

[Mr. Chairman]

copy of the Joint Indo-Czechoslovak Declaration and other agreements.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Joint Indo-Czechoslovak Declaration, signed to-day, by the Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, on behalf of the Government of India, and Dr. Gustav Husak, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Czechoslovak communist Party and Chairman of the National Front of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, on behalf of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Apart from the Joint Declaration, the following other Agreements were also concluded during General Secretary Gustav Husak's visit:-

"The Third Agreement on Economic Collaboration between India and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and a Protocol on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between India and Czechoslovakia."

Copies of these are also being laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5903/73]

श्री प्रदल बिहारी बाजवेयी (खालियर)
सभापति जी, जो ऐग्रीमेंट्स हुए हैं वे सब रखे जा रहे हैं या एक माध ऐग्रीमेंट रखे नहीं गये ? जैसे कामरेड बैक्नेफ के बारे में कहा जा रहा है व्यापार के बारे में जो प्रोटोकाल हुआ है पब्लिकेशन नहीं किया गया है। इस में भी तो कोई ऐसा ऐग्रीमेंट नहीं है जो सदन के सामने नहीं लाया जा रहा है ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Trade matters are also covered by one of these agreements. There is nothing that is kept away from the House.

श्री मधु लिमये (बांका): रूस के साथ जो हुआ उस के बारे में पूछ रहे हैं।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: I know that this matter was mentioned in the press, and I presume some mention was made on the floor of the House also. I would like to clarify that position. There were discussions on economic matters. While no agreements were signed, in the course of discussions certain concrete results were obtained, for instance, collaboration in the Mathura refinery, expansion of the steel plant and several other matters. The convention has always been that only the agreements which have been signed are published and not the minutes of the discussions. Since it was mentioned that if there is any agreement which might substantively have an economic content or any other matter that should also be placed on the Table of the House, I am examining that aspect. But I would like to say that this is a matter which will have to be clarified with the other side. There is nothing to hide from Parliament, but the correct position is that the minutes of mutual consultations or discussions are never placed on the Table of the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I would like to have one clarification for future guidance. As far as these agreements and protocols are concerned, in the past also many agreements were arrived at, as far as USSR and USA were concerned, and they were actually published and made available in those countries. I want to know whether it has been the convention in our country not to publish them at all, or you are going to take some more time than at a later stage publish them. Since there is a lot of controversy in the press on this issue, a little more clarification on this point would be appreciated.

श्री मधु लिमये: कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष डा० शंकर दयाल शर्मा ने कहा है कोई गुप्त करार तो नहीं हुआ है, लेकिन अगर हो भी जाता है तो वह हम प्रकाशित नहीं करेंगे। तो इस का मतलब क्या है ? इस के बारे में