matter. The Home Minister is here. The refugees are not getting freehold rights.

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Aligarh): I beg to present the Forty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): In the Mangolpuri, Sultanpuri Jhuggi-jhonpuri colony, the poor people are getting only 16 lakh litres of water as against their requirement of 60 lakh litres. This quantity of water is absolutely insufficient. The population of the poor people has increased manifold there. They have got their houses constructed there. We want that they should get sufficient water.

12.17 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What do you want? Do you want to discuss this matter? Already, we have discussed the drought situation. That is all. Please take your seat.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Alleppey): I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of:

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri): On a point of order. Madam Geeta Mukherjee is wearing a badge. This is not allowed.

- i) Second Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Ninety-First Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): That is not allowed inside the Parliament. We want your ruling.

- ii) Seventh Report of Committee on Public Undertakings (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Eighty-Ninth Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Durgapur Steel Plant.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Already a ruling is there..... (Interruptions)