

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEM-
BERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

श्री राज बिनास वासवान (हाजीपुर):
सभापति महोदय, मैं गौर सरकारी सदस्यों
के विधेयकों तथा संकल्पों सम्बन्धी समिति
का 23वां प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करता हूँ।

15.18 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. VISIT OF MINI-
STER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TO
JAPAN AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE): Madam, Chairperson,
in my very first major statement in
this House after assuming the Office
of Foreign Minister, I had placed
special emphasis on recognising the
vitality and importance of Japan—
something which we had been some-
what slow in doing in the past.
Even as I was making that statement
in this august House, word came
from Tokyo that the then Foreign
Minister of Japan, His Excellency Mr.
Hatoyama, intended to visit India in
July, 1977. When that visit took
place, it was decided that the institu-
tion of Annual Consultations between
the two foreign Offices, should be
upgraded to the level of Foreign
Ministers. In pursuance of that deci-
sion, I was very happy to visit Tokyo
at the kind invitation of the Foreign
Minister of Japan, H. E. Sonoda be-
tween the 14th—17th August to inaugu-
rate the first round of Ministerial-
level Consultations between Foreign
Ministers of Japan and India.

This visit reflects the shared reco-
gnition of India and Japan that as
major democratic States in Asia, both
of them have a strong interest in the
peace, economic growth and progress
in Asia as a whole. The primary
purpose of these Annual Consultations
is to try and consolidate our multi-
faceted relations with Japan to the

mutual advantage of our two coun-
tries. It is evident that viewed in the
context of Asia as a whole, India needs
to work for closer understanding and
friendship with all the countries of
East Asia. Japan too is interested in
the reduction of the tensions prevail-
ing in that region and the emergence of
friendly relations between all coun-
tries in that area.

At the talks with my counterpart
we exchanged views on international
issues of mutual interest such as the
situation in Asia, the Middle East and
Southern Africa, Disarmament, Pea-
ceful uses of nuclear energy, the
North-South problem and the Bonn
Summit of industrialised nations and
the non-aligned Movement as well as
bilateral relations between India and
Japan. As for the situation in Asia,
we agreed on the need to reduce ten-
sion and enhance stability to ensure
the more rapid economic growth and
development of the countries of the
region. It was felt that Japan and
India could cooperate in various fields
towards this end.

My Visit to Tokyo coincided with
the conclusion of the Treaty of peace
and Friendship between Japan and
China, with Foreign Minister Sonoda
having returned to Tokyo only a day
prior to my own arrival there, after
having signed the Treaty in Peking
on 12th August, 1978. Mr. Sonoda
gave me a background to the negotia-
tions and the Treaty. We noted from
his remarks that it records the pledge
of the two countries to establish
friendly relations between Japan and
China on the basis of the well-known
principles of peaceful co-existence
and the U. N. Charter. He also drew
my attention to the specific Article
in the Treaty laying down that the
Treaty shall not affect the position
of either contracting party regarding
its relations with third countries.
The Japanese side particularly ex-
plained to us that the controversial
clause relating to hegemony should
be read in this context. One may
note the statement by Prime Mini-
ster Take Fukuda made on August