

I did not know Dr. Mahipatray M. Mehta personally very well. But I remember that as a Member, he was constantly expressing his concern for the plight of poorer people in this country who are not able to avail themselves of sufficient medical care.

Mr. Thangaraju died under very tragic circumstances which make his demise all the more poignant. I am very much aggrieved the way that he lost his life.

I do hope that on behalf of our party, our condolences will also be conveyed to all the members of the families of the deceased.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I myself and my party associate with the condolences expressed by the hon. Prime Minister, the leader of the Opposition and the leaders of other parties. On some occasions I had an opportunity to talk with Late Brahmanand Reddiji. He was known as a man of moderate nature and a clear headed statesman. Today, he is no more with us. However, we all have to leave this world sooner or later. On behalf of this august House we all offer our condolences to the bereaved family.

Dr. Mahipatray M. Mehta is no more today and on behalf of our party we offer our condolences and express our deep feelings of sorrow on his sad demise. I had an opportunity to talk with Shri S. Thangaraju. He had great respect for the poor. On behalf of my party and myself I express deep condolences to the bereaved family.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.28 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.30 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Prime Minister's Visit to USA

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*1. SHRI PHOOL CHAND
VERMA:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister and his team visited USA recently;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives behind the visit and the details of the issues discussed with the President of USA and other US leaders/bodies; and

(c) the outcome of the discussions held there alongwith the details of the agreements/MOUs signed with the Government of USA during his visit?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (c). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Prime Minister visited USA from May 14-20, 1994. His itinerary included New York, Houston, Boston and Washington. At New York and Houston, PM met a wide cross-section of US business leaders and the Indian-American community who were enthusiastic about participating in India's economic growth. At Boston, he delivered the Jodidi Memorial Lecture where he explained India's developmental objectives. PM addressed a Joint Meeting of the US Congress at Washington, met leading American business leaders and academics, and also interacted with Congressional leaders. Vice-President Al Gore hosted a lunch for PM and his delegation. This was followed by discussions with President Clinton. There was a delegation level meeting with the principal advisers, followed by a private talk. Subsequently, President Clinton hosted a working lunch with broader participation. After the meeting, President Clinton and PM addressed a Joint Press Conference and a Joint Statement was issued. The Acting Secretary of State, the US Defence Secretary and Commerce Secretary called on PM individually for discussions.

2. The aim of Prime Minister's visit to the US was to establish personal contact with President Clinton and to lay the basis for durable improvement in Indo-US relations by setting aside the distortions in bilateral relations introduced by the Cold War and taking advantage of the new opportunities for expanded trade and investment created by India's economic reforms.

3. President Clinton and PM discussed a wide range of global issues of common concern, including those relating to national security, apart from bilateral relations. These discussions were extremely cordial, candid and useful. President Clinton's Administration and the US corporate world demonstrated great support and optimism about India's economic reforms and the new avenues this had opened up to intensify and broaden our bilateral cooperation, particularly in the area of trade and investment. Concrete steps, including exchange of several Cabinet-level visits were identified.

4. Discussions also took place on the contentious issues of nuclear and missile proliferation, on which the positions of the two countries are widely divergent. The two leaders agreed that India and the US would intensify their cooperation to achieve a global and non-discriminatory Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and a verifiable ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons. Support for non-proliferation and progressive reduction of weapons of mass destruction, with the goal of their elimination, was identified as a priority area. The US proposal to continue the bilateral dialogue on security issues was accepted.

5. PM took the opportunity to brief President Clinton on Indian concerns regarding cross-border support to terrorism in India and particularly in Jammu & Kashmir. President Clinton shared the concern on this issue and agreed that all outstanding issues between India and Pakistan must be resolved through bilateral negotiations, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement.

6. Two MOUs were signed during PM's visit, one on Cooperative Measures

to Increase Awareness and Support for Efforts to Combat Production, Distribution and Use of Illegal drugs; and MOU on Planning, Conservation and Management of Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites, Negotiations have also advanced on an umbrella Science and Technology Agreement, an agreement on cooperation in renewable energy sources and an extradition treaty. A bilateral investment protection agreement is being explored.

7. The Joint Statement contains both the expression of the common desire of India and the US to work together in areas where our interests converge, as well as indication of the extent of common ground on matters on which the two countries have different perceptions. Both sides agreed to ensure that existing differences did not overshadow the potential for greater cooperation, especially in the trade and economic fields. The Joint Statement called for a new partnership between India and the US. The two leaders promised to cooperate in the search for solutions to global challenges posed by weapons of mass destruction. AIDS, environmental degradation, population growth, poverty, international terrorism and narcotics trafficking. Agreement was also reached to expand the pace and scope of high level exchanges on the full range of political, economic, commercial, scientific, technological and social issues. The two leaders agreed to seek ways to expand their cooperation at the UN.

