

(c) to (e). Due to the limitation on funds & other priorities, the Department of Tourism is not in a position to offer financial assistance for any of these schemes.

12-20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED REFUSAL BY PAKISTAN TO ACCEPT INDIA'S AID TO CYCLONE VICTIMS OF EAST PAKISTAN

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : Before I read the Call Attention I would like to point out that in the printed form of the text there is a superficial "I". If it is dropped, it will save the time of the House and also that of the Secretariat. It is my humble suggestion.

I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereto :

"The reported refusal by Pakistan to accept aid and assistance directed towards the victims of cyclone in East Pakistan and the reaction of the Government thereto."

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : As the House is aware, the cyclone which struck East Pakistan two weeks ago left behind a trail of unprecedented disaster and death. The Prime Minister made an immediate announcement on the 16th November of an initial and token contribution of Rs. 5 lakhs for relief to the victims of the cyclone. Press reports later indicated that the magnitude of the calamity and the extent of the damage were much greater than was originally thought. The Prime Minister announced on the 19th November that as an expression of our friendship and concern for the people of Pakistan in their hour of distress, the Government of India have decided to raise the quantum of contribution to Rs. 1 crore. This amount was intended to be utilised broadly for the supply of rice, sugar and essential commodities such as medicine, baby food and coal. The Government also offered to

send two mobile 50-bed hospitals fitted with X-Ray and other facilities as well as to make available the services of rivercraft with crew for assisting in transporting relief supplies. Subsequently, the Government of India also offered IAF helicopters and IAF transport aircraft to the Pakistan Government for assistance in transporting the supplies.

We got into touch with the Pakistan Government and mutually agreed arrangements have been worked out about the items to be supplied and the mode of their transport. We have been informed by the Pakistan Government that they do not require the mobile hospitals, rivercraft and IAF helicopters and transport aircraft.

We sent two emergency consignments of medical supplies by commercial airline. Further supplies of medicine, clothing and foodstuff have started moving by road across the West Bengal-East Pakistan border at Haridaspur.

SHRI NATH PAI : Mr. Speaker, when the news of this tragedy that hit East Pakistan reached this country there was a spontaneous upsurge of sympathy and fellow-feeling throughout the country and once taking the mood in the country the government reacted quickly, as was reflected in the announcement made by the Prime Minister in the House. One is, therefore, a little saddened to know of Pakistan's reaction. I think our sympathy was perhaps reflected in the blanket clearance given to Pakistan's military transport aircraft to fly across this country which was in the best humanitarian tradition. There are two developments which hurt one. Firstly, it may have remotely to do with the Indian Air Force being distrusted by Pakistan because the last but one para of the Minister's statement reads :

"We have been informed by the Pakistan Government that they do not require the mobile hospitals, rivercrafts and IAF helicopters and transport aircrafts."

If we read the reports in the Indian press—and the Indian press is not encouraged

[Shri Nath Pai]

to go and see what is happening there; I learn it on very reliable authority—if we read the reports in both Indian and some of the foreign papers, there is an awful shortage of helicopters and when the US Ambassador's helicopter was the first helicopter to reach the affected area, the shortage of food and medicines was so much that he had to run into his helicopter because there was a scamping on the helicopter to get small food packets. I am not condemning them. One can understand the agony through which the people had to pass through when they were marooned for five to ten days without food or other necessities, I am not at all condemning them. But what surprises us is when there is a shortage of food materials, shortage of transport, shortage of helicopters and hospitals we allow their aircraft to fly over us and still the reception from the other side unfortunately seems to be one of suspicion. I quite appreciate, of course the Foreign Minister trying to play down the suspicion which is reflected in the rejection of the spontaneous offer of help.

