

[Sh. I.K. Gujral]

14.58 hrs.

The winds of liberalisation, freedom and democracy have been blowing across our planet. India is a democracy and our people are committed to democratic values. We are full of hope and faith in the aspirations of our Nepalese brethren for a liberal and truly democratic policy. There has been an arduous struggle, under a courageous and united leadership. It has borne fruit. In securing these political changes, the people of Nepal have opened a new chapter in the history of their land. This chapter must be full of promise, the beginning of a new dawn of peace, progress and national reconciliation.

We regret that many innocent lives have been lost due to the undue use of violence. Our hearts go out to the bereaved families. We offer them our deepest sympathy. Our sympathy also goes to the much larger number who have been injured.

India is the world's largest democracy. Our commitment to the cause of democracy, of equality and human dignity is well known and needs no reiteration. We thus have a natural sympathy for the quest of the people of Nepal for a truly democratic system of Government. We shared their goals, we understood their values and valued their aspirations. The leading lights of Asia resurged. Gandhiji, Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and our first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had a wide vision and all the time they emphasised the universality of freedom and democratic urges. India has upheld their outlook that binds our people together additionally. As a responsible member of the international community, India continues to adhere to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

We have every confidence that the future will see the peoples of Nepal and India, united in heart and mind as ever, working together for the benefit of our two countries.

Thank you

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1990-91

Ministry of External Affairs—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up further discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to continue his speech.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Mr. Chairman, it is two minutes to 3 PM. Can I expect the Government to come forth with any statement after 3 PM about the unfortunate fate of the kidnapped persons in Srinagar I expect the Government to collect information from Srinagar and inform the House.... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have given a notice for a Calling Attention and the deadline ends at 3.0 O'clock. So I would like to know the latest position from the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the time to raise all these issues. You could have done it during Zero Hour.

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev to continue his speech.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on Thursday I was on my legs and today I have been asked to continue. Meanwhile, many changes have taken place... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER JIT (Darjeeling): At what time will the Foreign Minister reply, we would like to know?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot tell you now.

Already two hours and fifteen minutes are left for the Parties to say. Then, Naturally some more time will be taken. So, at this stage, I cannot tell you at what time the Minister will start his reply.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, between Thursday and Monday, many changes have taken place within and outside the country. Since I am discussing the External Affairs Ministry's Demands for Grant, I join the hon. Minister of behalf of all Members of this House, who has very kindly given a statement and given an assurance to the people of India to strengthen the democracy not only in Nepal but also in other parts of the world because India traditionally has always taken a stand that they do not ever support the dictatorship. We always support democracy in every country and we have in the past stood for it in various parts of the world.

15.00 hrs.

I will join the hon. Minister that when we were discussing these affairs last week, the situation was quite tense and in fact one of the senior members had criticised Government sending their Secretary, Foreign Affairs. I do not know what the outcome is. But the outcome ultimately is seen to be very bad. I think now all the grievances which have been there against our Government will go and what has come in Nepal is good. In future we will be able to develop with them better relations, whatever the area of difference regarding our bilateral trade that will also be solved to the satisfaction of both the countries.

I was speaking on the problems that are being faced in the North-Eastern region after the influx of the Chakma refugees from Bangladesh. The hon. Minister has visited Bangladesh. He had an extensive dialogue with his counterpart and the President and we have seen in the Press—no statement was made in this House—that Bangladesh has agreed to take back these Chakma refugees who have come to Tripura, to Arun-

achal Pradesh, Mizoram and other parts of the country. I would most humbly request the hon. Minister that this problem is agitating the people of the North-eastern region; not that we are against any people coming to India out of distress. Traditionally India has always looked after. We have seen during the Bangladesh war crores of people came to this country. Not only we had sheltered them, but the people have paid in the form of tax, to help the Government to look after them. But now these Chakma refugees who are in Tripura, in Mizoram and in Arunachal Pradesh, neither they are willing to go nor have they got any status in country and they are gradually getting themselves involved various matters which is creating a lot of confusion.

15.03 hrs.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

Probably you know that when there was a movement—Zoro Movement in Mizoram and the people came from Burma because traditionally there are certain areas on the international border between Burma, Manipur and Mizoram, where people can get permission from the checkpoints there and enter for some trade. But they came and participated in a conference and demanded Greater Mizoram. Like that the, Chakmas are not going back but they are keeping contact with their counterparts in Bangladesh and they are having some illegal trade with them and it is affecting the people and their sentiments in Tripura, in Arunachal Pradesh and other areas. I urge upon you to share with us this feeling.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: What is your advice?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: My advice is that there should be some dialogue which we can gradually send them back. Not that all of them are willing to stay. I visited the camp as Minister of State for Home Affairs and I have seen that the leaders are thinking in one way and the inhabitants are thinking in

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

another way. Because the amount of money we give to them for sustenance is also too little. It is difficult live on it. The number of death sin the camp of the Chakma refugees is also large. I am glad that a delegation came from Bangladesh, visited that area and went one of the preconditions was that they should have election in the Chakma dominated areas in Bangla Desh and that election has been there when the body has come there but unfortunately they feel that that body is not cooperating with the Chakma refugees. I do not know. But you will be able to see with your sources of information. But I will urge upon the Government to that assure they would seriously look into this matter and try to solve it so that we can overcome this particular difficulty.

Secondly, you have had a dialogue with Bangladesh and the details are in the Press. There is influx of immigrants and illegal immigrants from Bangladesh in West Bengal, in Meghalaya, in Assam, and in Tripura and then you did not take this opportunity to discuss about this problem. I do not know, but this is one of the major issues whether the details are coming in the Press. But I will be very happy if you share with this august House and this is the highest body than can get the feed-back from I would like to know what was the discussion which the Minister had, I would also like to draw your attention to one of the statements made by an ex-Governor and an ex-bureaucrat, Governor Shri T. Rajeswara Rao. He has made a statement on certain important issues on this question. This is not against any Government, but he has tried to focus the attention on what exactly is the problem. But he has tried to focus what is the problem. I do not criticise the West Bengal Government nor the Assam Government. Since the problem is gigantic, it is very difficult for any State Government to take care of all the border areas because in border areas certain houses are in Bangladesh and certain houses are in India. Members of the same family are living on both sides of the border. There are social and economic relations between them. You

will be surprised to know that the highest number of bidis are manufactured in Karimganj. I do not think, all the bidis are being consumed by the Karimganj people themselves. So what is happening? These bidis are going in an unofficial manner to Bangla Desh through the border. Now Bangladesh is purchasing coal from Japan. We can supply coal to them. They are getting bamboos from Mizoram unofficially. I went there as a Minister of State for Home Affairs. Some officers took me to the border. I saw hundreds of bamboos being packed up and thrown in the river. I asked: What is this? They kept quiet. When I insisted they said: These are going unofficially to Bangladesh. I asked: You officers are here; what are you doing? They said: With this manpower, it is very difficult to stop it. Now illegal trade is going on. Who is getting benefit? Some smugglers, some business men are getting the benefit, who do not contribute to the exchequer. So with good relations, there should be a dialogue which are the items Bangladesh is purchasing from other countries and which we can supply. There should be barter trade. If you go to any hotel in Tripura, from where I was elected, he will ask you whether you want Bangladesh fish or local fish. But there is no barter in fish. How does it come? It comes through channels. When I was in the Home Ministry, people would come and request for their appointment at the border checkpoint in the BSF. Why? Because these are prize postings. Unofficial trade is going on between these two countries. I want you to think over it and let us know how it can be stopped because you have claimed that after your coming into power the relations with the neighbouring countries have improved. If that be so, let us see the result of it.

The hon. Member, Shri Chitta Basu, has raised certain basic issues. There was time before partition when train communication we used to have from Calcutta upto Tripura, from Calcutta to Karimganj and other areas. There used to be through trains. Even after partition I myself have travelling with passport and visa from Calcutta via Bangladesh to Silchar, my original constituency. I

have seen people coming here. Now those train lines are there. But unfortunately there is no utility. I do not know whether I am divulging a secret. When I was in the Home Ministry I tried to sort it out. We raised it in the Cabinet. It was taken up. Initially Bangladesh agreed to allow movement of goods trains, but they were reluctant to allow passenger trains. If it is done, the cost of living of the people of Tripura, Barrack valley, Mizoram and Manipur will be cheaper. And to the extent it can be done it will be much easier for us to have essential commodities transported in this land locked area. For the last four years, there is a steamer service through Bangladesh upto Karimganj and upto Guahati. But these are seasonal. This generally starts after 15th of May when the water level goes up and it continues upto August/September. I was told that there are certain areas which are to be dug and cleaned. It can be done, through movement of steamer can be there for all round the year. I was told that the Government of India had, at one time, made a proposal that we shall bear the expenses for the improvement of this waterway and that there should be an all-weather steamer service between Calcutta and Karimganj and Calcutta and Guwahati. I would like to know what is their present thinking about it and what they are doing about it.