8. The objective of Prime Minister's visit to the US was to generate goodwill and have a free and frank exchange of views with President Clinton and his Administration officials, Congressional leaders and leading American businessmen. PM's visit opened fresh possibilities for achieving greater

understanding for India's position on issues of national interest. Trade and economic cooperation between India and the US is expected to receive further fillip as a result of the visit.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Prior to the Prime Minister's visit to America, India and America had serious differences regarding human rights situation in Kashmir and Nuclear non-proliferation. The President of America Shri Bill Clinton has also admitted it in a Press Conference. I would like to ask as to whether the differences have been removed after the Prime Minister's visit to America and whether any change has been noticed in the attitude of U.S.A.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: This question is related to the hon. Prime Minister and he has left the House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The Prime Minister has returned from his visit to America. He was present in the House just now. A question relating to him has been raised here. He should have responded to the question. But the hon. State Minister is replying here. We can settle this issue to some extent with his reply also provided that it is at all a solution. But the hon. Prime Minister who is the leader of Home also, has left the House abruptly. It is not in consistent with the decorum of the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is against the dignity of this august House.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, this shows scant

respect of the Prime Minister to this House and we take serious objection to this.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: If the hon. Prime Minister does not attend the House and does not respond to my question. I would not like to ask this question. He should have been present here. (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question and the Prime Minister has left the House. I seek your protection. He has shown disrespect to the House by leaving the House abruptly. Does the decorum of this august House has no importance at all? Through you, I would like to submit that the Prime Minister should be present here in person and express his regret. He should be present here till the discussion on this issue continues. (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister must be present here. I seek your protection. Hon. Prime Minister has left this House which is against the decorum of this august House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, therefore, request you to give your ruling.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, did he seek your permission before leaving the House?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know where the Prime Minister is expected to go, may be in the other House or may not be. But I think the Parliamentary Affairs Minister would see that, if it is possible, he may come back to the House. The Minister may reply now.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Sir, till that time we can take up Question No. 2.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the Prime Minister's visit to America, Pakistan and Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Kashmir was discussed. The American people were told in clear words that Pakistan is interfering in the internal matters of India and giving full assistance to the terrorists.

[English]

They are sponsoring terrorism in Kashmir.

[Translation]

The President Clinton had replied that India and Pakistan should settle their bilateral issues under the Shimla Agreement.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for coming back to the House and showing respect to the feelings of the members.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister was on his visit to America from 14th May and he had the discussion there on several issues, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs as to whether the Prime Minister also held discussion regarding first consignment of Thirty eight F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan by America and succeeded in convincing American President that if these F-16 Fighter Planes are given to Pakistan then the peace cannot be restored in this region? Further

the House wants to know whether America has cancelled the proposal of giving F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan. Please clarify the position in this regard.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: During his dialogue with Shri Clinton, hon. Prime Minister emphasized on the point that supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan will create tension, imbalance of power and accelerate the pace of the arms race in the region. Therefore, he emphasized to cancel the supply of F-16 to Pakistan.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Sir, I would like to ask a question regarding Prime Minister's dialogue in USA. At press conference of Shri Clinton and the Prime Minister, when journalists asked about human rights violation in Kashmir, his simple answer 'No' has disappointed the people of the country. It was an opportunity when he would have expounded as to how terrorists are slaying the innocent people in Kashmir. I would like to know about the Memoranda of Understanding signed there. You have told about the subjects discussed there but you have not told about the Memoranda of Understanding signed between the two countries to check the production, distribution and use of illegal drugs and the secondly regarding the conservation maintenance, protection and management of natural and cultural heritage sites. I have read in newspapers that the Prime Minister has signed some agreement making Taj Mahal the nucleus of his agreement. I would like to get details regarding those Memoranda of Understanding and by when these will take place. Tourists visit Taj Mahal every year in a large number and some of them die for want of medical treatment. Two persons died during the last week. I would like to know as to what arrangement has been made for financial resources and whether any arrangement

has been made for providing medical facilities there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may reply to the question keeping in view that the hon. Member comes from Agra.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have signed two MOU with them. The first agreement is aimed at combatting production, distribution and use of illegal drugs and second is on conservation and management of beautiful natural resorts and cultural heritage sites. Apart from these, four agreements are in the process which have been discussed earlier. It has been decided that foreign office of both the countries will convene meetings regularly, secondly the meeting of Joint Commission should be convened. Thirdly, the agreement signed in 1984 regarding Science and Technology should be extended and more agreements should be signed in defence sector at services level. Apart from it, an agreement regarding the intellectual group of non-governmental level is also going to take place in which discussion will be held to strengthen the bilateral relation.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister on his highly successful United States visit under very difficult circumstances.

I would like to ask whether the Government of United States have given up or not given up their insistence on five-nation regional non-proliferation

conference, consisting of India, China, Pakistan, U.S.A. and Russia.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: The Prime Minister during his discussion has emphasised India's point of view that we believe in the comprehensive global verifiable and non-discriminatory nature of treaty. With regard to this, although the American point of view is there, we have a divergent view with the U.S.A.

They want to have bilateral, regional or multilateral tracks to reach the end, that is, the global treaty. But India's point of view is very clear that we want a global, comprehensive and non-discriminatory nature of this treaty.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank and congratulate the hon. Prime Minister on his successful U.S. visit. There would have been some more achievements if like Geneva visit leader of the opposition party would have gone with him. I do not know as to why he disappointed the leader of opposition at this juncture.