There is also another aspect. When we are giving aid, assistance and sympathy we are hearing the call of jehad in Pakistan. When we are worried about how to give succour, aid and assistance to the victims of the cyclone in East Pakistan in what is called Azad Kashmir, according to today's paper, the slogan is "Kashmir Pakistan banega", jehad etc. In the light of this, may I know what steps the government is going to take to allay the suspicion in that country? Will the government or the Minister try to convey to Pakistan the remarks of Eric Maria Remarque "Zeit Zo Leben; Zeit Zo Sterben", that is to say, if we want to fight, we will fight, but when we want to love, we love; there is no mixture. Now fear and suspicion vitiates the whole atmosphere. What will the government do to remove this atmosphere of suspicion and to convey our sympathy to the affected people? Will they take it up at the highest level? Perhaps, our Prime Minister can contact their President and assure him that we are not interested in getting some petty little information, when we offer to send our helicopters it is because of our genuine

feeling of sympathy to the affected people. We have to remove their suspicion and give a proper perspective to the aid which the whole country and the Parliament have so spontaneously offered because Pakistan has rejected it on the ground of suspicion of our intentions. So, what do we do to allay her suspicion? Perhaps the issue can be taken up at the Prime Minister's level, or the President's level so that the aid does reach the cyclone-affected victims of East Pakistan.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: On the factual side I have given already all the information. They have agreed to take food, medicines, corrugated iron sheets, sugar, clothing and several other items. About transport facilities, either aircraft or helicopter and mobile hospitals they have mentioned that they have not got the requirements for this. When they are facing this difficult position we think that the better course would be to make supplies of such items as they say are required by them and are acceptable to them. It is on that basis that we are proceeding.

SHRI NATH PAI: What was their objection in accepting mobile hospitals which they undoubtedly need?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I wish I could answer that. I cannot answer why they are not accepting this.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर): वह अगर नहीं लेना चाहते तो आप क्यों दे रहे हैं?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह: इसीलिए तो मैं कह रहा हूँ कि जो चीज वह नहीं ले रहे हैं वह हम नहीं दे रहे हैं।

This is exactly what I am saying. It will not perhaps be proper for us to plead with them that they should take such of those items which they say they are not interested in. If we could leave it at that the matter will short itself out.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE (Ratnagiri): It is said that even in their hour

of need Pakistan would not accept aid from India in regard to medical relief and such other things. But, before we offered this did the government find out whether this kind of medical relief would be acceptable of Pakistan? Because, the refusal of Pakistan has created an unfortunate situation and feeling in India. So, in view of all the diplomatic channels which are open to the country, it would have been better if the government had first found out whether Pakistan would accept aid. Secondly, it is a well-known fact that Pakistan has defence agreements with three countries-USA, USSR and a secret agreement with China and we are faced with a very difficult position on our eastern borders. Has the government made any enquiries as to whether in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta and the islands which have been badly affected there is any kind of actual evidence of the secret defence agreement which exists between Pakistan and China?

It is surprising that Pakistan should accept the help of British marines and actually have British people working there but should not accept help at this critical time from her neighbour. As I said in the beginning, the thing which really concerns us is that we should have put ourselves in a situation which would create further tension.

My first question, there, is: Why did the Government offer this without first confirming whether Pakistan would accept it or not? My second question is that in view of the critical condition which exist in certain area on the eastern border, does Government have any reason to believe that about the Chinese aid etc., which its being found to be given to the terrorists in the eastern sector, there is any connection with those areas of Pakistan where this cyclone havoc has occurred?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: To put the matter in proper perspective I would like to mention the items that they require and about which there is agreement about our supplying them. These are vaccines, antibiotics, sulpha drugs, food items like chura, dal, mustard oil and milk powder, kerosene, clothing items like lung-

is, saris, cotton blankets, chaddars, and aluminium drinking glasses and utensils and corrugated iron sheets. These are the items which we have agreed to supply and they have agreed to take. The House will appreciate that these are items that are required by common people and these are the items that they require.

