

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 10, 1995/ Vaisakha 20, 1917 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of one of our former colleagues namely Shri K. Suryanarayana.

Shri K. Suryanarayana was a member of Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Lok Sabha representing Eluru Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh from 1967 to 1979. Earlier, he was a member of Rajya Sabha during 1952-58.

A veteran freedom fighter, he heeded to the clarion call given by the Father of Nation and plunged in the India's freedom movement in 1921 at the cost of his studies. He suffered imprisonment on several occasions for his patriotic ventures.

An agriculturist by profession, he was a popular activist in the cooperative movement in Andhra Pradesh. He was the Director of Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation and Eluru Central Cooperative Consumer Society. He had also served as a member of District Board of West Godavari District during 1949-52.

During his membership of this House, he had served as the member of Consultative Committees of various Ministries. He was also a member of National Social Welfare Board.

A widely travelled person, he was a member of Indian delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Meeting held at Canberra in 1977.

An active social worker, he worked relentlessly for the upliftment of rural masses especially agricultural labourers and other weaker sections.

Shri K. Suryanarayana passed away on 6 May, 1995 at Guntur at the age of 88 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

11.04 Hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Space Technology

*501. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia is not likely to transfer space technology to India;

(b) if so, whether Russia would co-operate with India in expanding space cooperation but not supply any advanced space technology;

(c) if so, whether Russia has agreed to implement the commitments made at the time of 1991 agreement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, when these commitments including earlier commitments are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI) : (a) to (e). Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Russia and India have entered into a long term agreement on the peaceful uses of outer space in 1994. The specific areas of cooperation are being identified.

(c) to (e). Except the technology transfer and training for the cryogenic stages, all other commitments are being honoured including the launch agreement of Indian Remote Sensing (IRS-1C) satellite.

IRS -1C will be launched during the second half of this year as scheduled and of the seven cryogenic stages contracted, the first cryogenic stage is expected to be delivered by end 1996 and the remaining six stages at six monthly intervals.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : ISRO and its counterpart in Russia, Glavkosmos, have entered into and agreement in 1991; but have gone back on it in 1993 and revised it in which they refused to transfer the technology and also to give the training programme for the Indian personnel. Is this kind of revised agreement going to affect the launching or making of the GSLV, the Geo Satellite Launch Vehicle, programme and also the programmes that are being started by our space scientists, like INSAT -2 series, that is, INSAT 2C, 2D, 2E as well as PSLV G-II.

These are all very important programmes. The Geo-Satellite Launch Programme is also very important because the slots in the geo-stationary orbit are getting scarce because the allotment in that orbit is on 'first come first serve' basis. Is this going to affect India in launching all these programmes, with the kind of going back on the agreement that was made in 1991?

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Sir, there is no going back on the project. We are trying to develop indigenous material. We hope, we shall be able to do it. There may be a little delay, but there is no effect on the project.

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : This specific agreement was made in 1991. This change has taken place after Russia entered the missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Earlier, Russia was not a party to the MTCR. Why should we agree for the retrospective kind of effect on India as a result of Russia entering this MTCR? I would also like to bring to the notice of the House that Russia has violated the agreement by giving three separate reactors to countries like Iran. So, why should we first of all agree for such retrospective changes in this agreement?

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : The clause of *force majeure* was invoked because of geo-political reasons. From 1991 to October, 1993, the agreement was all right and continuously implemented. But after invoking that clause because of geo-political reasons, the agreement was modified. So, there was no question of breaking the agreement. In any case, it was agreed between the two countries or the two agencies. So, there is no question of breaking it.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : I want to know what the commitments made in that agreement and in the subsequent agreements are. What are the reasons shown by Russia for not honouring these commitments under the agreement for technology transfer and training?

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : I have already stated that the agreement was modified because of geo-political compulsions by invoking a special clause. They have made some modifications on giving the technical knowledge. And instead of two geo-stages, we are now getting seven stages. There is no loss on account of it. Except the training programme, nothing has been modified.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : What are the commitments? My question was, 'what are the detailed commitments in the agreement?'

MR. SPEAKER : No, the entire agreement need not be given.

[Translation]

DR. SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been stated that except for training programmes,

nothing will be compensated for. Undoubtedly, the Indo-Russian space technology agreement is very vital for us. It is very significant. I would like to know whether we have some alternative project for this training programme and if so, whether we will be able to develop indigenous space technology so that this refusal of space technology by Russia does not affect our programmes and we are able to pursue them successfully?

MR. SPEAKER : This is what he has told. All this has been answered.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Russia refused to provide space technology under Indo-Russia agreement because of pressure from the U.S.A.?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said that it was done because of geo-political reasons. This covers everything. The U.S.A. is not the only factor, the entire world's geo-political situation is such.

[English]

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Sir, I would like to know from the Government as to whether the Indian space scientists recently had a discussion with the space scientists of Russia on the question of cryogenic deal. If so, may I know the result of the discussion in detail?

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Sir, we are constantly in touch with them; our scientist are in constant touch with the scientists of Russia. We are bound by the Agreement for peaceful use of space research programme. We are continuously in touch with them; there is no break in that; and the continuity is there.

Spurious Drugs

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*502. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH :

SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sale of spurious drugs and medicines have increased at present in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases of spurious drugs and medicines detected during each of the last two years in each State;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the companies; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the manufacture and sale of these drugs and medicines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.