

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item number 11. Statement by the hon. Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, it should be taken up after considering our Adjournment Motion notice...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Today, at 3 o'clock, we have Leaders' meeting. We are going to discuss how the matter is to be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, they are the important matters. Anyhow, today, we have Leaders' meeting at 3 o'clock. We are going to decide the matter as to how to discuss it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the Prime Minister. The Hon. Prime Minister is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, a very important statement we are expecting from the hon. Prime Minister. But Adjournment Motion is not given any seriousness. After all, it is a very serious matter. Rules provide that Adjournment Motion has to be taken up at certain time.

Sir, there is no response from anybody. I do not know whether the Government is making a request for that or not. We do not know anything. You feel, Sir, that because there is a meeting, therefore, the rules should have a standing effect. That should not be done. My earnest request is that at least some observation should be made. Either you take it up later or it should be taken up at 3 o'clock. It cannot be casually ignored...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will decide about it after the statement of the Hon. Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had said that I will be given an opportunity to make a submission above loot of farmer's producer as on as the Question Hour is over you had just said it...(Interruptions) I understand the importance and significance of the Prime Minister's Statement and I

know that it is necessary to comment on it. Everything you speak can be comprehended but we know that Pakistan has been able to receive an aid of hundred billion rupees whereas our Government have not been able to bring even a single pie. The real issue is about the loot of farmers who produce and it was in this context that you had said that time would be given. It is with the intention to divert people's attention from this loot, efforts have been made to provoke riots at Ayodhya and on Taj Mahal issue. What can be more important than it. The country and the society does not belong to them. It is loot of the farmers, poor, workers who are at the centre of their attention but it is the elections in Uttar Pradesh only which is their target. We have moved an 'Adjournment Motion' on it. Hence we want that you must give the first opportunity to us in this regard. We will listen to hon. Prime Minister's Statement. You had yourself said that you will listen to us after the Question Hour is over. Now you tell as to how it is against the rules?

MR. SPEAKER: You can speak in the Zero Hour.

[English]

Now, hon. Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, we are going according to the rules only. There is an observation from the Chair also on the Adjournment Motion. Now, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Prime Minister's statement, you can raise it. You are a senior Member.

12.11 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER*

RE: RECENT VISIT TO RUSSIA, USA, UN AND UK
AND ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN.

[Translation]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Between November 4 to 13, 2001, I paid bilateral visits to Russia, USA and UK, and addressed the 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly. I met the Presidents of Argentina, Cyprus and Iran and the Prime Minister of Mauritius on the margins of the General Assembly.

* [Also Placed in Library, See LT No. 4197/2001]

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

These visits and meetings focussed on the broader, long-term agenda of our bilateral relationships with these countries. They also provided the opportunity for consultations on important international issues, including the campaign against terrorism and post-conflict challenges in Afghanistan.

My State visit to Russia fulfilled a bilateral decision on annual summit meetings, made during President Putin's visit to India in October 2000. My discussions with the Russian leadership confirmed the congruence of our geo-strategic outlook and consolidated our bilateral strategic partnership. They also highlighted the enormous scope for further economic, scientific, technological, defence, atomic energy and space cooperation.

The Moscow Declaration on terrorism and our bilateral joint statement, together with the several agreements concluded during the visit, map the contours of our future cooperation. We also agreed on the further development of our close defence cooperation and cooperation in atomic energy and space.

We discussed new areas of bilateral economic cooperation, including the diversification of our trade basket. To compensate for the anticipated reduction of India exports financed by rupee debt repayment, promising new areas of trade in information technology, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and diamonds need to be energetically explored. Simultaneously, Russian imports of traditional commodities like tea and tobacco should be sustained. We also discussed the release of rupee payment funds for Russian investment in Indian enterprises.

We discussed an institutionalized bilateral dialogue on energy security, which we hope to commence soon. India's investment in the Sakhalin project already represents a beginning of our cooperation in this field.

Four chairs of Indian studies have been established in academic institutions in different cities of Russia. Partnership agreements have been concluded between Gujarat and the Astrakhan region and between Hyderabad and Kazan city. These arrangements will strengthen people-to-people, educational and cultural cooperation.

Since March 2000, India and USA have established a wide-ranging dialogue for closer relations. My visit to Washington, at the invitation of President George W. Bush, focussed on strengthening this dialogue architecture from a long-term perspective.

President Bush categorically affirmed that his Administration is committed to intensifying our bilateral engagement over a wide canvas.

