

12. hrs.

RE QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for privilege motion against the erstwhile Minister of State for Finance, Shri Pranab Kumar Mukerjee for misleading this House on the basis of the.....

MR. SPEAKER : I have got it just now; you cannot expect me to decide so soon.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : You got it before 10.00 O'clock.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not even know what the subject is. I will go through the subject.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : The normal practice demands that a communication should come from your end saying that this has been received and it will be dealt with on so and so date.

MR. SPEAKER : All matters are dealt with.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : You have a huge waste paper basket; I have seen that.

MR. SPEAKER : Not immediately.

SHRI JOYTIRMOY BOSU : The Government has misled the House on four different occasions. Government stated that declarations had been made in respect of the concealed wealth, aggregate amount being Rs. 812.11 crores, whereas actually it is Rs. 200 crores. The Public Accounts Committee has done a good service by exposing the whole thing. Now the House must take care of itself. We refuse to be bluffed. We are bluffed everyday. Why maintain this circus at a cost of Rs. five crores? It is taken for a ride by the bureaucracy all the time.

MR. SPEAKER : Do not take the case for a ride now.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN (Coimbatore) : I have a submission to make. The Railway Employees Federation is having a dharna in front of the Railway Minister's House. I would like him to meet them and discuss matters with them.

MR. SPEAKER : You have not given any notice to me.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN : He is sitting here; why can't he reply ?

MR. SPEAKER : Not without notice to me ?

12. 04. hrs

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER RE. HIS VISIT TO BANGLADESH

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : Sir, at the invitation of the President of Bangladesh I visited the People's Republic of Bangladesh from April 16 to April 18. I was accompanied by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Minister for External Affairs.

A copy of the Joint Communique issued after my visit is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-432 IA/79].

The Joint Communique speaks for itself and I have only to highlight some some of the important items which we discussed and on which we reached satisfactory agreements and to supplement the communique in regard to certain matters. The House will recall that when President Ziaur Rahman visited Delhi in 1977 we had finalised the agreement with regard to Ganga waters at Farakka and also considered certain trade and other matters of economic interest. I am happy to say that during this visit of mine we were able to carry the matters much further.

On the question of river waters while the process of final solutions to our problems by the Joint River Commission would continue we have agreed that he attempt should be made to secure optimum utilisation of the waters not only of Ganga but also of other waters available in common to both the countries. We have therefore decided that Joint Rivers Commission should set up a local machinery to resolve problems of local nature such as construction of spurs on the rivers leading to erosion of banks. It would also take further steps to reach an agreement on sharing of waters of River Teesta and undertake further studies on the problems arising out of its great river basin of the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Barak. I am confident that in this manner we shall succeed in removing some of the more difficult irritants in the relationship of our two countries.

Since the Janata Government came to power, we have been giving special priority to the building up of better relations with our neighbours. I am happy to say that the response to our efforts has been more encouraging than what we could have envisaged two years ago. My experience of this visit confirms it. We received a warm welcome not only

from the President and the Government but also from the people of Bangladesh as was evident from the large crowd of people which thronged the roads in the capital of Bangladesh. I could not but feel that this was evidence of the wide and growing desire for improving relations based on mutual respect and good neighbourliness between the two countries.

President Ziaur Rahman and I both agreed that such efforts in improving mutual beneficial bilateral relations must continue and in such efforts periodic high-level meetings such as this one could play an important role in resolving difficulties and giving momentum to mutual cooperation that must mark a common effort to promote cordial and mutually helpful relationship between our two countries.

With two countries so closely connected because of geography, language, race and culture, it is essential that the people on both sides must share this feeling of enlightened co-existence. In our conversations, we discussed the concern for damage to the process of building and preserving such relationship on account of the circumstances which lead to trade barriers, a sense of aloofness, economic disparities and illegal migrations across the frontiers. It was recognised that if any group of citizens because of cultural or social status should have a sense of insecurity it cannot only create economic problems but also vitiate the atmosphere of cordiality of our relations. Confidence and trust can be built only on tolerance so that all citizens can feel the glow of national progress of their country. I was assured by the President and the Bangladesh Government that it was the policy to ensure equal rights and opportunities of all communities and that efforts would continue to be made to promote the climate of confidence and security.