The hon. Minister has visited Bangladesh but his visit had a mixed reaction in the minds of those people who originally migrated from Bangladesh, that is, we, the refugees who came from the erstwhile East Pakistan. The hon. Minister himself is also a refugee. I do not know who advised, but suddenly you came to an agreement about the enemy property and you fixed up the date also for that—1982 and after...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: There is no agreement.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: I have seen it in the paper. I may be wrong also. That is why I said that I would like to hear from you what is the main problem. Now, Sir,

a target date was given to those refugees who have come after 1947, to submit their claims to the Commerce Ministry. They have made the claims. They have given their documents. The Government of India took a decision that the assessment made by the United bank of India, which had the branches all over East Pakistan—now Bangladesh—would be taken as the valuation of the property. What happened was that out of that assessment 25 per cent was paid to the people who claimed and whose documents were there. Subsequently, when Indira Gandhi was there as the Prime Minister, we, the Members from West Bengal and others, took it up again and then another date was given so that the people could make the claims. Their claims were termed as 'N', 'C', 'enemy property' and like that. But hardly twenty-five per cent money has been paid to them. There are properties in various parts of India which are termed as enemy property. These properties belong to those who are in Bangladesh—erstwhile Pakistan—and who were staying in India. You are only to exchange them. For months and years, these properties are rotting. You can get a very fabulous price for them. But there is a caucus in our Government. They do not want these properties to be exchanged or to be sold. I was a member of the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Commerce when Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the Minister. We tried to take up the matter. The matter came up in the Committee and a subcommittee was formed. Unfortunately, no decision was taken. Now those who have got 25 per cent payment, should get the balance because they have left their life's savings behind. They have come after 30-40 years. Unfortunately, nothing has been done for them...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: What was the difficulty?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: The difficulty, we were told, was about the selling of the properties. I am not sure. I am subject to correction. About 490 good properties were there. Some were under litigation in the High Court and the Supreme Court. By now,

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

I do not know what is the decision in those case. In some cases, the claimants were more than one. In some case, in the records of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation and other Municipal Corporations the property was in the name of 'X', but some other five persons come as claimants. Now their are tenants in those properties and their rents are being deposited. That money is coming to the Commerce Ministry. This is nobody's property and is lying idle. So, it should be sold. I would request the hon. Minister to look into it. I do not want a specific answer from him but I would like to urge upon him to look into this.

I will conclude by saying that the other day we had the misfortune or fortune to see one of the cassettes in which we saw Benazir Bhutto giving a speech in a public meeting in Pakistan. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL In Lahore

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV Yes, in Lahore. You must have seen it yourself. You must have seen the light-headed way she was speaking, the force, the volume and the manner in which she was speaking. It did not reflect that she was following the Shimla Agreement. I am thankful to the hon. Minister. Time and again he has said that we shall not, under any circumstances, allow the issue of Kashmir to be discussed in international forums. You have also said that it has been our fortune that we have been able to surprise all countries and they are with us by and large and they are not trying to support Pakistan in this matter. But in spite of that, am I to believe that Pakistan is doing this absolutely on their own? I doubt very much. In some of the international forum, they are saying one thing in public and they are not saying the same thing in private. Yesterday, we were fortunate enough to see in TV making confession by those people who have been arrested. They were trained in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. They were taken forcibly on gun point. A boy said "I got 77%, I got 88%. But one of the extremist

leaders told me unless you go, you will be shot". Now, they were taken into custody.

Sir, recently the BJP in their conclave in Calcutta, have suggested to take strong steps and also suggested, if necessary, the Government of India should attack those training camps which have been in the Pak-Occupied Kashmir. The Congress Working Committee have also taken a decision that Government of India should take firm action against Pakistan, and their activities should be stopped. So is the voice of CPM and the CPI and I take this is the view of Janata Dal also. So, I am not asking to go in for a war. I will not. It is not the solution. But at the same time, when they come and try to cross the border, why is it that you give some firing in the air, some firing on the ground and you come with a statement that they came and wanted to entire and they went away. This is not the policy to be followed. Nobody can enter our country with slogan shouting. You should have gone to their border and teach them a lesson, the lesson they understand, give them a reply in such a manner that next time they do not dare to come even to our border. Why is it not being done? This is the question being asked by all the political parties and I sincerely believe that the Government of India is in no mood to concede to the demand of Pakistan. Traditionally when a crisis comes, unity and diversity will always be the cry of Indians and all political parties stood like a rock, whatever might the form of Government at the Centre. This is also the case now. Irrespective of the fact that we might have difference of opinion on your functioning, on your performance, but on the issue of integrity and unity of the country, we all stand solidly behind you and we shall give all support for this. We will never show that we are weak.

Sir on the other day, I was playing golf, when two ex-Army Generals were telling me "what is happening to this Government?" I asked: Why? Had you been in Kashmir, what will you do? They said "we wished to do many things in those days". I do not know what is being done. I do not want to explain many things to you. You were ex-diplomat,

ex-Minister, present Minister and you have knowledge about many things, more than I know and I would like to tell you what is to be done. If you do many things, the country which is acting against us will get the answer will get the fitting reply. The whole Parliament, the whole country will be behind you and let us remember and make it clear that we are united and we shall fight with full force whatever the reason might be behind this. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for the External Affairs Ministry.

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in tradition to our political mentor, Anna, after who our party is named as A.I.A.D.M.K. by our leader, Puratchi Thalaivar, M.G.R., it is our duty to support the foreign policy of the Indian Union Government. So, we are supporting the Demands of the External Affairs Ministry. I would like to recollect in this august House that in 1963, when our Anna was released from the Vellore Jail, the same evening he addressed a public meeting in an open Maidan and he said:

"We must strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister Pandit Nehruji to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country."

The Party can live only if the country is united. Following that, we are here to support the foreign policy whatever may be the Central Government here. He did not utter anything on the platform about his sufferings in the jail. He had been in jail for six months for political agitation and he did not say about any of his hardships or sufferings in the jail. Please note that because of his political magnanimity persons like us come to this august House. Anna and MGR were the founders of the great Dravidian movement. In 1990 we are facing tremendous pressures. There are slogans in Kashmir, Punjab and everywhere, but we are always for the integrity of India. That is why I would like to tell all our brothers and honourable colleagues that when we stand here, my blood boils over the killings in Sri Lanka. They are

our own brothers. I am named Kadambur Janardhanan, my village is Kadambur. You can see that name 'Kadambur Annamalai' in one of the cemeteries of Candy in Sri Lanka. So, you can imagine the feelings of the people of Tamil Nadu about our neighbouring country, Sri Lanka. Of course, you may not understand our feelings in letter and spirit.

From the very day I had entered this august House, the Sri Lankan problem was there every day taking a new turn. I cannot forget the day when in the third week of July, the then Prime Minister Rajivji called all the political parties in Tamil Nadu and discussed the Sri Lankan problem with them before leaving for Sri Lanka. Rajivji may be a former Prime Minister, but every Indian whether he is a Tamilian or Gujarati or Malayalee, irrespective of his language or religion, should not forget the day on which he was about to depart from Sri Lanka after the signing of the Sri Lanka accord and while taking the gun salute before leaving for India. As you all know, after the accord when he was about to leave that country, we saw on the TV how he was given a blow by a Sri Lankan soldier. It is not a blow to the Prime Minister alone, but it is a blow to every Indian. No Indian forgets this, no Tamilian in particular has forgotten this because the entire Tamil Nadu was behind Rajivji. Please don't forget it. But has any political leader or a journalist condemned that incident? He may be Nehruji's grandson or Indiraji's son or Feroze Gandhi's son, but he was our Prime Minister. So, Indians will never forget that incident from that day to this day.

About the Indian Peace Keeping Force, even some of our Tamilian people were telling that they are 'Indian People's killing Force' or something like that. But now, the Indian Peace Keeping Force have left the Island and come here. About 1,155 soldiers died and 2,900 soldiers were wounded. But when they were received at the shores of our Mother State Tamil Nadu, I am very sorry to say that your DMK partner, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, never turned up to receive our brothers who shed their blood and sac-

[Sh. Kadambur M.R. Janardhanan]

rificed their lives for our country. Now, in your Government, Janata Dal Party is there; Telugu Desam Party is there and DMK is also there in your Government. Once the DMK was Mr. Anna's DMK who said, "we must strengthen the hands of Panditji" when he came out of the Vellore Jail. Therefore, I call your partner in the Government as Karunanidhi's DMK; you can call it as 'KDMK' also. When our IPKF went to Sri Lanka, the island was full of despair. The then President of Sri Lanka Shri Jayawardane had told to the magazine 'India Abroad' that, but for the Indian Peace Keeping Force, there would not have been the Sri Lankan island. That was the statement given by the then President of Sri Lanka to then the Prime Minister. Now, we are telling cock and bull stories and we are decrying our own IPKF. Now, the IPKF has come back. But what is happening today? Now, Mr. Nagaimugan has come all the way from Tamil Nadu, as the LTTE representative to contact the Punjab militants in the Gurudwara of Delhi. How has he come? The Tamil Nadu Government has arrested only Mr. Nagaimugan and today, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is reading a militant's letter in the Tamil Nadu Assembly. Now, so many persons, like Mr. Nedumaran are going to Sri Lanka without any visa. Is it out of love of India? Is it out of love for Tamilians? No, it is only a political gimmick. Now, our IPKF has come back, but the trouble has started for our fishermen. Yesterday, our fisherman have been released, but how many of them have returned to their mother State Tamil Nadu? We do not know anything about it. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu says that he has talked to Mr. Premadasa over telephone; it is there in the newspaper today. The present Prime Minister has not considered as a major political party. I have given several Calling Attention Notices about the lives of our fisherman, but they were not allowed. So, will the hon. External Affairs Minister kindly come with a statement about what the Chief Minister has talked with Mr. Premadasa about the lives of the fisherman? They have arrested the fishermen under the pretext that they were crossing the

Sri Lankan water. When Katchatheevu was left to Sri Lanka, there was an agreement that our fishermen can go and dry their nets there and they can worship in the Church there. It is there in the accord. Under the pretext of crossing the water, they are arresting the fishermen and harassing them, but they have not crossed the Sri Lanka water. Therefore, more than the Himalayas, more than Pakistan, more than China and more than anything else, that most dangerous and sensitive part is these coast of Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu. Our Indian Peace Keeping Force has come back now, safe there. I am not worried about the Sri Lankan Tamils alone; I am worried about the Indian Tamils who are going out in these to earn their bread. I would like to tell this august House that the Sethusamuthiram project was once a dream of our national poet Bharathiar. So, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister and the Defence Minister to include this Sethusamuthiram project in the Eighth Plan.

