

His demise is a great loss not only to the people of Korea but to the world forces who are fighting against imperialism, who are fighting against neo-colonialism, who are fighting for the defence of peace, who are fighting, as their goal, for establishing socialism.

On behalf of my party, I, once again, pay my respectful homage to that great leader and great Statesman of the world.

We had lost during the intervening period some of our valued comrades.

Sir, I, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, also express my grieved shock at the sad demise of Shri Anant Prasad Dhusia, Shri Tula Ram and Kumari Abha Maiti. I had the opportunity of having some close contacts with Kumari Maiti, who worked for the upliftment of the downtrodden, particularly women.

With these words, I thank you.

**SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO** (Bapatla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed in the House on the sad demise of the President Kim-Il-Sung, President of North Korea. He was a great warrior, nationalist, revolutionary and a great leader. Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was responsible for the development of the whole of Korea and he maintained good relations with India. He was a strong believer of Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, he was the President of Korea for the last four decades. His sad demise is sad not only for the Koreans but for all Asians and all the people. I extend on behalf of my party and on my own behalf, my deep condolences to the friendly people of

Korea. I also express my deep condolences to the family members of Shri Anant Prasad Dhusia, Shri Tula Ram and Kumari Abha Maiti. Thank you, Sir.

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

11.36 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence  
for a short while*

11.38 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[Translation]

### Prime Minister's Visit to Russia

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\*1. **DR. SAKSHIJI:**  
**SHRI DATTATRAYA**  
**BANDARU:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime minister visited Russia recently;

(b) if so, the issues discussed by him with Russian leaders and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether any agreements were signed during the visit in various spheres;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof and the extent of their usefulness in strengthening bilateral relations; and

(e) the time by which these agreements are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) to (e). A *Statement* is placed on the table of the House.

[English]

### STATEMENT

(a) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister visited Russia from 29 June–2 July, 1994.

(b) Wide-ranging discussions took place on international, regional and bilateral issues. In particular, attention was focussed on furthering bilateral cooperation and overcoming obstacles in the economic, commercial, defence, science and technology and cultural fields.

(c) and (d). Yes Sir. The following documents were signed during the visit:—

- (1) Moscow Declaration on the Protection of the Interests of Pluralistic States.
- (2) Declaration on the Further Development and Intensification of Cooperation between India and the Russian Federation.
- (3) Agreement on Cooperation in Science and Technology.
- (4) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Information Technology.
- (5) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Tourism.

(6) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

(7) Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.

(8) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Science and Technology Cooperation in the field of Meteorology.

(9) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Science and Technology Cooperation in the field of Metrology.

(10) Agreement on Formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Private Ltd.

(11) Protocol to the Agreement on extending credit to the Republic of India for financing long-term projects in the field of technical cooperation and for purchasing special equipment.

A summary of the salient features of each document is given in the Annexure. These agreements and MOUs provide a framework for cooperation on a continuous basis in these area.

(e) The Agreements on Cooperation in Science and Technology, Information Technology, Tourism, Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources, Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes and the MOUs on Cooperation in Meteorology and in the field of Standardisation and Metrology have clauses providing for automatic extension unless revoked by either Party.

Concerned departments are already in the process of implementing these agreements and MOUs. The Agreement on Formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Private Ltd. is in the process being operationalised and the Protocol to the Agreement on extending credit to India for financing long-term projects in the field of technical cooperation and purchasing special equipment has taken effect.

### ANNEXURE

#### **Moscow Declaration on the Protection of the Interests of Pluralistic States:**

Recognition of growing threat from aggressive nationalism, religious and political extremism, terrorism, separatism to the unity of pluralistic States. Inadmissible to arouse inter-ethnic, inter-religious hatred. Support for the territorial integrity of these States. India understands Russian concerns that the fundamental human rights of all people in the FSU States should be safeguarded. Russia appreciates the efforts made by the Government and the people of India to strengthen social harmony, preserve territorial integrity, support to actions taken by India to strengthen social harmony, preserve its territorial integrity, to create atmosphere of confidence in South Asia. International community, international organisations urged to respect integrity of these States.

