

32. hrs.

**Title:** Discussion on points arising out of the answer given by the Minister of External Affairs on 15.3.2000 to starred Question No. 286 regarding Non-Alignment.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA (AMRITSAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had put a question with regard to non-alignment and the reply given by the Minister on 15<sup>th</sup> March was unsatisfactory. As a result of that, I have called for a discussion on this point.

Shri Brajesh Mishra, Security Advisor and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, made a statement in Munich on 6<sup>th</sup> February that the doctrine of non-alignment was a shibboleth. He stated further that India today is ready to question shibboleths. He even dared to say that after Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, non-alignment became a *mantra*.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is the father of India's foreign policy. On the basis of that foreign policy India achieved great heights. India played a very important role in the world as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and as a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement. As a result of this movement about 100 countries became free. Not only 100 countries became free, but India became the leader of the non-aligned world.

I was further amazed that my colleague Shri Ajit Panja also made a statement that non-alignment has become irrelevant. While this policy of non-alignment played an important role in the last fifty years, today this new Government finds fault with it and says that it has become irrelevant and it is only a *mantra*. This is the tribute this Government is paying to the great leader of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. World over, people are praising India's foreign policy as enunciated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He is quoted in UNO; he is quoted in NAM; and in all the world forums India is praised because of the vision of the great man Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Here, the new people, the new Government are finding fault with it. They say that it is a shibboleth, it is a *Mantra*. I am surprised. I have seen speeches of Shri Jaswant Singh in the United Nations and also in Categarabia where he went to have meeting with the Foreign Ministers. Even there I did not find something like this.

But who has given this authority to a retired bureaucrat, to whom you have made your Security Advisor, to contradict your policies and say that 'Non-Alignment is a *Mantra*, it is a shibboleth?

Sir, why has this Security Advisor been given that power to contradict their Minister and the Prime Minister? I would like to know it from the hon. Minister. All the previous Governments, whether it was the Government headed by Shri Charan Singh, Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Chandrashekher, Shri Devegowda or Shri Gujaral, continued that policy and appreciated that foreign policy. But here is a new Government, and they are finding fault with that policy which continued all these years in the world.

Sir, to speak about the Non-Aligned Policy as a shibboleth, and as a *Mantra*, a policy which has helped hundreds of countries to become free, is a rather strange thing which I am hearing from the mouths of these leaders. I wish that India under the new dispensation would have played a leading role like all our previous Foreign Ministers which was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and continued by all our Foreign Ministers in that regard. That is how India is known for its free thinking and the role that India played in the world affairs.

Sir, in the 13<sup>th</sup> NAM Conference which the hon. Minister attended, I wish, he could have played a role and he would have focussed more on political and economic orientation to the movement as the developing countries face the new challenges today. The world has become unipolar. India has miserably failed to point out to the world the new challenges, the new dangers within the Non-Aligned countries.

I think, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the new Government has failed to assess the new situation in the world today. The Cold War is over. The forty years of bipolar world is not there. Russia has disintegrated. Now, there is only one power in the world which is playing a role of Super Power and the whole world is watching to them. Where is that India of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who would have spoken in such a situation? The world is facing the problem of economic domination. We, the Non-Aligned countries together fought with imperialism. Now a new imperialism 'economic imperialism' has come on this world. All countries are trying to assess and trying to formulate policies.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in this new situation of changing world whether he is contemplating of having a new perception and in the changed circumstances continue the policy which has been pursued in this country.

I would like to know whether our foreign policy is in our national interest or our policy of world peace has changed. Are all these principles which were relevant in the past are relevant today or not? Are we not to pursue our national goals aimed at achieving the economic development of our country?

I call upon the hon. Minister kindly to clarify whether what he said in the non-aligned Conference is correct. There is a great contradiction in what has been said by the National Security Advisor and by Shri Ajit Kumar Panja. I would be grateful if you kindly tell us what is the true position. Do you believe in non-alignment policy or not? Do you have faith in this policy? Are you enunciating a new policy?