Then, Sir, the Commonwealth countries were allowing their citizens to travel without visa between their countries. Now, visa is necessary to visit these countries, because of terrorist activities and security reasons.

People of Indian origin are specially living in Malaysia and Singapore. Their sisters and relatives are living in Tamil Nadu. They are finding a lot of difficulties. Therefore, I request that for nearby countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives etc., the hon. minister of External Affairs may relax this rule and allow them to stay in India for one year, instead of three months.

We cannot forget the fact that after 1960, the first Prime minister to go to Pakistan was Shri Rajivji. During his Prime Ministership, Shri Rajivji made so many efforts for maintaining and improving cordial relations with neighbouring countries. Instead of cheating each other, mocking each other, we should really convey our feelings frankly.

Whatever be the situation in Sri Lanka today, the defence of our country demands

that we should be cautious. Katcha Theevu has already been given to Sri Lanka. But there is one more island nearby my constituency called Fresh Water Island, Nalla Thannee Theevu which is of 12 sq. miles. Its area is more than the katcha Theevu area. In Katcha Theevu, Sri Lanka is going to build a naval base. Therefore, we must also develop this Nalla Thannee Theevu for the defence purpose. I request the hon. Minister of External Affairs to take note of this.

I also request the hon. External Affairs Minister to take steps to protect the lives of Indian fishermen on the India-Sri Lanka sea coast and also request him to make a statement about the kidnapping and release of Indian fishermen, in the House.

Following the foot-steps of our leader Annadurai, Puratchi Thalaivar M.G. Ramachandran and the present leader, Puratchi Thalaivi, Jayalalitha, We are in support of the foreign policy and we are always with the Central Government in the matter of unity and integrity of the country.

Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU SINGH (Dausa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, most often we see that with the change of Government at the centre our foreign policy does not change. In 1977 when the Janata Government was in power as the Center, there was no change in our foreign policy barring a slight difference in its implementation, Non-alignment has been the main thrust of our foreign policy. During the Janata rule one more word was prefixed to it and it was called genuine non-alignment. Some changes were noticed in its implementation aspect during this period. Thereafter the Congress Government also followed the same foreign policy, but its plan of action differed from that of its earlier Government. During the Janata regime our relations with the neighbouring countries had improved a lot and I would like to congratulate the Janata Government for their achievement in this direction. I would also

congratulate the then hon. Minister of External Affairs, Shri Atal Behari Bajpai and his method of implementation of the policy. On that account. General Zia-ul-Haq had to convey his feelings to the former Prime Minister of India, Shri Morarji Desai that had there been a Foreign Ministers like Shri Bajpai from the very beginning, bitterness of relations between India and Pakistan would have ended for ever and the Indo-Pak the relations would have been cordial. That was the comments of the leader of the country like Pakistan which is now the root cause of all disturbances in this country. With reference to the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab the Government is constantly claiming that it has ample and concrete proof to establish that Pakistan is interfering in our internal affairs by impairing training to anti-national elements. The present Government is using the same language what the Rajiv Gandhi Government used to do, but it is not taking any action in this direction.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not in favour of war but I believe in the principle of tit for tat. As such we should convey the reaction to Pakistan in categorical firms that if it did not desist itself from its act of interference in Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab affairs, India could retaliate suitably and create much bigger disturbances in its Sindh and Beluchistan provinces.

Today terrorist organisations have raised their heads in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam in the North-Eastern region. The terrorist organisations which have taken shape in the North-Eastern region have since established their contact with the terrorist organisations operating in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. This could be possible through the people staying in foreign countries. When there is a discussion on Assam in this House, I shall dwell on this point. However we must take all possible steps to foil this international conspiracy aimed at weakening India.

Today what language Pakistan is speaking and what does its Prime Minister says?

[Sh Nathu Singh]

She says that they will extend their support, provide funds and arms and ammunition to these terrorist organisation. She also says that they want to resolve this issue in accordance the directions of United Nations and provision of the Simla Agreement. At present the hon. Minister of External Affairs is not here. It would have been better had he been here. I would like to know from him as to what is the differences between the attitude of China and Pakistan. China is speaking the same language what Pakistan speaks. I would like to know from the Government if any change has been noticed in China's language. Even today China does not accept Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh as parts of India. I would like to know from the Government as to what is the stand of China in this regard. Recently the Chinese Minister for External Affairs was here on a visit to India. At that time the Government should have asked him to state as to what is the attitude of China towards India and should have made him speak that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. But the Chinese Minister for External Affairs did not say any such thing during his stay in India. We are committing the same mistake what the previous Government did by accepting Tibet as a part of China. We accept that Tibet is a part of China but China does not accept that Jammu and Kashmir is a part of India. Where does our foreign policy stand us? Even today lakhs of soldiers have put Tibet under their siege. There has all along been violation of human rights in Tibet. The present Government is doing the some thing find as the previous Government did by not uttering a word against the violation of human rights in Tibet. I wish that at least the present Government should not adopt a cowardly attitude what the previous Government did. It must raise the issue of violation of human rights in Tibet (*Interruptions*). I would like to know from the Government as to what changes they have effected in their foreign policy with regard to China as compared to one followed by the previous Government? There was a mass movement in Nepal in support of these demand for de-

mocracy. I do not want that we should interfere in their internal affairs, but we should applaud their pro-democracy activities without any meddling in Nepal's internal affairs. This Government must have a word of praise for the pro-democracy activists. At the same time if it should also warn the King that his leaning towards China will not serve any purpose. We know the various factors on which our earlier foreign policy was based. I was not a Member of this House during the regime of the previous Government. But I came to learn from the news papers and there was also a rumour that tension erupted in Indo-Nepal relations just after a visit of the former Prime Minister's wife to Nepal. That was our foreign policy. The very base of our foreign policy gave way on the return of the former Prime Minister's wife from her visit to that country. Our relations with Nepal turned strained. I would like to congratulate the present Government for their efforts in improving our relations with Nepal gradually. At the same time we should also to commend recent victory of pro-democratic movement in that country. We should congratulate them for their success.

Mr Chairman, Sir, similarly, just now an hon. Member was speaking about our policy in respect of Sri Lanka. In this connection I must say that during the last 43 years we had never behaved in such an imprudent manner. We sent our troops to that country to protect the Tamils but the out came was just the reverse. 1200 of our soldiers lost their lives and an amount to the tune of Rs. 900 crores had tube spent in that operation. I would like to congratulate the present Government for their decision of withdrawing our troops from Sri Lanka and the Government deserves our thanks for its prudent policy. However I am very critical of the previous Government for their faulty and imprudent policy which could be called as quite childish and immature. It was a great defeat in our diplomacy during the last 43 years of our history.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad)
Please ask the people of that country

SHRI NATHU SINGH: I am going to refer to the same thing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to urge the present Government to hold talks with Sri Lankan Government and endeavour to convince them to decentralise power in Sri Lanka so that Tamils may get their due place in the society, their language may get respectable place in that country and settling of Singalese in Tamil dominated areas may be stopped. Besides, our Government should not adopt acrimonious attitude towards LTTE and persuade them to reach an amicable settlement and restore peace in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our foreign policy in respect of Afganistan has been ineffective from the very beginning. The previous Government as well as present Government thought it better to maintain silence over Afganistan problem. Afganistan is our important neighbour and we had very intimate relations with that country. Therefore, we should keep an eye on the developments taking place there and express our reaction accordingly. When we referred to our non-aligned policy our Government did not mention anything about Afganistan.

I would like to say that India has emerged as a big power in the world, therefore, we should have good relations with our neighbouring countries. Once Dr. Lohia said that in cooperation with our neighbouring countries, we should form a Federation. The underlying idea was that if we do not have any problem with our neighbors, we can play an important role in the international policies. Due to wrong policies of the previous Government we could not maintain good relations with Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Like Janata Party Government, the present Government should endeavour to improve its relations with neighbouring countries so that India may play a significant role in the world politics. Today the problem of terrorism has spread all over the world and even the resolution adopted by the United Nation cannot help in curbing this menace until some concrete steps are taken in this direction. We cannot succeed in tack-

ling the problem of terrorism if all the countries of the world do not impose sanction against those countries who encourage and support terrorism. Our Government should take initiative to bring an end to terrorism. We should generate world opinion against it. Besides, with a view to improve the economic conditions of the poor and backward countries, India should endeavour to get interest free loans from the developed countries for them. India should raise their voice. India should take up the cause of the backward and developing countries who are members of the Non-aligned Movement and should raise their voice. Now-a-days, several changes are taking place in the world in quick succession. Russia has changed its policy, so in view of the prevailing circumstances, India should play an important role in the world politics and it should change its foreign policy accordingly.