#### **On the Further Development and Intensification of cooperation:**

Cooperation on such areas as terrorism, subversion, international crime, disarmament. In the area of trade and investment, encouragement to private and public sectors, joint ventures, investments. In the area of Science and Technology, cooperation in the areas of nuclear energy, outer space, passenger

aircraft, information. Cooperation in the in the area of culture and human resources development. Concrete steps under the CEP. Concern over the continuing tension on the Tadjik-Afghan border. Affinity of approach with regard to the Asia Pacific Region and the situation in Afghanistan. Support to the inter-Tadjik dialogue.

#### **Cooperation in Science and Technology:**

Cooperation in fundamental and applied research, industrial research. Encouragement of direct contacts. Exchange of scientists, scientific information, joint research, laboratories and setting up of design bureau. Research activities under ILTP. Nodal departments Department of Science and Technology, India and Ministry of Science and Technology and Technology Policy, Russia.

#### **Tourism Cooperation:**

Establishment of contacts between organisations and companies. Simplification of immigration/customs. Facilitate the issuance of visas upto 3 months. Facilitate import and exchange of publicity material. Exchange of statistics, experience in hotel management. Assistance to each other in training of staff. Opening of representations in either country. Exchange of groups, promotion of individual tourism. Nodal Ministries/Ministries. Department of Tourism, Ministry of Civil Aviation, India and State Committee for Physical Culture and Tourism.

#### **Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purpose:**

Russian Space Agency: Russian Space Agency and ISRO to be the implementing agencies. Cooperation in the field of outer space, space medicines, manned flight, space flights. The planning and

conduct of joint projects, joint use of launch vehicles, space and ground facilities. Intellectual property protection. Consultation on annual basis between the heads of the executive agencies. Additional meetings between the Foreign Ministries if necessary.

#### **Cooperation in the Field of Information Technology Nodal Agencies:**

Department of Electronics from the Indian side and the Presidential Committee on Informatisation from the Russian side are the nodal agencies. Cooperation in areas such as promotion of joint ventures, joint information technology projects in ecology, medicine, management, banking, stock exchange. Presidential Committee on Informatisation Policy. Encouragement of reciprocal purchases of information technology. Setting up of a working group under the Indo-Russian Joint Commission.

**Memorandum on S&T Cooperation in the Field of Meteorology between the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring:** Joint work in the areas of meteorology, environmental monitoring, and climate. Exchange of scientists, information, joint projects. Nodal agencies the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring.

**Cooperation in the field of Protection of Environment and Natural Resources:** Areas of cooperation include on subjects such as global environment, climatic changes, depletion of the ozone layer, conservation of biological diversity, protection of tigers and Siberian cranes. Prevention of trade in endangered

species. The facilitation of direct contacts between organisations (State, public and private). The establishment of a working group. Forms of cooperation, joint projects, exchange of information. Nodal agencies Ministry of Environment and Forests, India and the Ministry of Environment Protection and Natural Resources, Russia.

**Standardisation, Metrology and Certification:** Nodal agencies, Bureau of Indian Standards and the Committee of the Russian Federation for standardisation, Metrology, and certification: A sub-working Group to be established. Cooperation in the field of standardisation, Metrology and certification. Joint research and standards specimen checks.

**Defence Related Agreements:** Protocol to the Agreement on extending credit to the Republic of India for financing long-term projects in the field of technical cooperation and for purchasing special equipment, dated September 17, 1992: The Protocol makes amendments to the September 17, 1992 agreement and extends the period of utilisation of the credit till September 1996. US \$ 830 million worth of special equipment is to be delivered under the Agreement. 5% interest, 7 years repayment maintained.

**Agreement on formation of Indo-Russian Aviation Pvt. Ltd.:** Signed between Aviation Industries on Indian and Russian sides. Indian partners are Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. The Russian partners are the Moscow Aircraft Production Organisation. The Mikoyan Design Bureau, State Corporation for Armaments Export 'Resvoorouzheniye' and the Ryazan State Instruments Plant.