We agreed to resume and broaden the Bilateral Economic Dialogue and extend our cooperation to energy, environment, health, biotechnology and information technology. We will soon initiate discussions on cooperation in space programmes and civilian nuclear safety projects.

The India-US Defence Policy Group has been reactivated and will meet in December. We agreed to discuss ways to stimulate bilateral high technology commerce and to streamline procedures for transfers of dual use and military items. The lifting of economic and technology restrictions should help this process.

I had extensive interactions with a wide cross-section of members of the US Congress. I met the leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as members of the House International Relations Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. The bipartisan nature of support in USA for strong bilateral relations with India with yet again emphasised.

The visit demonstrated a new vigour in India-US relations. There are excellent long-term prospects for their expansion and diversification, both in the bilateral and in the wider international context.

Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom invited me to stop over in London for a working visit on my way back to Delhi from New York.

Prime Minister Blair and I continued the dialogue which we had in New Delhi during his halt in October. We reviewed a number of aspects of our bilateral relations, which have seen a remarkable surge in strength and diversity in recent years. These discussions will be continued in greater detail in the near future, when Prime Minister Tony Blair pays an official visit to India. We expect this visit to take place very early next year.

My address to the United Nations General Assembly highlighted two themes of vital concern to all of us — the threat to civilized societies from international terrorism and the challenge of equitable development. In democratic and multicultural developing countries, there is often a strong inverse correlation between terrorism and development.

We have to reject arcane and unproductive arguments on the definition of international and state-sponsored

terrorism or their root causes. The universal revulsion against terrorism after September 11 should be exploited to single-mindedly destroy all terrorism everywhere.

Developing countries have recently faced some hard realities of the impact of globalization on domestic poverty levels and income gaps. The results of Doha again underline the urgent need for a Global Dialogue on Development. Resource generation for poverty alleviation has to occupy pride of place in this dialogue. It should dominate the economic agenda, not only of NAM and G-77, but also of North-South interactions.

In all my bilateral discussions, I found a broad identity of views on a comprehensive approach to international terrorism and about the situation in and the future of Afghanistan. There can be no political, economic or ideological justification for terrorism. The campaign against terrorism is, of course, not to target any religion. The international community will need to summon the necessary political will to ensure that all funding and safe havens are totally denied to terrorists everywhere.

Similarly, there was a convergence of views on the need for a broad-based, representative, independent and neutral government in Afghanistan. The urgency for massive international assistance for reconstruction of that country was emphasized. India's legitimate interest in the political and economic future of Afghanistan was also widely acknowledged. It was generally accepted that a more representative framework than the 6+2 grouping is required for consultations on the future political structure and the economic agenda in Afghanistan. Subsequently, on November 16, India participated in a meeting of 21 countries in New York under the aegis of the United Nations, held to specifically discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

We will remain engaged with other countries on future political and humanitarian arrangements in Afghanistan. We will also continue to maintain and strengthen our traditional links of solidarity with the government and all the people of Afghanistan.

Hon'ble Members would appreciate that though the situation in Afghanistan during the last fortnight or so has altered radically, and the United Front/Northern Alliance has moved into various urban centres of Afghanistan including the capital — Kabul, it is still fluid and rapidly changing.

The Government is fully monitoring the situation and is in continuous touch with all the relevant parties and groups.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Basu Deb Acharia have raised certain issues. They would certainly be taken up for discussion by you.

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to make an observation about Adjournment Motion.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My only submission to you is, Sir, that the statement has been made by the hon. Prime Minister and it should be discussed. You may please fix the time and the date for discussion on this.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, the Government is ready for any discussion. Today, in the Business Advisory Committee, we can fix time for discussion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, you should take up Adjournment Motion first...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. I am making an observation. Please hear me. You are also a senior Member.

12.24 hrs.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER

Re: Notices of Motion for Adjournment

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received from Sarvashri Sanat Kumar Mandal, Amar Roy Pradhan, Ajoy Chakraborty, Prabodh Panda, Ramji Lal Suman, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Sarvashri Hannan Mollah, Rupchand Pal, G.M. Banatwalla, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Col. (Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary, Prof. I.G. Sanadi, Sarvashri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Moinul Hassan, Basu Deb Acharia, Somnath Chatterjee, K. Suresh, Saiduzzama, Raju Singh, Paban Singh Ghatowar, Dahyabhai Vallabhbhai Patel and Sontosh Mohan Dev, Members, notices of Adjournment Motion on recent intrusion by VHP activists into Ayodhya Shrine in violation of Supreme Court directive.

Adjournment Motion is an extraordinary device which, if admitted, leads to setting aside the normal business of the House for discussing a definite matter of urgent public