The difficulties in implementing the land Boundary Agreement were considered in some depth. It must be recognised that we have been unable to complete the ratification and implementation of this Agreement concluded five years ago. At the same time we felt that in some cases such as Tin Bigha the rights and the access of the people living in the areas had to be preserved. We fully recognised the need to settle the problem quickly.

Turning to economic relations, we found that while trade had been expanding it was resulting in a growing imbalance. Both sides felt that efforts must be made to reduce this imbalance while at the same time increasing overall trade. We have agreed to take a series of steps to

provide greater access for Bangladesh commodities to Indian markets. The existing machinery for discussing trade is being strengthened and will meet whenever required.

It was also recognised that certain facilities such as transport and telecommunications between the two countries should be considerably improved to facilitate trade. We will take necessary steps to build up this infrastructure on our side of the border.

We also briefly discussed various possibilities of providing assured and more efficient transport facilities between various parts of India through Bangladesh. Again we hope these facilities will be expanded and made more effective.

As the communique points out we have identified Cement and Sponge, Iron, Chittagong Urea Plant and the purchase of its output by India as problems which could be given urgent attention. For this purpose it has been agreed that discussions will be held by a delegation to be headed by our Industry Minister, Shri George Fernandes and their counterparts in Bangladesh. The delegation would also consider the question of infrastructure facilities relating to communication, transport, power etc. required for the implementation of these projects.

The question of cooperation for the development of Machine-tools, Agro-based rural industries, Mini-Textile, Agricultural implements, Bio-gas projects and other small scale industries were discussed and it was agreed that in these fields collaboration between the two countries could be forged and we could extend our helping hand to Bangladesh Government for securing the economic development of their country. An important gain is the agreement to promote Joint Ventures and consequently to negotiate expeditiously an agreement for avoidance of double taxation.

In order to meet certain difficulties immediately faced by Bangladesh, in response to their request we have agreed to provide them immediately with 200,000 tons of foodgrains. The details of this transaction are being discussed. It is, however, anticipated that a large proportion of these foodgrains will be returned to us in kind.

Consistent with our policy to improve our relations with the neighbours I am encouraged to think that in Bangladesh not only have we succeeded in extending the range and quality of cooperation but also in giving it more meaning and content. I am also happy to convey to this House the assurance of the President

of Bangladesh that there would be no question of giving any assistance to the Mizos National Front. We both have agreed that local machinery would be set up to ensure that both sides make adequate arrangements to deal with any troublesome elements which may create border problems in that area.

By a happy coincidence I not only visited Bangladesh on the anniversary of the declaration of the Republic of Bangladesh but also as their first official guest after Government responsible to the newly elected Parliament had been sworn in. The House will notice that the visit gave me several opportunities to discuss with the President and Ministers of the Government of Bangladesh a very wide range of bilateral subjects and also to exchange views on the regional and international situation.

Finally I would like to place on record my feeling of gratitude to President Zaur Rahman and the members of his Government for the cordiality, friendship and spirit of understanding which they displayed during the entire visit and the hospitality extended to us. I have also extended an invitation to President Zaur Rahman and Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman to visit us and will be looking forward to welcoming them as our guests.

12.30 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE FOR 1979-80 AND OF DEPTT OF CULTURE FOR 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRI DHANNA SINGH GULSHAN) : On behalf of Dr Pratap Chandra Chunder, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare for 1979-80 [Placed in Library See No LT-4331/79]
- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Culture for 1979-80 [Placed in Library See No LT-4314/79]

DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION FOR 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation for 1979-80 [Placed in Library See No LT 4315/79]

DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES FOR 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel and Mines for 1979-80 [Placed in Library See No LT-4316/79]

DETAILED DEMANDS FOR GRANTS OF MINISTRY OF LABOUR FOR 1979-80

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for 1979-80 [Placed in Library See No LT-4317/79]

ANNUAL REPORT ETC OF HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LTD, VISAKHAPATNAM FOR 1977-78 AND CENTRAL INLAND WATER TRANSPORT CORPORATION LTD FOR 1977-78, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : I beg to lay on the Table —

- (i) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act 1956 —
 - (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Vishakhapatnam for the year 1977-78
 - (2) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Vishakhapatnam, for the year 1977-78 along with the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [Placed in Library See No LT-4318/79]
 - (3) Review by the Government on the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1977-78