Sir, I thank you for giving me time to express my views.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, our foreign policy is a time-tested one. It has been proved highly effective and very productive. This policy was formulated by Panditji, moulded by Indiraji and followed, in letter and spirit, by Rajivji.

As a political organisation which has run this country for forty years... (*Interruptions*)

You can ask the question, when I finish my speech. Please do not disturb me.

As a political organisation which has run this country for forty years, our friends from the other side, may find fault with us in dealing with the Kashmir or Punjab issue. But I leave it to the future generation for better judgment. But in the foreign policy that we have followed, I do not think, many of our friends can find fault with us.

Ours is a big democratic country in the world which is behaving in the true spirit as a big brother in this sub-continent. We are

[Prof. K.V. Thomas]

the leading nation to the developed and the under-developed countries. We have been on the forefront to fight against imperialism. We have extended our helping hand to the people of Africa, when they fought for freedom and when they fought for democracy. We have been with Mr. Arafat and the Arab people who fought for Palestine. We have been a force of inspiration and strength to the Arabian countries. It is our labourers who are contributing their mite to build up a new phase of prosperity in the Gulf countries. Thus, in turn we are getting the much needed foreign exchange from these Gulf countries.

The bond of friendship between India and the Soviet Union is getting strengthened everyday. I am sure this bond of friendship is an inspiration to the people of other countries to have a brotherhood of mankind throughout the world. We have been a guardian angel to our neighbors. Our timely help to Maldives has helped a democratic Government to deal with the ruthless mercenaries. Our contribution to the economic development of Bhutan has been always commendable. It is we who helped the democratic forces in Bangladesh in their fight for the freedom and it is we who have helped Bangladesh to build a solid economic front. We means India.

Our nation has followed this foreign policy all these years. For that the Congress Government which has ruled this nation for forty years had made its commendable contribution.

With this background, we have to look into certain problems which we face today. The problem with Pakistan came the moment our nation was born. But unfortunately it is the first time in the history of our nation that Pakistan has the gut and courage to tell in public 'Azadi'. They tell in public that in the budget of Pakistan they are allotting a huge amount to help terrorists in India. It has happened for the first time in the history of independent India. Why? Because there is a

weak government here.

SHRI I.K.GUJRAL: It was weak in 1965 also.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: You were there Sir, at that time—I am not questioning you. You were in the diplomatic force as a man in the Government. I ask you Sir, whether in your life time you have ever seen a Government so weak as it is this time. What was the attitude of Benazir Butto when she came to power? She said, democracy has come back to Pakistan because India has helped. She said, we will solve all disputes with India according to the Shimla Agreement. That was her attitude in the beginning. When did she change her attitude? When the weak V.P. Singh Government came to power. It is the weak V.P. Singh Government which has given strength to Benazir Butto. That is why in Lahore she says, 'Azad'. Who is responsible for that? There are two major forces behind Pakistan. One is the United States. What are we doing in our diplomatic front to find out who is responsible for giving this strength to Pakistan? The arms and ammunition and the financial assistance that now flow into Pakistan is from the United States. What are we doing in our diplomatic channels? Secondly, it is China. What is the attitude of China now? In 1962, we suffered the greatest wound from China. Our nation suffered a lot and then after a long period of say, about 25 years, it is our leader Rajiv Gandhi—you forget about the leader of the Congress Party—who took a bold step to start a new dialogue with China. We started a new dialogue. Now, what has happened? A few days back, we had received a message, a news that China is going to supply missiles to Pakistan. China is going to give the missile technology to Pakistan. Why China is taking a new turn now? Why China is taking another attitude now? What is China doing in Nepal? Why a small nation, Nepal which has always been friendly to us has taken a different attitude now? You have to look into this aspect also.

Sir, there has been a lot of discussion on Sri Lanka. Sir, in the Eighth Lok Sabha, m

when you were the Deputy Speaker, we had a number of discussions on Sri Lanka. It was Shri Rajiv Gandhi who signed the famous Rajiv Gandhi-Jayawardane agreement on July 29, 1987. What was the political situation in Sri Lanka, before signing that agreement? We should not assess things as we see things today. We should think about the period before signing the agreement. What was the situation then? On the one side, the Singalese forces, with the help of the Government forces, were trying to annihilate our Tamil brothers there. The Government forces with the Singalese fanaticism were trying to annihilate our Tamil brothers. The Sri Lankan Government was getting military expertise from Israel. That is one side of the picture. We were unhappy at that time. On the other side, our Tamil brothers were fighting among themselves. There were infighting; there were communal fighting; and there were group fightings. These were taking place in Sri Lanka before the agreement, which my leader signed with Shri Jayawardane. How that agreement was signed? We had lengthy discussions with all the Tamil groups in Sri Lanka. All of them agreed to come to the democratic path and we took Shri Prabakaran into confidence. Then what happened? Our IPKF was sent to Sri Lanka. It was sent to Sri Lanka not to kill Tamil brothers; but to protect Tamil brothers from the Singalese violence and the fighting from the Sri Lankan Government forces. That is why we have sent the IPKF, we should not forget that. When the IPKF was sent there, the assurance, which was given by Shri Prabakaran, was violated by himself. It was Shri Prabakaran who violated the agreement and then to implement the agreement, our IPKF had acted accordingly. You should not blame the army. I am so unhappy when our brothers who went to Sri Lanka had to fight there. They fought as per instructions given by the Government of India. You leave it, whether it is Shri Rajiv Gandhi or Shri V.P. Singh who gave the instructions. It is the Government of India who had given instructions to IPKF. They acted according to the instructions. Let it be right or wrong.

16.00 hrs.

But they implemented the instructions. And when those valiant fighters came to Tamil Nadu, what was the reception given by that Government which is with you now? It is a shame to you and it is a shame to Mr. V.P. Singh. Look at what happened in Sri Lanka. When Mr. Prabakaran withdrew *suo moto* from his attitude, you know what had happened. Now, what is the picture? LTTE, with the support of the Sinhalese and Shri Lankan Government, is butchering all the other groups which are now in the North-Eastern provinces. They are coming to India in thousands and thousands. What is the attitude of the Government of Tamil Nadu? If it is TULF, they are sending them to Orissa, if it is ENLF they are sending them to Kerala. Is this the way they should act? Every group which is against LTTE is being sent out. They are not one or two in number. They are in thousands and thousands who are coming here. If the refugees are coming to Tamil Nadu or Kerala or Andhra Pradesh or Orissa, then what would be the law and order situation in our country? Is it not a serious thing? Many of my friends are laughing victoriously that we are pulling out the IPKF forces. I am sorry to say that we may have to send them again. This is the Government which has been undoing what my leader had done. You have undone with the 59th Amendment and brought the 64th Amendment.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY
(Katwa): Is IPKF to remain there for ever.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: My friends are victorious that they have brought them back. What is happening now? Thousands and thousands of our Tamil brothers are pouring into Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Why? It is because Prabakaran and Sri Lankan forces are killing people. Is it something on which we should be happy? Is it something on which this Government is feeling victorious? I think this is not fair on our part. Sir, I can tell you one thing. As far as national unity and integrity is concerned, we are with you. We

[Prof. K.V. Thomas]

are giving our full support to you whether it is Kashmir, Punjab, Sri Lanka or Assam. Why do you want to run away by saying that it is a national consensus? We are giving our constructive support. When my friends who are now sitting on that side, were sitting on this side of the House, we have seen that the House could not be run for many days. You did not allow the House to be run. But we have not done so. We are giving full constructive support to you. Now, it is your duty. Even after 140 days of this Government, don't say that this has happened during the time of the Congress. It is for you to act now and it is your duty now. Foreign policy of India had been appreciated by my friends sitting on that side, viz., the CPI and CPI(M) Members. I do not think that they will blame it. Sometimes, the BJP may blame it. This is a field where we have got a solid base. The foreign policy of India has been formulated by our leader, Nehru, moulded by Indiraji and followed by Rajivji. It has been successful in letter and spirit and friends from CPI and CPI(M) have congratulated our leaders for that. Our friendship with Soviet Union is something on which we should cherish. My humble request to the Government is that this foreign policy which has been founded, well formulated and well moulded, should not be destroyed. The foreign policy should be preserved. India has been giving leadership to all the non-aligned countries, underdeveloped countries and other developing countries. We should continue to give our leadership to other countries and whether that leadership is given by Mr. V.P. Singh or any other person, we do not mind. Whoever is the Prime Minister, we will give full constructive support to him as far as this foreign policy is concerned. But my humble request is to preserve this policy and thus keep India's image aloof among other countries of the world.

SHRI D. PANDIAN (Madras North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to participate in the External Affairs matter.