I would like to know what is that new policy and whether your new policy is based on the consensus of this country. Have you talked to the Leaders of the Opposition because foreign policy is always based on consensus of the country. I would like to have answers to all these questions.

Thank you very much.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government has no clear-cut foreign policy. The Foreign Minister is speaking in one voice. Its National Security Advisor and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister is speaking in another voice. The question on the floor of the House has arisen out of a statement made by National Security Advisor in regard to our non-alignment policy.

We adopted this non-alignment policy even before we achieved independence. This policy does not belong to any Government, but it belongs to our country. Our Party differed in the past also. We are opposed to a number of policies of the previous Government. But on one policy, our Party also supported the Government in the past and today also we want that in the interest of our country, we should pursue the policy of non-alignment.

There was a time when we provided leadership to our country. Our country was the leader of the non-alignment movement. This non-alignment movement is needed to protect not only the interest of our own country, but the interest of all the developing nations. This non-aligned movement in the past was utilised against any move or attempt by the super-power to convert the world into a unipolar world.

This helped us to unite the developing countries. So, this was a movement. We adopted this Non-Aligned Movement after our freedom movement. So, there is a need to strengthen this Movement. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any change because we find today that there is a change in the attitude of this Government towards the Non-Aligned Movement. During these two or three years, this Movement has been weakened. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any change in the attitude of the Government towards our policy that does not belong to any Party or any Government but to the people of the country.

Sometimes, we find that we are gradually aligning ourselves away from the Non-Aligned Movement. So, I would like to know the policy of this Government. I would also like to know why the National Security Adviser has spoken in a different voice in regard to the Non-Aligned Movement. I would like to know the policy of the Government in regard to the Non-Aligned Movement.

**प्रो. रासा सिंह रावत (अजमेर) :** माननीय स्भापति महोदय, हमारी भारतीय विदेश नीति का जो मूल आधार शांतिपूर्ण सहअस्तित्व, गुटनिरपेक्षता और मान्वाधिकारों का संरक्षण, निःशस्त्रीकरण, 'जियो और जीने दो' है, मैं समझता हूँ कि वर्तमान सरकार इन सिद्धांतों पर दृढ़ता से डटी हुई है। 36वां म्यूनिक सम्मेलन 6 फरवरी, 2000 को हुआ, वहां पर सुरक्षा नीति पर बोलते हुए माननीय प्रधान मंत्री के विशेष सुरक्षा सचिव तथा भारत सरकार की राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा समिति के सलाहकार और विशेष सचिव श्री ब्रजेश जी ने जिस संदर्भ में कोई बात कही थी, ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि विपक्षी महानुभाव उसी तथ्य को तोड़-मरोड़ कर "जाकी रही भावना जैसी, प्रभु मूरत देखी तिन तैसी" की भावना से सदन में प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं। इससे पहले कि मैं सवाल पूछूँ आपके माध्यम से यही स्पष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि सरकार की गुटनिरपेक्षता की नीति वास्तव में सफल सिद्ध हुई है और आतंकवाद के विरुद्ध अंतर्राष्ट्रीय जनमत और समर्थन जुटाने में हमारे कर्मठ विदेश मंत्री माननीय जसवंत सिंह जी ने माननीय अटल जी के नेतृत्व में जो कर्मण्यतावाद दिखलाया और उसकी पुष्टि भी हुई, चाहे हवाई जहाज के अपहरण के समय सारी दुनिया के देशों ने उसकी निन्दा की, अथवा कारगिल के युद्ध के समय पाकिस्तान को आतंकवादी देश घोषित करने और उसको सीमा में वापस जाने के बारे में दुनिया के सभी देशों ने जो बात कही और इसी प्रकार वर्तमान परिस्थितियों में, क्योंकि अब संसार दो गुटों में तो बंटा हुआ नहीं है, अब संसार एक हो गया है -- पहला और दूसरा गुट नहीं के बराबर है क्योंकि अब आर्थिक साम्राज्यवाद और दूसरी बातें बढ़ रही हैं -- ऐसी स्थिति में गुटनिरपेक्षता की हमारी नीति अटल है, कायम है और निश्चित रूप से यह सरकार उसी नीति पर चल रही है।

मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी से यह सवाल पूछना चाहूंगा कि गुटनिरपेक्षता की नीति को और भी अधिक प्रभावी बनाने के लिए तथा गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन को और भी अधिक सुदृढ़ और व्यावहारिक बनाने के लिए यह सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है, यह सदन को बताने का कट करे।

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have raised this Half-an-Hour Discussion because it enables the Government to lay all doubts at rest and to clarify the Government's position in this regard.

Shri R.L. Bhatia had, in fact, held this post earlier. He has initiated this discussion and he really asked three main questions, which in effect, have been repeated by other hon. Members – not all the three, but the essence about the relevance of Non-Aligned Movement. I have no difficulty in reaffirming and sharing with the hon. Members that the ideas that inspired the founding fathers of the Non-Aligned Movement are resolute opposition to colonialism and all forms of domination, apartheid, and international relations based on the politics of blocs. They are intimately related and continue to have relevance because they are intimately related to the entire freedom struggle of the

country.

In that sense, the concept of non-alignment was a natural foreign policy distillate as it were of our freedom struggle. Therefore, this belief in the Non-Aligned Movement, which implies the independence of thought and autonomy of action, has been and will continue to remain an element of India's foreign policy. I will leave no doubt in anyone's mind in this regard.

We do not believe that the relevance of the Movement has diminished as a result of the end of the Cold War because we believe that the Non-Aligned Movement was not just a by-product of the Cold War. I just attempted to explain it, that it was the genesis of the idea of the Movement itself that had different origins. India is one of the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement. It remained committed to its basic principles; and the issue of our relations with non-aligned countries remains a priority area. We have participated, as prominent members, in all the forums of the Movement.

In the 1998 Keynote Address, which was at the 12<sup>th</sup> Summit of NAM in Durban, the Prime Minister had urged the NAM to develop strength to translate the numbers of NAM into an effective voice in international affairs.

The second question that the hon. Member, Shri R.L. Bhatia asked, related to the Summit at Cartagena and to the role we played at Cartagena. I had the honour of representing the country at Cartagena. I would not go into all that was achieved. I have no difficulty in sharing it with the hon. Members that at Cartagena, we found a new enthusiasm about the entire Movement, a greater participation by member-countries, etc. In fact, in the final document that was issued at Cartagena, in the Ministerial meeting, amongst many issues – I do not wish to take the time of the House on those things – on Afghanistan, for the first time, a NAM Communiqué strongly condemned Taliban. It was, I believe, an initiative that India had taken and it was the consequence of that. The Communiqué also reiterated its support for our proposal for a comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

It was India's delegation which successfully maintained NAM's position, first expressed during the NAM Foreign Ministers' meeting which categorically rejects the concept recently propounded by the USA on humanitarian intervention. The NAM Communiqué speaks about that. As far as the economic issues about which the hon. Member has specifically asked, the Indian delegation was successful in incorporating the need for taking into account the concerns of predominantly agrarian economies in multilateral negotiations on agriculture and the need to bring in agriculture within the normal WTO rules. The NAM's position on such issues as child labour, bio diversity, and climatic changes are all well preserved. These are largely on account of the initiatives taken by the Indian delegation. I do not wish to take the time of the House. The Communiqué speaks about many other aspects. The hon. Members must have read that Communiqué.

The third question was whether foreign policy goals of peace and disarmament have been abandoned. How can peace as a goal be abandoned? It is a goal worthy enough to pursue, no matter what are the difficulties. I wish to reassure the hon. Member that there is no departure from the principles of India's foreign policy. It will continue to remain extant. Shri Basu Deb Acharia also raised largely the same question.