I would like to know from my learned friend Shri Bhatia that why our Government becomes dumb on the question regarding violation of human rights in Kashmir during the US visit. Whether it is due to lack of coordination or hurdles and confusion prevailing in the Home Ministry or the Government of India is being arm twisted by some foreign powers. Whenever someone refers to Kashmir it seems that we are guilty of violating human rights and they are meant to preach us on this issue. I would like to know as to whether the Ministry of External Affairs have adopted anytime such an attitude as this is our own

problem and no other person or country has a right to interfere. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister said something on it as has been published in various newspapers.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to come to the question. You have taken so much time without asking the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, I would like to know why only our country is blamed for human rights violation? Why efforts are being made to put our country in ignominy. I would like to know as to whether the Prime Minister emphasised on this point in his parleys with Shri Clinton during his US visit. You please tell me your opinion in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I want to assure the hon. Member that this was a very high-level discussion between our Prime Minister and Mr. Clinton. Our Prime Minister emphasised fully on this point and explained to Mr. Clinton India's point of view that India is a big democracy, it is a free society; we have an independent judiciary; we have an independent Press and we have a Constitution in which rights of all the people are enshrined and so there is no question of the human rights violation in India. India is second to none in this regard. The Prime Minister also emphasised that this is a question, which, if it is referred to Kashmir, then it is a question related to the sponsoring of terrorism by Pakistan. So, the question of human rights violation in India does not arise. It was explained to the President

and the President offered that they will continue this discussion.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Sir, time and again in this House. I have raised a persistent demand for taking India as a permanent member of the Security Council of the United Nations. In this regard. I would like to say that the Prime Minister is not only the leader of our country but also one of the leaders of NAM. India happens to be the chief architect of NAM and the Third World, I would like to know whether the Prime Minister has interacted with the Clinton Administration and what is the outcome of that interaction.

MR. SPEAKER: It is on inclusion of India in the Security Council. I complete that.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: There was a general discussion with regard to restructuring of the United Nations because when the United Nations was formulated, there were only 54 members. Now there are more than 184 members. We have emphasised that the U.N. must be democratised, restructured so that all the regions get the benefit and its mandate can only be carried to all the regions if it is more democratised.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, in view of the prevailing international situation and also in view of our bilateral relationship with the United States of America, the Prime Minister's visit no doubt was a very important visit, as reported in the Press. We have only Press as a source to know that many important issues were discussed. Before Prime Minister's visit to the United States of America, there were also preparatory meetings so that some concrete results from that visit could be had. I would like

to know whether, during the Prime Minister's visit when he had a talk with President Clinton, President Clinton raised the issue of capping of our missiles research and development which was a major issue during the talk.

Secondly, I would like to know whether President Clinton was able to appreciate India's point of view on Human Rights and also India's point of view on Jammu and Kashmir and the issue of terrorism. But besides that, the Prime Minister also had several other meetings with intellectuals and industrialists. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister was convinced that he has been able to project India's point of view and whether he is hopeful that there is a possibility of development of relationship with the United States of America.

THE PRIME MINISTER SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The answer to the first part of the question is 'No'. The question of capping was not raised by President Clinton. To the second part of the question, I can only say that I have done my best.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for his successful visit to the United States of America. There were apprehensions in the minds of the Leaders of different political parties that there will be capping of U.S.A. Government over the use and experiment of Prithvi and Agni warhead missiles in India. But after the return of hon. Prime Minister, the Prithvi was successfully launched and included in the Defence. I would like to know whether there was any discussion regarding capping of warhead missiles of India or there was any pressure not to go ahead with the experiment of such missiles.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the facts speak for themselves.

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, in paragraph three of the answer it has been said that the talks included discussions on bilateral cooperation in the area of trade and development. Now, we know that a couple of months back, the United States had brought down the threat of certain retaliatory measures against India like Special 301. I would like to know whether this came up in the course of discussion and since we have been given temporary reprieve upto the month of June, whether in the course of discussion under the present professions of multilateralism there were efforts on our part to persuade the United States to eliminate these retaliatory measures from their statute book.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) A *Statement* is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Following are the places in the country where electronic telephone exchanges with ten thousand lines are proposed to be set up during 1994-95:

1. Tamilnadu

Madras	1,00,000 lines
Madurai	10,000 lines
Trichy	10,000 lines
Salem	10,000 lines
Coimbatore	20,000 lines

2. Kerala

Ernakulam	20,000 lines
Calicut	10,000 lines
Trivandrum	10,000 lines

3. Karnataka

Bangalore	90,000 lines
Mysore	10,000 lines

4. Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad	60,000 lines
Vijayawada	10,000 lines
Vishakhapatnam	10,000 lines

5. Bihar

Patna	10,000 lines
Ranchi	10,000 lines

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: The questions are discussed at other levels. As a matter of fact, such questions did not come between us. We were talking about something, a little more than specifics. Specific questions are taken up at the official level.

[*Translation*]

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

*2. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in the country where electronic telephone exchanges with ten thousand lines are proposed to be set up, State-wise;

(b) the time by which these are likely to be commissioned; and