It is true that they have indicated that they are not in need of the transport requirements by air, either in the form of helicopters or other aircraft. They have also said that they have got enough of medical people and, therefore, do not require the help of mobile hospitals.

We should view it in the proper perspective and take into consideration those items which they feel are required the most at the present moment. If any particular offer that we have made they are unable to accept we should take it at that and not try unnecessarily to read something which perhaps may not even be there.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE: Why did we offer to send them a mobile hospital?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: In a matter like this when the necessity is there and is pressing, obviously whatever occurs to us as something that would suit them, we make an offer. We made an offer of medicine, food articles and clothing. We also said that we were prepared to help them even in the transport effort. In the course of the talk they said that they would consider it and let us know what out of that they required. After a day or so they conveyed that to us. We should not regard this as something that we have offered something and they have rejected it. In a matter like this when their people are suffering, they have to settle certain priorities. If they do not want to get from us anything that they can easily get from some other source, I think, we should leave it at that.

About the other question about defence arrangements, that is a separate matter and I would plead with the hon. Member not to mix it with the question of supplies. In the

[Shri Swaran Singh]

present call-attention notice we are dealing with supplies and not with defence matters.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : Why did we offer things which they did not want ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : My difficulty is that I cannot answer for them.

श्री शिवचन्द्र भा (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस रूप में यह साइक्लोन पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में आया और जिस तरह वहाँ के लोग पीड़ित हुए उससे हम सब दुःखी हैं। हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के लोग एक हैं और हमें पूरा विश्वास है कि एक दिन हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान का एका होकर रहेगा। यह स्वाभाविक था हिन्दुस्तान के लिए कि ऐसी आपत्ति की खबर मिलते ही वह पाकिस्तान की मदद के लिए आगे बढ़े। उस दिन प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जब सदन में पांच लाख रुपए की टोकन कन्ट्रीब्यूशन का एलान किया, तब, अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप अपनी याददाश्त टटोलें, मैंने ही सबसे पहले इन्टरप्ट किया और कहा कि यह थोड़ा है, इससे ज्यादा होना चाहिए। आखिर, हिन्दुस्तान ने उसको बढ़ाया—वह खुशी की बात है और हमारी परम्परा के अनुकूल है और उसी परम्परा के अनुकूल है जो हमने आजादी की लड़ाई के दिनों में एबेसीनिया और स्पेन के लिए और बा० कोटनिस को भेज कर दिखलाई थी।

दूसरे सन्दर्भ में जो बात मैं रखना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि अब पाकिस्तान, जो मदद हैली-कोप्टर, एम्बर-क्राफ्ट या मोबाइल हास्पिटल के रूप में हम देना चाहते हैं, वह ले नहीं रहा है, उसको ठुकरा रहा है। जब कि पाकिस्तानी हवाई जहाजों के लिये जो हिन्दुस्तान के आसमान से गुजरें, उनकी अनुमति के लिये जब पाकिस्तान ने हिन्दुस्तान को लिखा तो 63 मिनट के अन्दर यानी एक घंटे में हिन्दुस्तान ने उसको ब्लैकट क्लियरेंस दे दी। लेकिन दूसरी चीजों

की मदद के लिये, हैलीकोप्टर या मोबाइल हास्पिटल के लिये कहता है कि हमें किसी चीज की जरूरत नहीं है।