At the very outset, I want to appeal, to the hon. Members sitting on the other side about this thing. We are discussing about external affairs and particularly about our foreign policy which has been popularly described as non-alignment policy. From the dawn of the freedom of India this policy has been acclaimed all over the world. Though we differ very bitterly on our domestic policies, on foreign affair matters there have been consensus and wide support. Our foreign policy has won acclamation from all over the world which has helped to enhance the prestige of India. So, let us not forget it simply because we have petty prejudices against a particular leader or against a particular party. Don't throw the baby with the tub. Otherwise, you will be watering down the policy which is a time tested policy; which has been approved beyond don't and which has helped India in the world forum. Whenever a small or big country had been in difficulty or had been oppressed, they had looked to India for the fraternal help and guidance and India's voice was heard and respected. If you make any tinkering in that, you will be tinkering with the prestige of India. You will be demeaning our own prestige and will be weakening the strength of India.

So, I would appeal to the Hon. External Affairs Minister to keep note of the whole track from 1947 to 1990. When I was listening to the Hon. Member from the other side who was lending support to this Government, I was really baffled and pained-sometimes when we hear the utterances from the hon. Members from the other side about Tamil Nadu and about Sri Lanka we are forced to feel that the hon. Members coming from North India are not able to understand our feelings and our problems. Please do not create any such impression in the minds of the people coming from South India. When we are talking about a serious problem such as Sri Lanka, you must know the whole history and you must at least have the minimum respect to the people who are coming from Tamil Nadu. When I say this, I say it with pain because only the wearer of the shoe knows where it pinches, You look only at the

polished side of my shoe. But coming from Tamil Nadu, I know fully well that Sri Lanka problem is not a creation of any leader here. The ethnic problem is not the creation of a particular leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The ethnic problem in Sri Lanka started even before the birth of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. You must know this. Please don't distort these historical facts to suit and help the interest of some other country which is inimical to India.

In this ethnic problem, the Tamils of Sri Lanka have been suffering for the last 40 years and India has been lending moral support to them. But what has happened? Many a time, our Government has tried to persuade them to settle the problem amicably, to solve this problem as their internal problem. We have never interfered in their internal affairs though we are directly involved with them, because though it is separated by the Pak Straits many families still have marriages on the other side. So, we are interlinked with each other.

During the time of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Prime Minister Shrimati Bandaranaike came here and there was an agreement to settle that problem amicably. There are two types of Tamils in Sri Lanka—that at least you must know—though they speak the same language. There are Tamil people of Indian origin and Tamils born in Sri Lanka itself. These two are different. So, when Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri with all his statesmanship and kind heartedness entered into an agreement with Shrimati Bandaranaike, it was hoped that peace will settle down in that country and the problem will be solved amicably.

But what happened? Unfortunately, nature snatched away Lal Bahadur Shastriji. Then, what happened? Shrimati Bandaranaike was removed from power there, some other Government came to power there. They, then simply abrogated their agreement. Nobody takes it up. Whenever they are in trouble, they seek the help of India to come to an agreement. After some time, they simply bury it. We also forget it. Then,

the problem continues.

In Seventies, the problem cropped up like anything. It escalated. It was simply a geno side against the Tamil people. At that time—please take note of it—all political parties that exist in Tamil Nadu, including the present ruling party, conducted not one bandh but several bandhs to press the Central Government and requested the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi to intervene in Sri Lankan matter for defending the rights of the Tamil people. At that time did any political party raise the issue of a separate Tamil *Ealam* No. At that time, it was said, democratic rights, humanrights must be ensured to Tamils in Sri Lanka. They tried but it was not accepted. Then the refugees started flowing. There was a great influx of refugees to Tamil Nadu. You may be amazed that six lakhs of refugees came to Tamil Nadu. They had to be protected. They were given shelter, school facilities and all that in Tamil Nadu. It happened for some time. But for how long it could continue? Then the acts of armed struggle started taking place. At one particular place, i.e. Batticaloa, people were not given water. There was no electricity. There was no food. There was an attempt made by the Government to cow down the people by making them starve. At that time, the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, not of his own accord but when the whole of Tamil Nadu appealed to him—all the five crore people appealed to him—to send something to those people. He had the honesty and guts to send foodstuffs to Sri Lanka. The whole country applauded that human help. Then, the Sri Lankan Government came to terms and the Agreement was signed.

Now, one of our hon. Members was telling that the Tamil language must be given official status. The Tamil people must be assured democratic rights and all that. This was enshrined in the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement some three years back. It is for that, that Agreement was signed. But was it implemented? Based on that Agreement, the IPKF was sent. The IPKF was sent there, not as an occupation army, but with the consent

[Sh. D. Pandian]

of the Sri Lankan Government. It went there with a missionary role. It did its duty. Here some one got up and said that they killed the Tamil People. Then I can say that our police are killing the Punjabi people, our people are killing the Kashmiri people and our people are Killing the Gujarati people. There may be something right and wrong but our neutrality should be positive. We cannot be neutral between right and wrong. Did the Indian peace Keeping Force kill the Tamil people? Please, refer to the Statements made by the LTTE. They have come out openly. They have done this. When Mr. Amrithalingam, the great Tamil Leader—believing in democracy-invited them for coffee, after taking coffee, they shot him dead, point blank. Now they have come out with a statement by saying that it is they who have killed because he was a traitor. Who gave them the right to describe anybody a traitor and also to shoot him down? You did not say even a word about it. What had happened? Knowing all these things, our country's new Government entrusted the conciliatory talks to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, whom you know did not agree to the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. You entrusted the work regarding its implementation to that Chief Minister. He is partisan, biased. You know that very well...

AN HON MEMBER: He is a wiseman.

SHRI D. PANDIAN: According to the statement made by the Minister of External affairs yesterday, this Government stands by the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. You had entrusted that work to that Chief Minister. Now, an hon. Member of his party says that it is dead and gone. That is your perception. I cannot help you. It is your domestic quarrel. You settle amongst yourself. I am not going to help you. You entrusted the work to such people, forgetting that they do not believe in value-based politics and restoration of democratic norms. Please remember that in the Lok Sabha elections also, the Indo-Sri Lankan conflict and the Indo-Sri Lanka accord were the main issues. What is the result? (Interruptions) Not a single member

of the DMK has been elected to this Lok Sabha. You will not see anyone of them here. (Interruptions) All those who supported the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, all the thirty eight out of 39 were elected, and we are here. When I speak, I speak on behalf of the people of the Tamil Nadu, because this side has the mandate of the Tamil Nadu people, and that party has been rejected outright in the Lok Sabha Elections. (Interruptions) We know your partner better, because we come from that State. (Interruptions) Please listen to me, before you pass your judgement. You have entrusted that job to that Chief Minister. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, please.

SHRI D. PANDIAN: Mr Chairman, I want your protection. I will not take much time. If they have any difference of opinion, they will have the right to state it, and let them pass their judgement. (Interruptions) Please listen to me.

Now a serious thing is happening in Tamil Nadu. When you entrusted that serious national task to such a person, he took a partisan attitude; and thereby created more gulf than he bridged, between the warring groups. What happened? The constitutionally, democratically—elected Government has been kicked out unceremoniously; (Interruptions) and people from the jungles have been brought back. What for?

Now what is happening in Tamil Nadu, must be seen as a corollary and as a fall-out. In Tamil Nadu, film cassettes—whether made or artificially—created, I do not know because in a film, you can make anything; you will not always depict only what happened there—are screened showing horrible pictures, condemning not only the IPKF—please remember this point. This is very essential for you. (Interruptions) I am coming to the point. Please listen to me—but the description says: 'Delhi's Aryan imperialism will not defend the Dravidians and particularly the Tamils. They will send the Army to Bangladesh to bring about a separate country, but they will not send their Army to Sri Lanka to

create a separate Tamil Nadu there. Hence it is imperialistic.' Do you agree with that? Do you want that film to be screened? If that is the perception of this Government, allow it to be done, through your constituent party which is at the help of affairs in Tamil Nadu. (*Interruptions*)

I do not say that that party is doing it. It is allowing it to be done by its fraternal parties and friends. It is an anti-Indian propaganda. What is more worrying is this. Posters and pamphlets are printed in Madras, against India, and then they are taken to Sri Lanka. Can it happen? When a cartoon is published against the Chief Minister, he is arrested under NSA, because the cartoon is so dangerous. Press people are (*Interruptions*) are gagged; but lakhs and lakhs of pamphlets are printed, posters are printed... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: They are against the Government of India.

SHRI D. PANDIAN: That is why it is tolerated. (*Interruptions*)

Five Customs officials were kidnapped last month from the coastal area of Thanjavur; and for a week, nothing was heard about them. After a week, surprisingly they returned to our shores. And the Press people went and interviewed them, asking: 'Where had you been; what was your sojourn' ?— and all that .