रसा सिंह रावत जी के प्रति मैं अपना आभार प्रकट करना चाहूंगा क्योंकि उन्होंने सरकार की नीति को सही ढंग से रखा। उन्होंने पूछा है कि गुट निरपेक्ष को अधिक सुबल और सार्थक करने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है? इसके बारे में सरकार जो प्रयत्न कर रही है, उसका मैं अभी जवाब दे चुका हूँ और सरकार उस दिशा में प्रयत्नशील रहेगी, यह आश्वासन मैं माननीय सदस्य को देना चाहता हूँ।

After this, I believe, that the matter should be finally left because all aspects and questions raised by the hon. Members have been answered.

**स्भापति महोदय :** इन्फोर्मेशन टेक्नोलॉजी बिल पर चर्चा अधूरी थी इसलिए अब उस पर चर्चा आरंभ होती है।

â€¦( व्यवधान)

**श्री बसुदेव आचार्य :** स्भापति महोदय, मंत्री जी को जवाब तो देने दीजिए। â€¦( व्यवधान)

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : A bureaucrat has made a statement. The hon. Minister has not referred to that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The whole discussion had arisen out of the statement made by a bureaucrat. The Minister has not said anything about that. ...(*Interruptions*)

**श्री बसुदेव आचार्य :** मेरा सवाल था। â€¦( व्यवधान)

**स्भापति महोदय :** आप लोगों ने जो सवाल पूछा था, मंत्री जी ने उनका जवाब दे दिया है।

â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य : मंत्री जी ने ठीक से जवाब नहीं दिया है। â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री आर.एल.माटिया : स्भापति जी, मंत्री जी ने जवाब नहीं दिया। इन्होंने ब्रिजेश मिश्रा जी का नाम तक नहीं लिया कि उन्होंने गलत किया या उन्हें ऐसा नहीं कहना चाहिए था। â€¦( ब्यवधान) यह हमारी पालिसी नहीं है। इन्होंने इस पर कोई जिक्र नहीं किया। â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर (मयिलादुतुराई) : ब्रिजेश मिश्रा जी ने जो कहा, अजीत पांजा जी ने जो कहा, उसके बारे में मंत्री जी का क्या विचार है, यह हम जानना चाहते हैं। आप कहिये कि आप इससे सहमत नहीं हैं और दोनों को निकाल दीजिए तब हम खुश होंगे। लेकिन आप इन्हीं दोनों को रखकर कहते हैं कि मेरी नीति एक है मगर मेरे राज्य मंत्री की नीति दूसरी है। यह किस प्रकार की सरकार है?

श्री जस्वंत सिंह : ऐसा नहीं है। â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री मणि शंकर अय्यर : आप हमें यह बताइये कि पांजा साहब ने ऐसा नहीं कहा या यह मान लीजिए कि उन्होंने कहा इसलिए उनको वहां रखना सही नहीं है। â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री जस्वंत सिंह : 15 मार्च 2000 को प्रश्न संख्या 286 का उत्तर सदन में दे दिया गया है।

श्री आर.एल.माटिया : वह गोलमाल जवाब था इसलिए मैंने इस पर डिस्कशन मांगी थी। â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री जस्वंत सिंह : आपने जो स्पष्टीकरण मांगा था, वह मैं दे चुका हूं।

श्री आर.एल.माटिया : आप अब भी नहीं कह रहे कि ब्रिजेश मिश्रा जी ने जो कहा, वह गलत है। आप ऐसा कह दीजिए तब हम मान जायेंगे। â€¦( ब्यवधान)

श्री जस्वंत सिंह : माननीय सदस्यों की भ्रांतियों का मैं उत्तर कैसे दूं? आपने जो प्रश्न पूछे हैं, उन प्रश्नों का मैं समुचित उत्तर दे चुका हूं।

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