The Joint Venture will soon be registered under Indian Law and will provide a wide range of maintenance support and service to all aircraft of Russian origin in India and in third countries. The Joint Venture shall have an authorised share capital of US \$ 400 million. Equity 50:50.

[*Translation*]

DR. SAKSHIJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Minister of External Affairs for laying down the answers of my questions on the table of the House. Besides it I would like to know, as I had asked in part 'd' of my question, how far these agreements will be useful in strengthening bilateral relations, but the hon. Minister has not given a proper reply to it. Moreover the hon. Minister has not fixed a time limit for the implementation of these agreements. My submission to the hon. Minister is that first of all he should give reply to both of these questions only then I would ask the other question.

MR. SPEAKER: it will be taken as your supplementary question.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details of all the agreements between India and Russia has been given and regarding their implementation, we have also taken some decisions. Committees have been set up in some areas and in some areas the discussions have been completed and a few are yet to be completed. A final decision will be taken on all these things in the meeting of joint committees which is scheduled to be held in November this year in India. Six groups have been formed for it which will submit their reports by November. The final decision will be taken in the joint committee meeting.

DR. SAKSHIJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part 'c' of my question, the hon. Minister has stated that the implementation process had already been started by the concerned departments regarding the agreements, whereas the hon. Prime Minister had gone on a visit to Russia between 29th June to 2nd July and about one dozen agreements were signed during this period. I would like to know, by when these agreements will be implemented. November is fixed for it but I am doubtful about it as even after giving in writing many a times regarding the agreements, the promises have not been kept. I would like to cite a small example in this regard, even after making a promise regarding the Ayodhya issue, the issue was taken to the Supreme Court... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the hon. Members will behave like this then how one can express his views... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to submit that the hon. Prime Minister had sent the Ayodhya issue to the Supreme Court under article 143... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the supplementary question.

DR. SAKSHIJI: Though the supplementary question I would like to request hon. External Affairs Minister that.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't make submission but ask your question.

DR. SAKSHIJI: My question is that how far these agreements will be useful in strengthening the bilateral relations and what has been the usefulness of the agreements made till date? Whenever the External Affairs Minister or the Prime Minister of our country goes on a foreign

tour, he goes there with a begging bowl in hand and this time also during the foreign tour of the hon. Prime Minister, the same thing has happened...  
(Interruptions)

This time also a promise have been made to give loan. Our Prime Ministers have been going on foreign tours with a begging bowl in hand till date...(Interruptions)

My question is that how long this practise will continue.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the utility of such agreements?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: I would like to inform you that on such high level, discussions some issues are settled, some policies are framed and the decisions taken are sent to the concerned Ministries. This time also some high level decisions have been taken in the concerned Ministries of both India and Russia will decide it and the Ministries have taken up this work. We are monitoring it so that the decision taken by the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the four-day visit of our Prime Minister to Russia was on two important issues. One is about liquidating the huge debt which this country owes to the second giant, Russia, particularly a sum of Rs. 30,000 crore is lying in the coffers of the Reserve Bank of India. Earlier when Mr. Gorbachev was in the Government, the value of a rouble was equivalent to Rs. 19 in Indian currency. And because of the present political and economic collapse of Russia, the value

of rupee had changed. Now one rouble is equivalent to Rs. 25.

So, in the present context, I wanted to tell the hon. Prime Minister or the External Affairs Minister the mode of repayment should be based on the present international market value. I want to know whether this condition or whether this perspective has come before the agreement between India and Russia.

My second question is a very important one and that is with regard to the transfer of the technology. I want to know whether because of the pressure of United States, Russia was not inclined to give that technology to India. I would also like to know whether this point had also come in the agreement or in the discussion during the visit of the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, with regard to the debt which India owes to Russia, it is true that some time back when President Yelstin was here in India, some agreements were entered into that India will be paying Rs. 3000 crores every year for 12 years and Russia will import goods against this debt.

The hon. Member has also raised a point of Rupee—Rouble ratio. When we discuss this point, I think, we will have to take a broad view of the total gamut of relations between India and Russia. All these projects which were given to India were given at a very subsidised and low rates as compared to the world market at that time.