They said that they had been kidnapped by LTTE to Sri Lanka. Customs people were abducted. That was the beginning. Then a spokesman from the Ministry of External Affairs had given a brief to the Press saying that arms and ammunition worth Rs. 10 crores were found near Rameswaram. What was the comment of the Chief Minister? He said that arms and ammunition were dumped by the Department of the Central Government to use them against the Sri Lankan Tamils. What is your stand? Should you not correct it? Then two gunmen came to Rameswaram. They were stopped and interrogated by a constable. He was wounded by

the gunmen. Then the wounded constable reported to the Superintendent of Police. Then the Superintendent of Police along with other people came there and apprehended them. At that time, two men opened fire and escaped in a van. The Government said that they could not trace them. I am speaking about the gunmen who came from Sri Lanka and intruded into our territory with impunity. The Government was not able to apprehend them. It was the problem of Tamilnadu. If you treat all these things in a callous manner, after some months you will hear the same news of what is happening in Kashmir. Then you will reach a point of no return. Then you will feel sorry about it. Please do not allow all these things to take their own course; try to stop them. We are giving you a warning. We are not attempting to topple this Government. You be there as long as you can. You came all of a sudden. If you are suffering from some hallucination, I cannot help it. If some invisible ghost is hunting you, I cannot come to your rescue. Let the ghost meet you at the Philippic and you will meet your destiny then. We are also Indians. Don't arrogate to yourself that you are the custodian of India; you are going to defend the freedom of India? We know how to defend it. The Government should take note of it and stop it.

One recipe was given by one hon. member here. He had mentioned about Mr. Vajpayee; when Mr. Vajpayee was our External Affairs Minister, he visited Pakistan. Then the ruler of Pakistan Gen. Zia had said, "If India had had such a Foreign Minister from the beginning, the wall of hatred would not have arisen and all the problems would have been settled." It is a very good recipe that has been given to solve all our problems. It is an instant cure for all the diseases from which India and the world are suffering. But, unfortunately, he cannot be made an External Affairs Minister with retrospective effect to solve our problems; it is impossible; but it is within your reach to make him the External Affairs Minister today and solve all the problems that India is facing. Then India can become a great country and you can go to bed very peacefully. Such simplistic under-

[Sh. D. Pandian]

standing must be given up. You must remember that the world is undergoing tremendous changes. Imperialism continues to remain there. We are a developing country and we have to be on our guard. Don't barter away the rights of 800 million people. We will fight to end to defend this policy and to defend this country. I hope the members from the other side will not take it as an intra-party politics but as a serious, sincere warning in the interest of the nation. I hope, at least, the well experienced External Affairs Minister will take note of it and do the needful.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are certain principles on which foreign policy of any country is based. Foreign policy is formulated keeping in view the national interests and the international situation but framers of our foreign policy try to project their own image. In general, all countries want to have cordial relations with their neighbours but our foreign policy has been to have enmity with the neighbours and friendship with neighbour's neighbour. The new government have been facing the consequences of that policy and we got ourselves entangled in those problems.

We have adopted the policy of non-alignment but sent our forces to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. What we have gained. We have spent Rs. 900 crores and lost the lives of 1200 soldiers and in return we brought hatred and nothing else. Even today more than one lakh people are still worried about their future and their fate is still undecided.

Similarly, if you look at many other problems, you will find that in most cases we have become isolated. You know that a conference was organised by U.N.O. in Kualalampur on Palestine problem and Ambassadors and High Commissioners from all over the world took part in it. Our first Secretary participated in the aforesaid conference and

many reporters of leading news-papers wrote articles on it. An impression is being created that we are not taking that much interest in Palestine problem which we used to take earlier. To counter this perception we can establish a fund for the poor Palestine people on the pattern of South Africa fund. Similarly it has been repeated here time and again that the office of the Israel consulate in Bombay should be closed, but it has not been closed till now and it creates doubts. Recently I went to Saudi Arabia in connection with the celebration of Jashne-Hyderabad. I observed there that the behaviour of our counselor and High Commissioner was quite peculiar. Here we can talk to the Ministers but there we could not talk with them. You might know that at the time of independence, Indian Muslims had no respect in Arab countries but now the Indian, with their nice behaviour and goodness have made their own place there. Today in Arab countries, the Pakistani Muslims are subjected to intensive screening and they are asked to line up in separate queue whereas the screening of Indians is not so intensive. They have made their own place there with their nice behaviour. They have enhanced the prestige of the country. More than 3.5 lakh Indians are living there but now they are not getting as much salaries as they used to get earlier. The money that does not belong to the Embassy has been kept in Banks in Bahrain instead of Saudi Arabia. That money does not belong to Embassy. In spite of so much money, people stayed in the premises of Embassy school in Jeddah so that their children might get facilities there. Only for the 20 per cent commission, the building was shifted to the other side. People are facing difficulties trained teachers are not available for their children. The parents committee constituted for the schools, consists of people whose children do not study in the school. The meeting of this parents committee is not convened even once a year. Wives of the staff staying in the Embassy have been engaged as teachers. You can imagine the plight of those people. Fee has been increased by 40 per cent. They have sent thousands of telegrams and telephone calls to India and even to the Minister to draw his

attention towards their problem. In a Urdu Bazam, they made an appeal but the consulate alleged that they were collecting fund through Bazam for purchasing arms to take them to India. Such a mean allegation is levelled against them. It is a place which attracts all the muslims of the world. Today, when people are toiling hard for shaping the destiny to the nation, our inefficient embassies are doing much harm to the national interest. I would like that strict action must be taken against the responsible officials.

The Haj pilgrims are required to fill up a form and they are charged 20 riyals each for that. Every Haj pilgrim is charged 20 riyals. In India, charge of capitation fees is banned. However, the embassy officials charge capitation fees for the admission of the children. The people of Saudi Arabia tend to pity our condition. What kind of an effect is it going to have on our image? The State of education is miserable. Are trained teachers not available in India? Trained teachers can be provided but it is not done because the wives of the persons working in the embassies have to be provided with jobs.

I would like the hon. Minister to take necessary steps for removing such delinquent officials and replacing them by such people who can bring glory to the country. They are the wrong kind of people and as a result of their deeds, much harm is being done.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will reply at 5 o' clock. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to be as brief as possible.

PROF. N.G.RANGA (Guntur): I wish to congratulate ourselves, our country and our Minister for the achievement of long awaited freedom of Nelson Mandela. We are also glad that now Nepalis are going to have a democratic form of government. It is necessary for the Government of India to begin to think about how the relations between Democratic Nepal and India could be made

better, could be improved and could be taken out of the morass into which we gone during the last three or four months. Secondly, our Foreign Minister is also fortunate in coming into power just when Mandela was released. For a long time they have been fighting and India has been strengthening the African people. It was Mrs. Mandela who was invited to India about ten years ago to receive the Nehru prize for freedom and humanism. I am glad that our Prime Minister was invited and was able to be there to congratulate him along with our former Prime Minister, Rajivji, for the freedom he has achieved after 25 years of incarceration.

Then we have this problem of Sri Lanka. Our friend from Tamil Nadu has made an appeal in such an eloquent manner for a right and careful policy to be followed by the Government of India. It is all right for people to go on criticising why our troops have been sent and so on. Before our troops were sent at the request of their Government, Sri Lanka was obliged to depend upon Israeli troops and Pakistani troops to maintain their freedom in their own country. And if our troops had not been sent, we do not know what would have been the fate of Sri Lanka, to whose hands Sri Lanka would have fallen politically as well as militarily. Therefore, it is a good thing that our troops had been sent. And I wish to express my gratitude and the gratitude of the people of our country for the services as well as the sacrifices made by our troops during the time that they were there in Sri Lanka as I have stated and I repeat it again, at the request of their Government. And I am glad that they have come back now. They are with us. Sri Lanka has to depend upon her own resources. I learn that once again Sri Lankan Government willingly or unwillingly is welcoming foreign troops in order to help it to keep down their own terrorism from the Sri Lankan people and also to keep under control their section of our Indians in Sri Lanka who did not agree with Indo-Sri Lanka agreement but carried on their terrorism. Is that a welcome feature, or development, or prospect? Therefore, the Government will have to be wide awake with regard to this matter.

[Prof. N.G.Ranga]

Then there is China, for instance, who has been pursuing, I think, a very correct policy in trying to achieve peace and good relations between China and our country. But, at the same time we have been ready to assert the human rights of the people of Tibet. For a very long time, from the very beginning, I have disagreed with the Government of India's policy with regard to Tibet, but anyhow, that policy has come to stay. We accept Tibet to be an autonomous portion of China and I hope, our Government—the past as well as the present and the future also—would try to see that Tibetans' human rights are properly protected, and for that we must be always ready to negotiate with China on the one side and the rest of the world, and more especially USSR, on the other, in order to ensure the continuation or the preservation of the human rights of the people of Tibet.

With regard to Arab nations and Saudi Arabia and soon, my hon. friend from Hyderabad has already made a very strong point that our Government should try to spare funds in order to provide schooling for the children not only of those who are working in our Embassies there but also of those of our Indians who happen to work there. We also owe to them this much of satisfaction in view of the crores and crores of rupees worth of foreign exchange they have been able to gain for our country.

