

the whole House agrees now or later on, whatever the House decides, it will be done accordingly. So simple it is. Don't misquote me. Don't take that liberty.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you come back to Kumbh tragedy ?

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not allowing.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Professor Sahib, you don't listen to me. Already a judicial enquiry has been ordered into that. Now, I have got nothing to do further with that.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. This is my judgment.

*(Interruptions)***

MR. SPEAKER : Over-ruled.

*(Interruptions)***

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : RECENT BOMBING
OF TRIPOLI AND BENGHAZI BY
U.S. AIRCRAFT

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : The Government of India is deeply shocked at the recent bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi by US aircraft. This action which we condemn unequivocally is in total disregard of international law and constitutes nothing less than a clear act of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya. Moreover, it places regional security and international peace in grave jeopardy.

Our Ambassador in Tripoli who has been contacted has informed us that the air strike in Tripoli took place at 2 a.m. Libyan time. Three other centres had been attacked simultaneously by US strike aircrafts, namely Benghai, Benina and Sibi Bilal. In Tripoli the Palace had been attacked together with the old US Maetiga

air base nearby. Some of other places had also been bombed and the casualties are said to include some foreigners. A member of the family of President Gaddafi had also been wounded in the attack on the Palace.

So far as has been ascertained, there have been no casualties among the Indian resident community and all the Embassy personnel are safe. The city of Tripoli is calm and people are going about their business as usual.

According to Naval Headquarters, the composition of US Naval Task Force involved in the operations against Libya consisted of two aircraft carriers which are understood to be the CORAL SEA and the SARATOGA and sixteen war ships along with a couple of nuclear submarines. Eighteen FB 111 Bomber/strike aircraft have been used originating from the US bases in the United Kingdom together with aircraft from the Naval Task Force. They had to take the sea route to reach Libya since France and Spain had not agreed to give overflight facilities. The entire bombing operation lasted for 15 minutes. The Libyans have claimed to have brought down three US aircraft. The US Administration has only acknowledged that one aircraft is still missing.

It may be recalled that Government had, over the last three months, repeatedly urged that precipitate action should be avoided and that problems in the area should be resolved through dialogue and not through pressure. It is most deplorable that these appeals have been ignored and Government finds it reprehensible that a Permanent Member of the Security Council having a primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security has taken the law into its own hands and resorted to measures contrary to all norms of international conduct and the principles of the UN Charter.

As pointed out in the statement issued by Government last evening it is imperative that tension should not be allowed to build any further and immediate steps taken to defuse the situation in the interests of world peace. All concerned should refrain from

resorting to any action contrary to the norms of international conduct and the principles of the UN Charter.

Sir, the Prime Minister as Chairman of NAM has issued a statement which I will like to read in the House first before it goes to the Press.

With your permission, Sir, let me read the Prime Minister's statement :

"India and the entire NAM are profoundly shocked and strongly deplore the US bombings of some cities of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. These acts are sought to be justified as retaliation for terrorist acts, allegedly committed by Libya. NAM has consistently condemned all forms of terrorism, whether committed by individuals or organised by States. In these particular cases, Libya has declared that it had no relationship with the claims made by the USA linking it to recent terrorist attacks and has declared itself as against all terrorist operations like hijacking of airplanes and the murder of innocents. In view of this, the US attacks on the capital of Libya, including the Presidential Palace in Tripoli, are all the more unjustifiable and deserve condemnation on the part of all the members of the Non-aligned Movement.

As Chairman of NAM I earnestly call upon the US and all others to exercise the utmost restraint and not to do anything to further aggravate the already tense situation in the region. The Non-aligned Movement extends its firm support and solidarity to Libya at this critical hour."

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We would like to have a discussion. You can take the sense of the House. The House will agree.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We all agree.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : There is no objection, I think from the Government on having a discussion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We all agree. There should be no objection.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : We will have no objection to the discussion. Some suitable time can be fixed by mutual consent.

AN HON. MEMBER : By BAC today.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : In the mean- while, we will ascertain some more facts.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You fix it as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : We will discuss it; as you like.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Because this U.S. Sixth Fleet which is off the shore of Libya has to be withdrawn.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let the discussion be earlier than further preci- pitation.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : You may come to me and discuss it today.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIYA : All right.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we take up Papers Laid.

12.09 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Indian Telegraphs (Amendment) Rules, 1986

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Telegraphs (Amendment) Rules, 1986 (Hindi and