

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

back, then it would be a historical step. Apart from that negotiations should continue to solve all the problems. Your intentions are noble, you have declared it in Kashmir, I am sure that God will grant you victory. You will succeed and all problems would be solved. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask just one question from the hon'ble Prime Minister. He went on Lahore visit. We used to have cricket ties. We discontinued it due to terrorism. In the month of April, Hon'ble Prime Minister had said that unless Pakistan ends cross border terrorism, we will not talk to them. I would like to ask why do we are going to have talks with them? Their hands are blood stained, then why are we having talks with Pakistan? ...*(Interruptions)* We want assurance from hon'ble Prime Minister that Pakistan should stop terrorism in India. Whether India have now realised that Pakistan is not inciting terrorism in India and hence we are having talks with them. What reply you have if Pakistan makes such assertion?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those hon'ble Members who participated in the discussion. There are some issues on which there is a broad consensus in the House. The issue of our relation with Pakistan is one such issue. There may be difference of opinion among us, but inspite of that, we all work together to achieve the goal and our last goal is to ensure the victory, glory, fame and unity of India. A number of old issues have been raised in the discussion. It started from Lahore onwards. But I do not accept any blame for going to Lahore. ...*(Interruptions)*

We have to live with our neighbour as a friend or whatever manner. But we should not lose any opportunity of building good relations. Our development depends on internal and external peace. We do not want to buy weapons for war and to use our resources to buy such weapons but when our freedom or integrity is in danger and we have to be ready to bear all costs and defend ourselves. I have told my Pakistani friends a number of times that we can change our friends but not our neighbours. None of us can get away from each other. We have to live here. Now one way of living together is to live like neighbours and friends and second way is to keep quarreling and fighting and give the world chance to laugh at us and take wrong way as a result of misconstruing the emotions of our people. Therefore we should be friends with our neighbours to the extent possible. That is why I went to Lahore. It would be wrong

to say that no home work was prepared before the visit. This charge has also been made about the Agra talks. What does it mean? The structure of the Government is very much intact and my Government has not made any drastic change in the Ministry of External Affairs. I think that my friends would agree that the clever diplomats pass the buck on their officers but the External Affairs Ministry protect its officers. We had full preparation, but in between the Kargil issue cropped up which was essentially due to power struggle between their Government and Army General. The Lahore declaration signed by the two countries said that dialogue would be held and all issues will be solved peacefully. We had agreed on it. The declaration was silent on Kashmir as in our discussion it was agreed that Kashmir issue is a tangled one so it be deferred and it would be better if we resolve other issues and go forward.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I have the Lahore declaration with me. It says that.

[English]

"have agreed that their respective Governments shall intensify their efforts."

MR. SPEAKER: I can permit you to put questions after the Prime Minister completes. Now, you may please sit down.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: "at resolving all issues including the issue of Jammu & Kashmir."

[Translation]

He said that there is no mention of Kashmir. Now it is before you.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am aware of it. But its form is there for all to see. Like Agra, Kashmir was not the Central issue in Lahore declaration also. Now it has been made so.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is the foremost issue, you have signed it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete the reply.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am referring to the talks that took place. When General Musharraf came

to Agra, during the discussion he did his best to have his way on Kashmir. Now he says that nothing of that sort took place. General Musharraf had to return with empty handed from Agra. I am being held guilty of not preparing any home work. Had there been no preparation, we would not have been able to successfully repulse the Pakistani attack in Kargil. We did not allow Pakistan to succeed in its design. Their domestic trouble reached an extent that their Prime Minister had to resign. They could not work unitedly. I am saying all this only to underline the fact that our efforts are well-intentioned. Sometimes it succeeds and sometimes it fails. Ceasefire has been declared a number of times. There is consensus that the two countries have friendly relations, especially, with regard to Jammu-Kashmir, but it could not be realised. Terrorist groups were split and differences surfaced among them. What is their condition today? I would not like to go in detail. Now it is being said that I had said that we would not take with them unless cross border terrorism is stopped. Of course, I had said that but my goal was to stop cross border terrorism. I decided to strive towards that goal and we worked so enthusiastically that, except a few countries, all countries of the world were of the opinion that the cross border terrorism be stopped. We succeeded to turning world opinion in our favour. I do not say that our war against terrorism will be fought by others but, it gave us scope for agreement and way out was provided. Therefore, we decided that as the elections have taken place in Kashmir which is such a significant phenomenon and which, in my opinion, should be properly assessed.

Shrimati Sonia ji did not make a mention of elections in Jammu & Kashmir. Holding of elections in Jammu & Kashmir has added a new chapter to Indian polity. People faced bullets and went for voting. All evil designs of Pakistan turned futile. I saw large gathering of the people that day. Though I had been to Kashmir earlier also. I have seen several types of welcome gathering in Kashmir but the meeting after the election in Jammu and Kashmir, wherein Mufti supported us and we welcomed him was unique one. That scene may have dumb-founded our neighbour country. Whether it was so or not, but it created some sort of enthusiasm in our hearts that the public is with us. The venom of communalism will not work and people want peace. Many people were killed during elections and many were injured. If one counts the total number of all those, one would realise that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have sacrificed a lot.