Then, Sir, in the United Nations, we have to continue to raise our voice from time to time for the freedom of the people of Africa, especially of South Africa. I am glad that our Government as well as Rajivji have assured them of financial as well as other support, consistent with our own financial position in our country. On the whole, we have been doing well, so far as our foreign policy would continue the general trend of the foreign policy of our country which has come down to us, more or less, as a kind of tradition and treasure during the last forty years because of the foundations laid by Jawaharlal Ji and the improvements made

thereupon by Indiraji. I wish to sound a note of caution in regard to what is happening between China and Russia on the one side and USSR and America on the other. They are coming together to achieve as much of peaceful relations as possible between themselves but these must be extended to the easing of relations all over the world, more especially between India and her neighbours. Unfortunately, United States has not been pursuing the right policy. It is very well known how USA has been hiding Pakistan and Pakistan is developing her own phase of hatred towards India. It is wrong to say that all the people of Pakistan want peace with India and only the rulers of Pakistan are opposed to India. It is not so. It is seen that during the last two years, the Prime Minister of Pakistan talk in one sense and the in armies were behaving in a different manner and the whole of the country on that side has been supporting them. What is happening in Punjab and also in Srinagar? Therefore, we have to develop our relations, friendly, political and economic with Russia, with China and with America in such a manner that while these three great countries, great powers indeed in the world, are trying to improve their relations between themselves and then reduce their expenditure on the defence forces, they would not be encouraging so many of our neighbours to play mischief with our borders, with our border people and then encourage terrorism on our borders and in that way force us to go on spending as we have been spending more and more money on our defence forces. There is a danger in this that while Pakistan need not have to spend her own resources but they can always draw upon American resources and their allies also, their friends and their dependents—China can go on playing her own mischief—we have to depend upon our own poor resources and there lies the danger. I would like my hon. friend, the Foreign Minister, to concentrate, to spare as much of his time and his skill as possible in order to persuade one, two or three, or all the three of these great powers, to see that they have to help us, that they should not continue their policies in such a manner that they will continue to do the harm

that they have been doing during the last 40 or 50 years.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. The present Minister of External affairs had previously held the position of ambassador and has considerable experience in this field. We have much expectations from him. When we had taken up with him the problem of 500 fishermen of our area who had been arrested and put behind bars by the Pakistani authorities for having unknowingly crossed the territorial waters, he intervened immediately and got them released. Therefore, I would like to praise him for his effort.

Several hon. Members have put forward their suggestions. As Prof. Ranga had just been submitting and certain other hon. Members have also submitted that there is a need to streamline the functioning of our embassies abroad and to improve their efficiency. Immediate steps should be taken to educate all people of the Indian origin in the foreign countries through the medium of Indian languages. We would like that they should be imported education in the appropriate environment. Today, no arrangements are there to provide education through the Indian languages. If we are able to make appropriate arrangements for their education in the Indian languages, it will provide much benefit which is conducive to our interest. The officials of our embassies do not treat our people properly. As per the experience of the people who go abroad in search of work, the embassy officials do not treat them properly when they contact them for guidance. In this connection, I would like to request the hon. Minister that in Muscat or in other countries wherever representatives of the Ministry of External Affairs are there, it should be ensured that they look after the Indian interests and work according to rules. According to the experience of some of the hon. Members, when they approach some of the foreign embassies located in New Delhi

for some work, they have to suffer humiliation and insulting behaviour from the embassy officials. They are insulted on the grounds of security and other such pretexts. A number of complaints might have reached the hon. Minister in this connection. Therefore, my request is that at least the people who have some dignity, the hon. Members of Parliament for instance, should be given proper treatment. The kind of treatment which is meted out to the people from foreign country by us should be followed by the foreign embassies in regard to us as well. This is extremely necessary.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had laid the foundation of our foreign policy being followed for the last 40 years. We had enjoyed cordial relationship with our neighbours during the tenure of Shri Atal Behari Bajpayee as the foreign Minister. Our efforts should be to maintain that kind of a relationship. I am grateful to the hon. Chairman for provided me with an opportunity to make my submission. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Mr. Chairman, Sir, before I start, I would like to make a plea to the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister. I do not think our Party had its share of time of one hour and thirty-six minutes which is available today. So, I would be grateful to you...

MR. CHAIRMAN: More or less they have taken .

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : 'More or less' means within hours more or less...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You first speak. After that the Minister will reply.

SHRI INDER JIT: But they walked out the other day and lost the whole day.

-SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : But you got all the time. (*Interruptions*) .

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): We extended the debate on External Affairs only to facilitate them to speak.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Actually, Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not fair because when time is allotted, the appropriate time should be made available to the concerned party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Time is now taken.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like, at the outset, to mention that in the arena of External Affairs I should feel that there no fundamental difference of policy between both sides of the House at least on matters of policy taking into consideration the fact that the Address of the President to both House of Parliament is really identical to what Panditji had laid down, Indiraji had followed and ultimately is really the national foreign policy. However, when one sees the implementation on the field, one is disturbed, to say the least.

Sir, the issue of Kashmir is not a new issue. It is an issue ever since 1947. We had the Simla pact and after the Simla agreement we expected that Pakistan could toe that line at least on an agreement which they voluntarily entered. But as the External Affairs Minister had already heard from the Members earlier, we are all aware that at the highest levels in Pakistan strong inciting statements and speeches have been made. Speeches have been made even on the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir area, on its borders and in fact, in all the major cities in Pakistan to the effect that it is time to start the war for thousand years to recover Kashmir.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): After a thousand years.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I am happy to note that the External affairs

Minister says after a thousand years, but I disagree with him. Even after thousand years, Kashmir will be a part of India and for eternity. I am not willing to give even that little credence of thousand years. I understand that he meant it with all the lightness at heart, but it is a serious matter where one cannot take it lying down over the issue of seeing a neighbouring country's political leadership openly challenging us and we not having any reaction except a mild one. It is not fair, it is not right. Mild rebuffs in diplomatic parleys may be alright, but it is necessary for us to realise that Pakistan is not limiting its anti-India activity or campaign to merely making speeches or merely training terrorists or merely financing the terrorists within India. They have gone much further. It is relevant that the External Affairs Minister takes note of this point. The Organisation of Islamic States is to meet in Cairo in the end of May and early June. We are aware that Pakistan is taking up the Kashmir issue at a very high level and is organising an invitation for the JKLF leader to come and speak at the OIS meeting. Not only that, in addition, they have campaigned not merely on the issue of Kashmir, but saying that they are raising the issue from the point of view of self-determination rights of the Islamic people all over the world by which they will add the Kashmir issue not only to the Cyprus, but also to the Republics of the Soviet Union which have an Islamic population. It is relevant that we understand that we might fall trap to this devious game that is liable to take place unless strong diplomatic efforts are taken to ensure that our Arab friends join us at this moment of crisis, when we have supported them every time the issue has arisen. What is even more unfortunate is to note that Pakistan, today is not only having the courage, but also the temerity to throw the gauntlet at us and we are not able to respond. What is even more surprising—I am sure Prof. Madhu Dandavate would agree with me—is to see that one of the crutches, only this week end has openly stated in a public meeting in Calcutta that it is time for you to bomb the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir area where training of terrorists is taking place. I do not understand why they have to do it in

a public meeting in Calcutta and why can't they do it in private to you. After all, when they want their Governor to be posted there, they get it done, when they want their persons posted at appropriate positions they get it done. They have all the benefit of being in power and it looks like they are having all the benefit of being exactly on the border line of power having the cake and eating it and driving as strong a communal line as they can. I am surprised to note that after a statement in a public meeting, when a senior leader of a supporting party gives a call, there is no response at all.

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, what is even more shocking is with regard to Sri Lanka. All of us are aware that the process of solving the problem had started. But today you have a situation in Sri Lanka where the Provincial Council of the Northeast cannot meet, because almost all the members of the Council have actually come away as refugees to India. That is the amount of peace that is left behind in Sri Lanka. It is nice to say that one will not interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. I have said earlier in the House and I repeat it again that the next step, next plan of the Sinhalese Government in Sri Lanka is to wipe out the LTTE. They have planned it militarily and will carry it out militarily. It is not that we are asking the Government to support Eelam. But what I seek from the Government is, what is their plan with regard to the safety, future and justice for the people of Indian origin, the Tamilians who have lived for years in Sri Lanka. There are claims and I think, the claim may be reasonable right, the Tamilians are in Sri Lanka for a period longer than even the Sinhalese in Sri Lanka. Why are they being ignored? Why are they being treated, when they come as refugees in this country, as criminals? The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu refuses permission to them to enter into Tamil Nadu and ensures that the ship is diverted to the shores of Orissa. Ultimately the Orissa Chief Minister has to receive them where the Sinhalese Claim that they have originally come from Orissa. It is most unfortunate to see the situation. Another very unfortunate matter which I bring to the notice of the Minister of

External Affairs is the deal with the President of Bangladesh. Soon after his visit to Bangladesh, we found that the President of Bangladesh had made statement referring to Kashmir as the territory occupied by India. I do not see the reason why there is no stronger reaction yet. Are we now deteriorating, deteriorating to a level of what the Bangladesh President says. Have we reached that stage?

In your report, have not said anything about the Afghanistan Mujahideens training the terrorists who operate in Kashmir? Or, is that irrelevant? Why is it that your report is silent about it? All of us are aware that Mujahideens had been training the terrorists specially in the Pakistan occupied Kashmir specially where the training camps are there. They are sending after converting the committed nationalists into terrorists. The youngsters had been kidnapped and taken there, they are being trained there and sent back as killers and terrorists into Kashmir.