तीसरे सन्दर्भ में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो कुछ भी रिलीफ हिन्दुस्तान दे रहा है, दूसरे मुल्कों से भी जो जो रिलीफ आ रही है, रकम भी आ रही हैं—लेकिन पाकिस्तान का जो प्रशासन है, जिस प्रशासन का हैड एक वक्त में अयूब खाँ था, जिसके ऊपर तस्कर व्यापार से एक करोड़ रुपया बनाने का आरोप है, जो प्रशासन इतना करप्ट है, उसको दृष्टि में रखते हुए हमें पूरा विश्वास है कि हिन्दुस्तान से या दूसरे मुल्कों से जो रिलीफ वहाँ जायगा, वह आम जनता के पास नहीं पहुँच पायेगा, बाडर पार होने के बाद चौथाई भाग भी मुश्किल से पहुँचेगा, तीन-चौथाई बीच में अफसरान खा जायेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के एक नेता—मौलाना भाषानी ने—मंत्री महोदय तो टेलिस्कोप से वहाँ की हालत को देखते होंगे, लेकिन वह तो सरजमीन पर है—एलान किया है कि वे 25 नवम्बर से 29 नवम्बर तक प्रोटेस्ट डे मनायेंगे, क्योंकि पाकिस्तान सरकार कुछ नहीं कर रही है। पाकिस्तान सरकार ने एलान किया है कि हम 40 रिलीफ सेन्टर्स खोल चुके हैं, लेकिन हकीकत में दो खुले हैं। यह टाइम्ज आफ इण्डिया की खबर है, उसने लिखा है—

".....although the Government announced it had set up 40 relief centres on the hard hit island of Bhola, he had seen only 2 of them."

40 का एलान करके केवल 2 खुले हैं यानी 30वाँ हिस्सा। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि जिस तरह आपका प्रशासन भ्रष्ट है, उसी तरह से उनका प्रशासन भी भ्रष्ट है, फर्क सिर्फ इतना है कि आप 19 हैं और वह 20 हैं। इन सब सन्दर्भों में अब मैं चार सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ—

1. इन्होंने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उसमें कहते हैं कि कन्ट्रीव्यूशन का क्वैन्टम बढ़ा कर 1 करोड़ कर दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पांच लाख बढ़ा कर 1 करोड़ किया है, यानी 95 लाख रुपया और दिया है या पांच लाख टोकन था, उसके अलावा 1 करोड़ रुपया और दिया है—इसकी सफाई करें ?

2. पाकिस्तान हेलीकॉप्टर और मोबाइल हास्पिटल की मदद लेने से इन्कार कर रहा है — मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान ने, जो 1 करोड़ या 5 लाख की मदद आपने दी है या एलान किया है, उसको मन्जूर किया है या उसको भी रिफ्यूज कर रहा है ? यदि रिफ्यूज नहीं कर रहा है तो क्या आप यह मदद मैडिसिन, मोबाइल हास्पिटल या दूसरी चीजों के अलावा कैश में भी देंगे। यदि कैश में भी देंगे तो कितना रुपया आप आलरेडी दे चुके हैं, किस अफसर ने दिया है और वहाँ के किस अफसर ने उसको लिया है—यह भी बतलायें ?

3. जो रिलीफ हिन्दुस्तान से पाकिस्तान को जायगा, वह जनता के पास पहुँचे, उसको ठीक रूप से चलाने के लिये क्या आपने पाकिस्तान सरकार के सामने यह प्रस्ताव रखा है कि दोनों सरकारों की ज्वाइन्ट मशीनरी बने ताकि सही रूप में जनता के इस्तेमाल के लिए उन चीजों को पहुँचाया जा सके। यदि आपने ऐसा प्रस्ताव रखा है तो उसपर पाकिस्तान सरकार का क्या रिएक्शन था, यदि नहीं रखा है तो क्यों नहीं ?

चौथी बात यह है कि पाकिस्तान सरकार आपके कुछ प्रोजेक्ट्स को ठुकरा देती है, आपके कैश प्रोजेक्ट्स को तो वह नहीं ठुकराती है लेकिन हास्पिटल और हेलीकॉप्टर के सम्बन्ध में जो प्रोजेक्ट्स थे उनको ठुकरा देती है। लेकिन आम जनता की तरफ से कोई समिति या संगठन बनाए जाते हैं जैसे कि संयुक्त सोशलिस्ट पार्टी की तरफ से एक रिलीफ कमेटी बनाई गई

है और इस प्रकार की दूसरी संस्थाएँ भी सामने आ सकती हैं यदि वे पाकिस्तान सरकार से सम्पर्क करें तो उनकी आप क्या मदद करेंगे ताकि वह रिलीफ मेजर्स को आगे बढ़ा सकें ? इन तीन चार सवालों का जवाब मैं आपसे चाहता हूँ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The entire amount is Rs. 5 lakhs plus Rs. 95 lakhs and Rs. 1 crore.

