

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Exactly a year back, a large number of people died this day in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh as a result of leakage of poisonous gas. We want to pay tributes to the departed souls in this House. My second point is that the statement made by the multinational Company Union Carbide has been published in the 'Nav-Bharat Times' today....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is not allowed.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. SPEAKER : You give in writing. You can come and see me. Not allowed. This is not the way to raise the matter.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : But there is a difference between this House and your chamber.

MR. SPEAKER : If you say that I will have to discuss every motion here and then everything will be done here, I am not going to take the time of the House like this. This is too much.

STATEMENT RE : PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO VIETNAM AND JAPAN

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B.R. BHAGAT) : THE Prime Minister, accompanied by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, paid an official visit to Hanoi on 27th November, 1985, and thereafter to Tokyo from 28 to 30 November followed by a short halt in Kyoto. The delegation included the Minister of External Affairs and Shri L.K. Jha as well as senior officials. In Hanoi, the Prime Minister was received by Mr. Le Duan, General-Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam ; Mr. Pham

Van Dong, Chairman of the Council of Ministers ; other senior Ministers and dignitaries. The Prime Minister laid a wreath at the Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh. He also attended a ceremony for renaming a Park after the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi.

Prime Minister accepted the Gold Star Order, the highest Vietnamese Decoration, from the Vietnamese President, conferred posthumously on Shrimati Indira Gandhi in recognition of her great contributions as an "indefatigable fighter for the cause of National Independence, Peace, Solidarity and Cooperation amongst Nations, as well as the growth of the Non-Aligned Movement." He also addressed a large Public Meeting held at the Independence Hall.

The official talks with Mr. Le Duan and Mr. Pham Van Dong were held in an atmosphere of great cordiality and friendship. It was noted that Vietnam and India shared identical or similar views on a number of important international issues. On Kampuchea, the Vietnamese leaders reaffirmed their desire to arrive at an early political solution and emphasised their commitment to withdraw Vietnamese troops by 1990 or even earlier, in the event of an acceptable political solution being found.

Both sides endorsed the traditionally close relations between the two countries and resolved to further consolidate, expand and diversify these relations.

The Second Session of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission had been held from November 23 to 26 in Hanoi, on the eve of Prime Minister's visit. The Indian delegation was led by the Minister of External Affairs and the Vietnamese delegation by Deputy Prime Minister Tran Quynh. The Vietnamese indicated certain priorities in this regard. Agreement was reached on a new line of Government-to-Government credit of Rs. 15 crores, the terms and conditions to be decided subsequently. Previous credits from us have been utilised for the supply of diesel electric locomotives, passenger coaches and wagons as well as textile machinery to Vietnam. It is expected that this assistance will help to increase Vietnam's productivity and export efforts.

**Not recorded.

It was also agreed to extend a commodity loan of one lakh tonnes of wheat over a two year period 1986 and 1987. This would help Vietnam to overcome scarcities caused by serious damage to food crops due to the recent floods and cyclones.

Technical collaboration will also be extended in such areas as small scale industries, rubber and cotton cultivation and processing, dry farming and afforestation of coastal areas. Of considerable mutual importance was an understanding reached between the Oil and natural Gas Commission of India and PETRO VIETNAM for possible cooperation in the exploration of oil in the South Vietnamese offshore area. ONGC will conduct further studies and evaluations in this regard.

JAPAN

During the Prime Minister's visit in Japan, apart from meeting the Emperor, and holding extensive talks with Prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, P.M.'s programme included :

- (i) An address to the Japanese Diet (Parliament).
- (ii) An address to Keidanren which is the main grouping of Japanese Economic Organisations ;
- (iii) A luncheon hosted by the Emperor and Empress in honour of P. M. and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ;
- (iv) An address to the joint meeting of the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee ;
- (v) A Reception hosted jointly by the India-Japan Association and the Dietmen's League for Japan-India Friendship ;
- (vi) A press Conference at the Japan Press Club ;
- (vii) A visit, accompanied by Prime Minister of Japan and Madame Nakasone to UENO Zoo in Tokyo where two baby elephants "Asha"

and "Daya", sent as a gift by late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, are lodged ;

- (viii) Separate meetings with members of the Indian community at Tokyo and Kobe ; and
- (ix) A visit to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan.

An agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Japan on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology was also signed by me with my Japanese Counterpart Mr. Shintaro Abe, followed by separate talks with him. The Agreement provides for the setting up of a Joint Committee to decide upon agreed programmes of action.

The exchange of views between the two Prime Ministers covered bilateral relations as well as international issues of mutual interest. The Japanese Government has agreed to extend a 30 billion Yen (about Rs. 160 crore) special credit for a gas-based power plant, in Assam This would be in addition to the annual Yen Credit of 39 billion Yen. Japan also agreed to assist India in setting up the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Lucknow.

Prime Minister emphasised the need for enhancing cooperation between India and Japan in the economic, commercial, scientific and technical fields, as well as in increasing exchanges in the cultural, educational and academic areas to promote better understanding between the peoples of the two countries. In this regard, the possibility of organising a Festival of India in Japan in 1987-88 and a Japan Week in India was discussed.

Prime Minister's visit to Japan, following as it did, Prime Minister Nakasone's visit to India in May 1984, can be considered as marking a new stage in the consolidation and development of our bilateral relations, not only for the mutual benefit but also for strengthening peace and prosperity in Asia and in the world.