I would like to end only by bringing to the notice of the External Affairs Minister that there is an issue of Cambodia. In Cambodia, it is necessary that the U. N. Administration is put in place till free and fair elections take place ensuring all parties participate in the elections. I think, the Minister of External Affairs is aware of the Australian plan. I would request this Government to actively participate in it. It is not that we should remain out of every international scheme and remain embroiled in only what we cannot even think of managing.

I would like to end by saying that the amount mentioned in the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs is not so much an issue. As much money as they want, they can have. But let them at least not bring down the flag that has been flying high in the international arena. Shri I.K. Gujral Saheb has been in the arena in the past. He has now come back. I request him to ensure somehow or the other which he knows, somehow or the other means not to succumb to communal and external influences.

Thank you.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: You said that the hon. Minister is reply at 5 O' Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Within another five minutes.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the Demands for Grants for the External Affairs Ministry for the year 1990-91. The Sri Lankan problem was being handled in a cool and diplomatic manner by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Madam Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. But the Sri Lankan Government on its part has been oppressing and suppressing the Tamil people, depriving them of their political and electoral rights and also displacing them from their homeland. Our Hon. then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi tried to solve the Sri Lankan Problem by entering into an agreement with the government of Sri Lanka. It is the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu who demanded that Armed forces should be despatched to Sri Lanka to maintain peace for a very long time. He held so many public meetings in support of his demand. When the present Hon. President of India Shri Venkata Raman addressed a public meeting at Madras he categorically asked the Chief Minister to clarify under what circumstances the Indian army should be despatched to Sri Lanka under whose invitation it should be despatched to Sri Lanka and who would be responsible for maintaining the Indian troops in Sri Lanka. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister instead of trying to answer these questions insisted upon sending of Indian army to Sri Lanka. Later circumstances changed and our army was sent to Sri Lanka on the invitation of the Government of Sri Lanka for maintaining peace in that island. Why did we send the Indian army to Sri Lanka? Simply to safeguard the Tamils there, to safeguard the LTTE. After sending the Indian troops in Sri Lanka, the LTTE had gone back on their

words and attacked the Indian troops. We lost so many lives. There was considerable damage to the materials possessed by Indian army. Our mission was to disarm the armed Tamil factions in Sri Lanka. Our mission was not to kill Tamilians but to protect them even at the cost of the lives of the Indian Soldiers. More than one thousand two hundred Indian soldiers have lost their lives. More than three thousand Indian soldiers were injured. Two Thousand Crores have so far been spent on this mission. However, our task was not appreciated by the Sri Government and our forces have been asked to withdraw so disrespectfully. Today we have withdrawn our forces. What should be our next action. There are large number of Tamilians at peril in Sri Lanka. Who will safeguard their lives and property? More than 1 lakh refugees are in Tamil Nadu alone. More than Twenty Thousand refugees are without shelter and seeking refuge in India and they are unable to accommodate themselves either in Orissa or in Kerala or in Maharashtra, or elsewhere. Who has created this situation? The present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has managed to play his game of toppling the duly elected government of Shri Vardha Raja Perumal in the North Eastern Province of Sri Lanka. This is a very serious situation which he has created. The Hon'ble External Affairs Minister must take serious note of the situation. He must take efforts to recoup from the Sri Lankan Government the total cost we incurred on the IPKF when it was stationed in Sri Lanka. They should also demand from the Sri Lankan Government funds for compensating the lives and property lost by the IPKF in Sri Lanka. A large number of soldiers in the IPKF belonged to North Arcot District of Tamil Nadu which is my constituency. Efforts must be taken to rehabilitate the families of the soldiers who had been the victims of LTTE attacks in Sri Lanka. Their children's education should be taken care of.

17. 10 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, the most atrocious attack on the part of the present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Mr. Karuna Nidhi was to boycott the reception of IPKF at Madras. Whether this party is in power or that party is in power, the army is the same. The army symbolises the unity and integrity of the country. The army symbolises the dignity and honour of the nation. The same army is doing commendable role in maintaining peace in Punjab and Kashmir. Such an army should not have been disrespected by the Chief Minister. The Prime Minister the Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, however, gave due respect to returning IPKF. However, the Chief Minister has failed to honour the IPKF.

Hon'ble Sh. K.V. Thomas very rightly pointed out the reasons for Benazir Bhutto provoking us and supporting the separatist tendencies in Punjab and Kashmir. It has deep meaning. The situation has been created only after the assumption of V.P. Singh's Government because his Government is supported by fundamentalists like BJP and athiests like communists. The neighbours are now in a grip of fear as to what would happen in their own country if this coalition is allowed to rule from Delhi. This fear should be dispelled.

Let them search their hearts and say whether after the assumption of V.P. Singh's Ministry our prestige in the eyes of the world has gone up or down? Even small neighbours are today trying to frighten us because we are having a weak government here and particularly, the Muslim world is keenly watching us.

The Hon. Prime Minister the Hon. External Affairs Minister should create a climate of credibility in the minds of our muslim neighbours and other small neighbours. Ceylon problem has been hanging fire for a very long time (*Interruptions*) ... No this is our problem. We suffer because of this. Therefore, I must say something about it. Ceylon today is treating us as an enemy. Hon. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi concluded an agreement for amicable solution of Sri Lankan ethnic problem. A soldier who hit Rajiv Gandhi

when he was on a visit to Sri Lanka has been recently released from Jail. This clearly brings out the attitude of the government of Sri Lanka towards India. A large number of terrorists have entered Into India are creating an atmosphere of confusion in Tamil Nadu. There are clashes everyday along the shores of Tamil Nadu between the civilians, Indian policemen and Sri Lankan terrorists. Therefore, Sir, this problem should be immediately resolved.

[English]

SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA (Nagaland): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to speak regarding drug menace in the North-eastern States. Nagaland and Manipur are located all along bordering Burma. And for the last three or four years, trafficking of drugs has been going on. All the political parties in Nagaland and Manipur and other social organisations including Nagaland Baptist church, Manipur Baptist Church Naga Mothers Association; Naga Students Federation etc., and all other sections of people have come out and cooperated with the Government. But still, this drug trafficking could not be controlled because it is being encouraged by Burmese Government. We have lost many lives of young and innocent people. Many young people's life has been ruined. Government also has been going on controlling this trafficking on a large scale. But unless it is taken up with the Government of Burma, it is difficult to control this trafficking, they will not be able to check the entry of drug trafficking.

Drug menace is an international concern and it should be taken up with counterpart of that country. It is a chemical war which is going on in our Burma-Naga border. If a man is shot dead by bullet with the big sound, we all express our concern to that man. But the silent killer, that is, the drug is penetrating in our community, in our houses and in our towns and our people are really worried about it. I would like to have an assurance from the Government. Rather I would like to know from the Minister himself, when he gives reply, what kind of steps is he going to take with his counterpart in the

[Sh. Shikiho Sema]

Burmese Government? I would like to impress upon you that it is a very serious matter in this part of the country. I request you to take up this matter to at least check the trafficking of these drugs in this Burma-Naga-Manipur border.

Thank you.

17.17 hrs.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Communal situation in Gujarat

[English]

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Mr. Upendra to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, in the morning, several hon. Members wanted to know about the latest situation in Gujarat. Though the Business Advisory Committee... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARM PAL SHARMA (Udhampur): We want to know what has happened to the fate of the kidnapped persons because the deadline is over now. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Through the Business Advisory Committee has allotted some time for the discussion on the Gujarat situation later this week, yet for the benefit of the hon. House, I am giving a statement on behalf of the Home Minister about the latest situation in Gujarat.

Sir, Gujarat has recently witnessed a number of communal incidents in some districts. These incidents, unrelated to each other, are the result of the machinations of anti-social elements. The State Government

has taken effective steps against such elements. I would like to re-assure this august House that the sinister designs of communal and divisive forces will not be allowed to succeed.

2. The first of these incidents in Gujarat occurred at Patan in Mehsana district on the 10th March, 1990. A clash between some Hindus and Muslims on a minor issue of black-marketing of cinema tickets led to a communal riot which resulted in the death of 5 persons and injuries to 41 persons. The situation was brought under control by the State Government and peace was restored in the area. On 25.3.90, another communal incident took place, at Baroch, after an incident of alleged misbehaviour against a girl by a few persons belonging to a different community. Anand and Bhalej towns in Kheda district witnessed communal disturbances from 27.3.90 to 31. 3. 90 in which two persons died and 16 persons were injured. Baroda and Palanpur had communal problem on the 6th and 7th of April, 1990, as a sequel to rallies organised in connection with incidents in Kashmir. Ahmedabad which had remained peaceful suddenly witnessed communal tension following a fatal stabbing incident on 3. 4. 90. There was a sharp spurt of violence in Ahmedabad which resulted in 32 deaths and injuries to 126 persons. The total number of deaths in Gujarat due to these communal incidents is 48. 230 persons have been injured in these communal riots.

3. The State Government has imposed curfew in sensitive areas both in Ahmedabad and Baroda. 364 persons have been arrested. Patrolling in affected areas has been intensified. Army columns have staged flag march in Ahmedabad and Baroda. Massive combing operations to detect illegal weapons have been launched. Preventive arrests of anti-social elements have been made. Provisions of Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act have been invoked in some cases. Deployment of police and para-military forces has been augmented. The Central Government has also rushed in additional forces to Gujarat.