About the second question we are not paying anything in cash and this amount will be utilised in supplying the articles a list of which I have broadly given in reply to an earlier question.

(3) There is no question of our asking for a joint machinery with Pakistan for the distribution of these relief items. It will not be proper and it will not be practical and we should not give an impression that when we give relief, we want to use it in the sense of having some foothold or trying ourselves to do the distribution which is not proper.

About his fourth question, if the SSP Relief Committee has collected certain articles and if they want to send them to Pakistan, I will be grateful to get a list and I will try to arrange that the list is sent to Pakistan.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : I must congratulate the hon. Prime Minister for the prompt relief of Rs. 1 crore to the cyclone-affected people of East Pakistan on behalf of the people of India.

Sir, the people of East Pakistan have nothing but hopes of friendship with Indian people and they want the relations between the two countries, India and Pakistan, to improve. It is a fact that the Pakistani authorities view this with disfavour and, therefore, they are putting so many handicaps and obstacles against our help to the cyclone-affected people of East Pakistan.

Now, I know they wanted visas for our aircraft crew they refused to give the visas

[Shri Hem Barua]

also. It is a very unfortunate matter that Pakistan is trying to exploit the situation of misery so far as the people of East Pakistan are concerned and they are playing a political game against India because they hate India. Therefore, they do not want these gifts from India on the other hand, about relief work in East Pakistan, Pakistani students and young people held demonstrations in London and Dacca that the relief work is not sufficient. On the other hand, it is also reported that different countries of the world are pouring into Pakistan with relief. In this context, may I know whether in refusing to accept our help, Pakistan has also refused the help of any other country in the world and in refusing our help of two fifty-bed mobile hospitals and also aircraft and riverine craft, may I know if Pakistan has adduced any reasons for refusal and if so, whether Government has gone into this fact or not?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : The only reason that was given was that they have not got requirement of this type of means of transport and we have no intention to pursue the matter further with them. If they say, they have not got any necessity, we should accept it.

SHRI HEM BARUA : You have not replied to my question. I wanted to know whether they have refused help from any other foreign country who are pouring help into East Pakistan.....

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : They have not refused help but they have mentioned certain items which they would require and we are supplying them. It is true that they have accepted aircrafts from certain other countries and helicopters also, from certain other countries.

12.45 hrs.

RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I am raising a question of Privilege. You might have read in the papers today that the Prime Minister has made a statement.....

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed you.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : This is a very serious matter. When the House is in session and when the Commission of Inquiry to go into the circumstances of the death of the late Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya was announced in this very House because of persistent demand made by the Jan Sangh Members, and when the Home Minister himself announced the appointment of the Commission, it is really very strange that the Report of the Commission was not supplied to the Members and yet the contents are being disclosed outside the House.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not a question of privilege.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : At the instance of the House this Commission was appointed. No body can disclose the contents of the report before the Members know it.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप सुनिये ।

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I am quoting from a book.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने आपको समझाया चेम्बर में, फिर भी आप खड़े हो गए ।

श्री श्रीचन्द गोयल : क्या समझाया आपने पता नहीं लग रहा है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इस सदन के अधिकारों की रक्षा नहीं करेंगे तो फिर कौन करेगा ?

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH : The Report has not been placed so far on the Table of the House.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : It has not been circulated to Members.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अखबारों में रिपोर्ट छप रही है । मैं अखबारों को दोष देना नहीं चाहता हूँ ।... (व्यवधान)...