

lunch we, all the Members of the Opposition, made a submission that kindly request the Prime Minister. On behalf of all, we can do it through you. We can catch your eye. But we cannot catch the eye of the Prime Minister. And, therefore, we requested you that on behalf of all of us, you request the Prime Minister to make a statement. We would not be prepared to accept the statement from the Foreign Minister, who has not even gone on tour with the Prime Minister. Therefore, we demand that the Prime Minister alone must make a statement on her visit. We are not prepared to listen to the statement of the Foreign Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Narasimha Rao.

(Interrupts)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please hear him.

(Interrupts)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Narasimha Rao, you make your statement.

At this stage, Prof. Madhu Dandavate and some other hon. Members left the House.

STATEMENT RE. PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND JAPAN

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): As the House is aware, the Prime Minister paid an official visit to the United States from 27th July, 1982 to 4th August, 1982 at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan. On the way back she broke journey in Tokyo for a day at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Zenko Suzuki.

2. The Prime Minister's talks with President Reagan covered a wide range of subjects and were marked

by warmth and openness. They were followed by a working lunch with the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz. She also had very cordial informal meetings with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives and the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. All these meetings were useful in the furtherance of the object of the visit, namely putting forward India's basic policies, obtaining a better insight into the policies and concerns of the United States, and generating greater friendship and understanding between our two countries.

3. Reference was made by the U.S. President to India's commitment to democracy and non-alignment. The Prime Minister emphasised the role played by our economic planning—with its emphasis on self-reliant growth with social justice—in the strengthening of democracy. The discussion of the international scene included an interchange of assessments of the situation in Afghanistan and West Asia, with special reference to Lebanon. They were agreed that solutions could be found only through political negotiations. President Reagan's attention was drawn to India's concern at the increased flow of arms into our region and to our opposition to foreign interference of any kind. It was pointed out in particular that India's misgivings over the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan arose out of past experience of such weapons having been used by Pakistan against our country.

4. The role of international financial institutions in promoting economic development was also discussed. Concessional assistance is needed by developing countries like ours to keep the debt servicing burdens low and to finance investments in areas of social development. These are areas where private capital would not be forthcoming. India had made good use of the I.D.A. funds, and a reduction of these funds from the previously assured levels would upset our planned

[Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao]

programmes. While nothing these points, the President mentioned the constraints of the American budget.

5. With reference to our economic policy, the Prime Minister pointed out that in a developing country like ours it was necessary for the Government to regulate the allocation of resources and channel investments to priority areas. This policy had taken our economy forward towards self-reliance, especially in agriculture, and given it a stronger production base and a more diversified industrial structure. The very advance had enabled us to relax some regulations and liberalize some procedures, without however detracting from the basic framework of our policy. Setting out the role of our public sector from which the private sector had also benefited, we indicated that private foreign investment would be accepted as a vehicle of transfer of technology and promoter of exports. An exchange of visits to look further into the possibilities of economic co-operation has been envisaged.

6. Among other measures agreed upon for strengthening bilateral relations were:

(i) the establishment of a high-level joint committee to expand co-operation in Science & Technology;

(ii) a decision to intensify cultural exchanges, focussing on 1983-84, when there would be a special exhibition of Indian art; and

(iii) the institution of a Nehru Studies programme.

7. Honourable Members would have seen reports that we were able to resolve the longstanding controversy over supply of nuclear fuel by the United States for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station. India and the United States have agreed that fuel for Tarapur will be received from France under IAEA safeguards within the framework of the 1963 INDO-US agreement, which continues valid till 1983. As regards reprocessing the spent fuel supplied for Tarapur, we have reiterated our right to start reprocessing when we deem it necessary. The

Americas side had a slightly different view on the subject. The difference of opinion on this matter is not something new. What is important is that even though this difference remains, the major point of friction has been removed while safeguarding our interests and our principles and ensuring the full and unimpeded functioning of the Tarapur Plant.

8. Apart from the talks with Government leaders and elected representatives, the Prime Minister addressed a meeting organised by the Foreign Policy Association and the Asia Society in cooperation with the Far East America Council of Commerce & Industry and the India Chamber of Commerce of America. She also addressed a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and met various important personalities of the academic and cultural world and of the Press. The spontaneous welcome given by the people of the United States was impressive. Particular mention should be made of the meetings with Indian scientists and business men, who expressed great keenness to participate in the further technological development of the country.

9. While in New York, the Prime Minister exchanged views with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, on the international situation. The Secretary-General expressed deep concern over the growing tensions in the world and felt that the United Nations should be given greater authority to take steps to prevent the outbreak of hostilities.

10. The Prime Minister's visit to the United States at the invitation of the American President took place after an interval of 11 years and was essentially a visit of goodwill and friendship. It served this purpose effectively and constructively. As is well-known, we and the United States have our differences and our perspectives vary on certain issues. However our two peoples share a common dedication to democracy and its values. It is also a fact that India's development pro-

gramme has, over the years, received assistance and cooperation from the U.S. Therefore, the objective during the Prime Minister's talks with President Reagan and his colleagues was, while acknowledging frankly our areas of disagreement, to try to build upon areas of agreement in such a way as to develop a more friendly and co-operative relationship.

11. In a world of great diversities, it is obvious that tolerance of different viewpoints and understanding of each other's perceptions could alone constitute the broad basis for amicable relations and cooperation among nations. As the Prime Minister pointed out during her visit, the development of our friendship with one state does not and ought not to exclude or be at the expense of friendly relations with any other. This policy of ours has been clearly enunciated time and again. We judge each issue on its merits taking into account the interests of our nation and of world peace. There were several indications during the visit that this is being recognised, along with India's role as a factor of stability and moderation not only in our region but also in the broader international context. We hope that Indo-US relations will be informed by this new spirit hereafter.

12. The Prime Minister's halt in Japan was originally in transit, but the invitation of Prime Minister Suzuki enabled her to stop overnight. A keen desire to strengthen bilateral cooperation and work together for preserving peace and ensuring a better life for all characterised the conversations with Prime Minister Suzuki. The Prime Minister was glad to find a good appreciation in Japan of our need for developmental finance.

13. The Prime Minister has invited President Ronald Reagan and Mrs. Nancy Reagan also Vice-President George Bush of the United States to visit India. She also renewed the invitation to the Prime Minister of Japan to visit this country.

11.10 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL AND RESOLUTIONS FORTY-EIGHT REPORT

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we go to Private Members Business. Prof. Roop Chand Pal.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-eight Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions Presented to the House on the 11th August, 1982."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution presented to the House on the 11th August, 1982."

The Motion was adopted

RESOLUTION RE: STEPS FOR REMOVAL OF BACKWARDNESS OF THE NORTH EASTERN REGION— Contd.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up the resolution, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan was on his legs. He is not here.

Now only 11 minutes are left. Therefore, I would ask the Hon. Minister to intervene and then the mover will reply.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The resolution moved by Shri Bajju Ban Riyan has been discussed at length. I am grateful to the Members who have participated and expressed their views.