

[Shri Khurshid Alam Khan]

I would once again like to very humbly tell my hon. friend that we believe in our self-reliance, we believe in our own capability, we believe in our own capacity and therefore, I do not think we have any inferiority complex when we go and talk to the Pakistanis. Never. Because, we talk to them on equal terms. They can never expect us that we will talk to them with any sense of inferiority. We have no inferiority complex as far as Pakistan is concerned, or for that matter, any other country is concerned. We have our own self-reliance, we have our own views and we have very definite views and we have very definite policies. On the basis of these views and policies, only we will talk to them. I do not know whether they have got the self-imposed superiority complex, they might be having it. But then this is an illusion if they have this sort of impression.

There is this theory that the nuclear weapons have proved deterrent in the case of the two super powers because they have been holding these nuclear weapons for the last 40 years. The rough estimate is that there are about 50,000 total nuclear weapons with the five nuclear weapon States. At the moment, out of this 50,000, about 95% are between the two super powers. But they have not been able to use them against each other. I think, this is the theory which some people say that the nuclear weapons prove a sort of deterrent against each other.

Research proves that even if about 10% of this nuclear weapons are utilised, the temperature of the earth's atmosphere will be minus 40 degree and that will mean, this winter will close everything on the face of this earth.

I would also like to mention here that China is a nuclear weapon State. There are some indications that Pakistan in 1975 in Bhutto's time—when Mr. Bhutto went to China, there was some agreement or understanding for cooperation in the sphere of nuclear

programmes. But after that the Chinese authorities as well as the Chinese news agencies have been denying this fact. Mr. Bhutto has suggested in his memoirs that a nuclear cooperation pact had been concluded between Pakistan and China in 1975. However, we have no other information. As I said, whatever the pronouncements which are being made by the Chinese, they say that they are not interested in any cooperation with any country. They believe in non-preferential of nuclear forces in this region.

Sir, I fully share the concern expressed by hon. Member and other Members also. I admit that very useful suggestions have been made by the two hon. Members and perhaps the other hon. Member will also make this suggestion. Naturally, the Government has to take into consideration the views expressed by the hon. Members in this House or in the other House because the views of the hon. Members have got to be taken into consideration. But as I said, if you ask me to spell out the details of the options that we have. I would very humbly submit that it would not be in the interest of the nation or in the interest of the safety of the country to spell out these options that we have.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Vishnu Modi—not present.

13.00 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION IN UGANDA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KURSHID ALAM KHAN) : As the House is aware, there was a coup' etat in Uganda on 27th July 1985, in which the Government of President Milton Obote was overthrown. Many former Cabinet Ministers left the country or were detained.

A curfew was imposed in Kampala and the country's borders closed. A few days later, Kampala radio announced that Lt. General Tito Okello had been sworn in as the new Head of State. Mr. Paulo Muwanga, a former Vice President has been appointed as the new Prime Minister. He is in the process of forming a Council of Ministers. Uganda's land borders have been opened and the airports are also likely to be opened.

The Government of India has been closely following developments in Uganda. There are over a thousand Indian nationals working in Uganda, besides a substantial number of people of Indian origin. We have been naturally concerned about the safety and welfare of these people. While there has been no loss of life among Indian nationals, many of them have suffered loss of property in the looting which followed the coup but the details are still not available.

It has been our endeavour to render the necessary assistance and facilities to those Indian nationals who temporarily wish to leave Uganda. Towards this end, we have been in touch with the new Government in Kampala through our diplomatic representative in Kampala and the Uganda High Commissioner in New Delhi. We have been assured that the Government of Uganda will make every effort to protect Indian lives and property. The Uganda Government has also informed our representatives that these Indians who wish to leave the country temporarily will be allowed to do so.

As a result of our efforts, about 270 Indians including some women and children have been moved out of Uganda by road into Kenya, escorted by our Charge d' Affairs in Kampala. Assistance was rendered to them at the border by Asian voluntary organisations in Kenya and the Indian High Commission in Kenya.

Arrangements have also been made to air-lift those Indian nationals who

left Uganda and who wish to return to India. An Air India plane has been kept ready on a standby basis and will fly to Nairobi as soon as the necessary arrangements at that end have been completed and sufficient number of passengers are ready to leave.

As soon as the news of developments in Uganda was announced, the Government of India put into operation a task force in the Ministry of External Affairs to follow these developments on a continuing basis and to suggest measures to deal with them, including particularly the safety of Indian nationals. I am glad to say that this measure of contingency planning has proved useful and Indians wishing to leave Uganda have been able to do so. The cases of those who have lost their properties will be taken up through diplomatic channels. Our diplomatic representatives in Uganda and Kenya have attended to their duties with speed and dedication and a sense of responsibility. I should also like to stress that the Government and people of India wish to maintain cordial relations with the Government and people of Uganda, and it is our sincere hope that the recent developments will not come in the way of the traditional friendship between the two countries.

13.03 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM
NABI AZAD) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with
the Tenth Report of the Business
Advisory Committee presented to
the House on the 7th August,
1985.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The
question is :