Secondly, it was given on a special interest of 2.5 per cent. So, India, all these years, has gained the advantage of this debt. While making a settlement with regard to the debt, this ratio was

fixed and accordingly we are dealing with it.

Thirdly, the hon. Member has raised the question of cryogenic engine. There was an agreement between ISRO on the Indian side and Glavkosmos on the Russian side that they will supply to us this cryogenic engines and also the second advantage that we could have was that they would give us the technical knowhow etc. But later on there was an objection from America and they asked us that let us revise the agreement again. So, in the new agreement, Russia has continued to supply us two cryogenic engines with the additional two cryogenic engines with the option that they will supply to us three more cryogenic engines. That means India will get seven cryogenic engines from Russia under the new agreement. But in this case, Russia will not give us the technical knowhow. But India will continue to get cryogenic engines as agreed upon.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:

Sir, the question is about transfer of technology.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied. He is not going to get it.

SHRI INDER JIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the past, the erstwhile Soviet Union supported India strongly on the Kashmir issue. I would like to ask the hon. Prime Minister, who is happily present here, whether we can now count on Russia to continue to extend its full support to us on the Kashmir issue at the UN and elsewhere as a successor State to the Soviet Union.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, so far as the Kashmir question is concerned, we have discussed this problem with them

and we have placed our view that Pakistan is trying to internationalise this question. Their view is very clear and that has been stated by them that the matter be discussed between India and Pakistan by a dialogue under the Simla Agreement. At the same time, they also say that the internationalisation of this question will not help.

SHRI D. VENKATESWAHA RAO:

Sir, India is the largest supplier of tobacco to Russia. Every year 40000 tonnes of tobacco is to be exported to Russia from India. But in the last two or three years it got hampered. Last year, the Government of India gave an advanced credit of Rs. 100 crore to purchase tobacco for Russia.

An agreement was entered into to buy 27,200 tonnes of tobacco, out of which 8,777 tonnes were not lifted from India. I would like to know whether any kind of arrangement was made to lift this tobacco and whether there is any programme to put the tobacco in the debt repayment route process. This is very important as far as Andhra and Kamataka are concerned, where tobacco is the main crop.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Yes, Sir, tobacco is put in that agreement. The Prime Minister was very much emphatic on this issue of tobacco that there should be a three-year prospective agreement between the two parties with regard to tobacco, tea, leather goods, upper shoes and soya bean. These items were particularly discussed to be the part of this debt arrangement so that India could export. A three-year prospect has been agreed upon.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): I would like to add

something in this connection. I have been stressing and re-stressing the fact to the tobacco farmer friends in Andhra and elsewhere that they should now reduce production of tobacco and switch to some other crops because worldwide tobacco has become something which no one wants to use. It leads to cancer. Medical science has proved it times without number. I have been appealing to them in open meetings, public meetings, because my area also comes under tobacco, and I have been warning them that we cannot indefinitely make arrangement for the export of tobacco, either to China or to Russia or elsewhere, particularly when their own condition does not really permit them to give any priority to tobacco. So, these are matters which we have been trying our very best to sort out. But there is a limit beyond which we cannot go, unless the farmers and our friends from the Opposition from Andhra and other States where tobacco is grown, join us in this campaign that progressively they should bring the area of tobacco down and not increase it indiscriminately, as has gone on for some time in these States.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indo-Russian relations have started a fresh, we should welcome it. Our hon. Prime Minister has also paid a visit there. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. External Affairs Minister if any change has come in the Indo-Russian relations in the present international set up and if it is so, what is it? Secondly, whether any discussion was held for the Membership of our country to the security council, if so, was an assurance given in this regard?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Our relations with Russia are very old and almost in every area we have cordial relations with each other. We have different perception in one or two areas but by and large our relations are harmonious. You have made a reference to security council.

[English]

As I said, we have some different perception so far as N.P.T. and other areas are concerned.

[Translation]

But as far as security council and U.N.O. are concerned, may be restructure in your view, means that it should be restructured and democratised and...

