

*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please take your seat.

[Translation]

and therefore, I would like to tell the House that despite some shortcomings, a good atmosphere has been created here and taking advantage of it we can hold discussions outside the House to decide as to how this Amendment is to be passed. Therefore, I would not allow further discussions in this matter. This being an important amendment I would suggest that all of you should put your head together and try to find some way to end this dead lock outside this House.

[English]

We are going to the next item. The hon. Prime Minister will make the statement.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): Before I make the statement, may I thank the Leader of the Opposition and leaders of all the parties and also the Chair for taking the whole consensus and attempting for a solution? I want to convey my thanks for that.

16.10 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister's Visit to Namibia

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): I had the privilege of visiting Windhoek from the 20th to the 21st March, to participate in the celebrations of Namibia's independence.

There could not have been a more befitting occasion for my first visit abroad as

Prime Minister than to witness Namibia's proud and joyous emergence as a sovereign, independent State. It was a memorable experience for all of us to be part of a historic occasion which marked the end of colonialism in Africa and the retreat of apartheid to its final crumbling bastion in South Africa.

The presence of our multi-Party delegation which included Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, comrade Surjeet, Shri Indrajit Gupta and Shri Narayanan from the Congress-I in Namibia demonstrated that India's principled and unwavering commitment to the anti-apartheid, anti-colonial struggle transcends party affiliations and ideologies. This is not just our national policy. It has been a part of our national psyche since the days of our own freedom struggle.

Immediately after the mid-night hour, India established diplomatic relations with Namibia, withdrew all sanctions and established a resident High Commission. We shared in the moment of great elation of the people of Namibia, who had struggled valiantly for 23 long years for their independence, under the banner of SWAPO and the leadership of President Sam Nujoma.

India is proud to have been in the forefront of the international effort to assist the Namibian people in their quest for freedom. We extended moral, material and political support to SWAPO during its days of exile. In the transition phase to independence, India made available to the United Nations Transition Assistance Group the services of a military peace keeping contingent, police monitors and election supervisors. I am happy to inform the House that our men in Namibia earned special praise for their diligence, discipline and dedication. I am sure that this House will join me in applauding our citizens who assisted Namibia in its transition to independence. At Namibia's request, we have agreed to the continuance for three months of 50 Indian police monitors, at our cost.

During my call on President Sam

[Sh. Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

Nujoma, I promised India's cooperation in their nation building efforts. We offered to assist in their human resource development, with training facilities in fields such as civil administration and teacher training. We offered the services of advisors in the areas of planning, finance, water resources development and for the preparation of feasibility studies for the development of small-scale industries. We will extend concessional credit for the supply of goods and services. We have earmarked a sum of approximately Rs. 20 crores as our total assistance package.

The visit to Namibia provided me with the opportunity of having a useful exchange of views with President Kenneth Kaunda, Chairman of the Frontline States, President Hosni Mubarak, Chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, President Janez Drovsek, Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement and also with President Masire of Botswana, President Mwinyi of Tanzania, President Arafat of the State of Palestine, Prime Minister Jugnauth of Mauritius and Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed of Bangladesh. I had productive meetings with US Secretary of State James Baker and with Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. It was a happy coincidence that my first meeting with U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar was at a moment of great fulfilment for the United Nations, which had supervised with remarkable efficiency and impartiality the transition of Namibia to independence.

Our meeting with Dr. Nelson Mandela was a moving and memorable occasion for me and all the members of my delegation. He spoke warmly of the unbroken Indian tradition of active support to the anti-apartheid cause from the pioneering role of Mahatma Gandhi to the present day. In spite of three decades of incarceration, Dr. Mandela's clarity of purpose, integrity of vision and firm determination to liberate his people from apartheid, remains undiminished. I reiterated our invitation to him to visit India at

his earliest convenience. He has accepted this invitation. I assured Dr. Mandela that India will not relax its sanctions and shall continue to mobilise international opinion to maintain pressures on the Pretoria regime at this critical stage. We shall continue to coordinate our policies with the African National Congress and contribute additional assistance to it in a joint endeavour to dismantle apartheid.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, for the consideration of the House and your consideration, I would make a concrete suggestion by which we can salvage the situation...*(Interruptions)* I am only responding to what the Leader of the Opposition has said...*(Interruptions)* Listen to me.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Are you going back on the agenda now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (Chikkodi): Next item has been taken up.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: The Prime Minister has spoken. Do you want to re-open the whole thing and go back on the agenda? This should be done outside the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Yes, listen to me. Sir, I accept the view-point that outside the House we can discuss this and come to a consensus. That's all I was saying. If you could have listened, I was going to make the same suggestion.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Don't go back on the agenda.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up the private Members' business.