That day I felt that there is a need to take a new initiative. Meanwhile, an event of international importance

took place, though I would not like to go in details over that. The way Iraq was attacked neglecting and rendering United Nations ineffective, compelled me to think that small developing and non-aligned nations need to think seriously about their future. I take it as a change in a new direction. US attack on Iraq and people's victory in Jammu and Kashmir-these two events, though look entirely different but these are linked to each other.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): It was BJP's defeat. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is not a matter of defeat or victory. We are always ready to face defeat and we get defeated that is why we are sitting here and you have gone that side. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: There was a time when we were sitting at treasury benches and you used to sit here. We would again occupy that place.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It hardly matters but I do not want to get involved into it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, that day I felt that there is a need to take a new initiative. In reply to his repeated query-whether terrorism has been controlled, if I say that it has come down then he would say, it will not do, it should be totally controlled. Then I would say that all the terrorists do not belong to a single outfit, they are also divided. They are also playing different types of politics and all are not under one umbrella. It is quite a serious matter if it is so, but reality is different. We got a hint that there is a wave of change and the people of Jammu and Kashmir have given a befitting reply. I found it was right time to improve our relations provided Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism and destroys terrorists camps which have come up there. It is just a rehearsal and the talks are yet to start. When I had telephonic talk with the Prime Minister of Pakistan he invited me to play hockey in Pakistan. Then I told him that he had been a good player of hockey. I know that he has captained Pakistani Team and used to select his player. I asked him what will be the reaction in a situation when a hockey match between India and Pakistan is being witnessed by the entire town and meanwhile the news spreads that terrorists have massacred 50 innocent men, women and children in Jammu? What shall be the reaction to this? Will it create friendship? Therefore, I told that first terrorism should be stopped. I do not want to repeat what he said but he told that they are also fed up of this terrorism, and that they are fighting terrorism in their country, now we would

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

fight it out unitedly. Only after that, we through upon the idea of exchange of views. I would assure the apprehending Members that we will definitely tread the path cautiously.

If we become inactive, take no step or initiative and sit idle it will not behove for a large country like India. India occupies a prominent position in the world. Everyone is aware of our feeling of dedication to peace. People have not supported Pakistan sponsored terrorism they have supported the elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Foreigners who came to watch the electoral process have realised that the people have expressed their opinion peacefully even in the face of bullets and the world should respect it. At least we should give there due importance. It is a beginning of a new chapter, let us extend it further. None wants to lose Jammu and Kashmir. I do not know how Soniaji has said so. Who says Jammu and Kashmir will go to Pakistan. No, it will not go. Can a person saying so can afford to stay here? None has said so I do not want to go into it. No one can divide Jammu and Kashmir. There are three parts, three separate divisions of Jammu and Kashmir. They have been staying together for the last several years and they would stay together under new arrangement also.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please tell what shall be the new arrangement? Is he repeating old theory of RSS and America regarding division of Jammu and Kashmir in three parts i.e. Laddakh, Kashmir and Jammu?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is he saying?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Does he want to divide it into three parts under new arrangement?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mulayam Singh ji, you do not leave your old habit. Dr. Lohia had advocated for confederation. Neither the confederation took place that time nor it is possible now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am telling today in the House that if there can be no confederation then there will not be friendly relations between both the countries.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is his opinion. My opinion is different. Though we have different opinion yet we are friends.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am welcoming his suggestion and support it.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Not only small confederations, now countries of the world are coming together and we forming even larger alliances.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: He may please tell, whether it is his last chance or will he continue his efforts?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Entire Europe is coming together even old communist countries are joining them.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Is it his last effort or will he continue it?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is Dharma of present era. Now countries should not disintegrate but they should come together and work unitedly for economic development.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That is right.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I am also with him.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Even comrade is with us.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Does he not want.

[English]

Do you not want my support.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If Ramdas Athawale is with him, then there is no need for anyone else.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: If Athawale is with him, whole public is with him.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Some more questions were raised. Pakistan is suggesting of de-nuclearisation of South Asia which is not acceptable to us. Pakistani Atomic Programme is India specific whereas our's is not Pakistan specific. We are not only concerned about Pakistan, we are concerned about our entire neighbourhood. We had adopted a nuclear doctrine and we have assured that we will not attack first whereas Pakistan has not made any such commitment. Not only that, it has refused to make any commitment to this effect. Then what is the meaning of 'No-war-Pact? Malhotra ji

has quite rightly said that it should be, 'No proxy war pact'.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, other questions were also raised. Not going in details, I would like to say that entire world is facing a crisis and in that situation if no concrete decision is taken then crisis will deepen further.

It is not an offence to seek peace. Though it is different whether we succeed or not. Who wants failure? But, with the apprehension that we may fail, we make no effort, is not good. A large country like Independent India cannot take this type of decision.

We had not opposed Simla Pact because it contained element of friendship. That time I had opposed it because it did not resolve Jammu & Kashmir issue.

We may have divergent views and no doubt these are. But when the world looks at India it expects us to

speak one voice, that we would sit together and resolve our difference.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I convey my thanks to all and expect that the consensus arrived at this juncture would be maintained.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion is over.

The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 9th May, 2003 at 11 a.m.

18.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, May 9, 2003/Vaisakha 19, 1925 (Saka)