DR. CHATTRAPAL SINGH: It means that India would be the member of the security council or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I think that he does not mean it but something else.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: It is our view that at the time of its formation the members were less but today the number is large. It should be represented and people from all the areas should be given, representation. As far as India is concerned, Russia will support it.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will put that point in a further concrete way. I would like to know whether the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation which we had with the erstwhile Soviet Union continues still in the same form including the question of



security in this region or not. I would also like to know whether the present Russia now considers India as the Most Favoured Nation in this region as the former Soviet Union was considering or whether they equate us with Pakistan in the same way as far as this region is concerned.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Sir, Russia considers India a great friend and there is contact at all levels between us and there is cooperation with us. So far as the 1971 agreement is concerned, the Clause 9 of the agreement, which was a security clause, is not there. But otherwise there is complete cooperation in the field of culture and economy.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that this Indo-Russian agreement signed by the hon. Prime Minister and the President of the Soviet Union has been useful for our defence services specially for our Air Force. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if it is also a fact that the Naval Chief of Russia had made a promise to give us a 'B' class aircraft carrier of 40500 tonnes, which has not been completed as yet I would also like to know from the hon. Minister if any discussion was held in Russia for the benefit of our Navy?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: As far as the question of co-operation in the field of defence is concerned, a joint venture will be set up for MIG's etc. Secondly a committee has been set up, which will have representatives of both Russia and India, to find out the other fields of cooperation in defence services. As far as your question of naval ship is concerned, their Defence Minister is coming on a visit to our country and a discussion will be held with him.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, the cold war is over, the Union of Soviet Republics have disintegrated and the Warsaw pact is over but NATO is still intact. Not only NATO does exist but the extension of it is also being done. The point of disarmament has been raised so is there any synchronisation between the extension and strengthening of NATO and the disarmament? Had the policy adopted by our country regarding the N.P.T. and developing of missiles been discussed with the Russian leaders, what is their attitude towards it or we should take it granted that both America and Russia have the same opinion towards it.

*[English]*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, they know our position so well that they have not raised it at all during my visit.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker Sir, I do not have to say anything and I do not have any complaint the hon. Prime Minister is satisfied with this reply.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I would like to ask just one question from the hon. Prime Minister regarding defence matters. Under the present circumstances, 85 percent of the arms have been purchased for our defence services from Russia. It is obvious here that whatever is written here about the defence related agreement, there is nothing clear in it about the purchase of arms between our country and Russia. On the contrary 830 million dollars have been mentioned, when 85 per cent of our arms are purchased from Russia, has the hon. Prime Minister

decided anything with them for the maintenance of the arms and for the spare parts and other materials?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Russia has given us a loan of 830 million dollars and we can purchase necessary parts and equipments for the updating of our weapons from them by it. 830 million dollars has been given on loan by Russia for this purpose.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Parallel LPG Marketing

\*2. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO  
GAIKWAD:  
SHRI VILASRAO NAG-  
NATHRAO GUNDEWAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private sector companies permitted for parallel LPG marketing in the country and the criteria adopted for such permission;

(b) whether arrangements for LPG import, storage, safety, price and bottling have been made by them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have fixed some charges to be collected from consumers by these companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether these companies propose to commence their marketing activities within a time-bound period; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). Under the Parallel Marketing System, the private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using setting up their own facilities and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG at market determined prices. Individual parties do not need any specific permission from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the activities they intend to undertake under the Parallel Marketing System. However, they are required to obtain necessary approvals in accordance with the provisions of other relevant Acts and Rules governing safety, environment, etc. At present no private party is ready with the facilities of their own for import of LPG. 11 private parties have signed Memorandum of Understanding with the public sector oil companies for the use of their handling and storage facilities for import of LPG. Several parties have planned to develop their own import facilities. The Chief Controller of Explosives has already issued license for 14 bottling plants and also approved plans for setting up 61 other LPG bottling plants by parallel marketeers.

(d) to (f). Government have not fixed any charges to be collected from the consumers. However, reports have come to the notice of the Government about some parallel marketeers collecting deposits from distributors and consumers. The State and UT Governments have been advised to ban collection of deposits by parallel marketeers without making