[Shri Morarka]

Public Accounts Committee, on Audit Report (Civil) on Revenue Receipts, 1965, relating to Revenue Position, Customs and Union Excise Duties.

12.15½ hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House for the week commencing 8th March, 1966, will consist of:—

(1) Further discussion on the Railway Budget for 1966-67.

(2) Consideration and passing of:—

The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

The Delhi Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 1966.

The Imports and Exports (Control) Amendment Bill, 1966.

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Amendment Bill, 1966.

(3) General Discussion on the General Budget for 1966-67.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I at the outset appeal to you in all earnestness that so far as the general discussion of the General Budget is concerned, you may kindly ensure that the discussion starts in this House first and not in the other place? Last year, if I remember aright,..........

Mr. Speaker: That is right. I agree with him. Now, he may go on to his second point.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The second point is a cognate one, connected with that. I had raised it last year also, and you were pleased to say at that time that the matter could not be pursued....

Mr. Speaker: In connection with the first point, I may say that the Government might kindly see that the budget discussion starts here first.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That is how we have arranged.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We do not know what he is going to say there. So far so good, and we are happy.

The second one relates to the issue which I had raised last year and which you were pleased to consider but could not pursue to a successful *denouement* or conclusion, because you said that there was not sufficient time; therefore, I wrote to you in November last about the matter, so as to give you enough time to con sider the matter, and do the needful. Now, I would not like to take the time of the House but only invite your attention and the attention of the House to article 113 of the Constitution....

Mr. Speaker: The Ministries are there....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is a comparatively minor matter. My point is that under article 113 (2), the House is emplowered to discuss all the budget estimates that are placed before Parliament. The budget estimates have now been placed before Parliament, and what could not be done last year, I hope, would be done this year, it being the last year of the Third Lok Sabha more or less, unless something unforeseen happens; and I am sure that you, Sir, no less than my hon. colleagues on both sides of the House, are anxious to ensure that the Third Lok Sabha which bids fair to become historic in more ways than one, and which has gone far enough in laying down valuable traditions and has

established salutary practices and conventions will go even further and see to it that the powers conferred on the Lok Sabha by the Constitution are duly exercised by the Lok Sabha.

The issue that I had raised last year was that you had constituted a committee, I suppose in 1964, if I remember aright, a committee of three, a three-man committee, under the chairmanship of the Deputy-Speaker, to examine the budget estimates of the Lok Sabha or the Demands on account of the Lok Sabha; that was the practice that was agreed to by the entire House; in the absence of or for want of something better which the House could consider or find to be practicable, this was agreed to.

But I had raised the other point then, an equally important point, namely, that the budget estimates on account of Rajya Sabha which under article 113 of the Constitution can be and should be discussed by the Lok Sabha and must be voted by the Lok Sabha under article 113(2) should also be considered by the committee, if not by the whole House, and I hope that the three-man committee appointed by you will this year be able to go into and scrutinise the Demands on account of Rajya Sabha and be able to place their report for perusal before any Member who wants to have access to the report.

I would say one more word before I close....

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that that is much too late again.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I wrote to you in November.

Mr. Speaker: Now he is raising that point. I had appointed that Committee again for this year, because that had to be done before the Budget estimates were framed. That Committee has gone into all those estimates, because those estimates had to be sent for inclusion in the general budget provisions.

So far as the Rajya Sabha is concerned, again and again I have said that it would be very difficult for me now, just at this time, to do it. If the House allows me to just have this last year also pass by, probably new conventions might be established later....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am grateful to you for your guidance and advice....

Mr. Speaker: The new Parliament might have new conventions....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamth: Why not under your aegis. Before I close, I would make a request to you not to treat it as a personal matter. It is not a personal matter in the sense of the Rajya Sabha Chairman being allergic to it. We are not casting any reflection or aspersion on the Chairman or on the Rajya Sabha. It is a constitutional obligation of this House. How can we, having taken our oath of loyalty to the Constitution, voluntary forgo the right.

Mr. Speaker: We will see. I will put it to the House when the time comes. If the House wants to examine it, they might do it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Because last year, you gave us the impression —I may be mistaken—that the Rajya Sabha Chairman was not willing ....

Mr. Speaker: I did not say it in so many words.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamth: ....was not wholly agreeable. I wonder why he should take it in that light. I fail to understand him.

Mr. Speaker: We should not criticise the Chairman.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am not criticising. If this is criticism, I fail to understand what you could say about other things we say in this House.

Mr. Speaker: May I make a request? Let him hear me for just one minute.

I have said that I will put all these things before the House. It is the privilege of the House; certainly nobody can deny it. If the House feels that it must examine it, the House might examine it. So I will leave it to the House. Whatever the House decides will prevail. The House would decide whatever it thinks proper.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: There is one point for clarification. I wrote to you on 24th November about this matter when the estimates were being prepared, not finalised, and then you gave me to understand that this request of mine would be considered. Now you say it is too late......

Mr. Speaker: That was so far as my committee was concerned. I said I will place it before the House and the House might do whatever it likes.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: If they are already finalised by the Committee and then you would place it before the House....

Mr. Speaker: The House can discuss it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is good. I am glad you are conceding the right of the House.

Mr. Speaker: No, no. It is the House's privilege to examine. I can not preclude the House from doing it if the House so wishes.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You have recognised the House's right. I hope we will exercise it.

Mr. Speaker: I will put my own point of view. The House can come to its own decision.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I hope the House will not fail the Constitution.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास): अध्यक्ष महोदय, . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बहुत मुख्तसर में कहिये ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं बहुत थोड़ा कहूंगा । इनके बराबर लम्बा नहीं खींचूंगा ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को ध्यान होगा कि पिछले सेशन में मंत्री महोदय ने सदन में यह आश्वासन दिया था कि हम बीड़ी मजदूरों का बिल बहुत जल्दी लायेंगे । लेकिन बड़े दुख की बात है कि इस सदन को दिया हुआ आश्वासन भी अभी तक पूरा नहीं हुआ और दूसरी चर्चा चालू हो गई । दूसरा मैंने पूछा था पिछली बार मंत्री महोदय से कि अगरबत्ती बनाने वाले जो मजदूर हैं, देश में उनका बहुत बड़ा वर्ग है, जिनके बारे में कोई विधान नहीं है, कोई कानून नहीं है, उनको बहुत मुश्किल से आठ आने और दस आने मजदूरी मिलती है, उसका भी आश्वासन दिया था कि हम विचार करेंगे और विधेयक लायेंगे, तो वह कब तक लाने वाले हैं ?

Shri Buta Singh (Moga): Biri should not be permitted to be brought in this House.

Mr. Speaker: We can discuss everything; we may not do anything.

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी (कानपुर) : मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आपके मार्फत आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि नान-आफिशियल प्रस्ताव मेरे मित्र मधु लिमये जी का एक था जिस पर बहस भी शुरू हो चुकी थी, उन्होंने उस पर

बहस भी शुरू कर दी थी और वह टेक्सटाइल मिलों और दूसरी मिलों के क्लोजर के सम्बन्ध में था। तो टेक्सटाइल मिलें तो बन्द हैं ही, जूट मिलों में भी प्ले आफ शुरू हो गया है और ऊलेन मिलों में भी लाल इमली में, धारीवाल में प्ले आफ शुरू हो गया है। इसके अलावा इंजीनियरिंग इंडस्ट्री में भी रिट्रेंचमेंट प्ले आफ चल रहा है बम्बई तथा दूसरी जगहों में। तो मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि आश्वासन यह दिया गया कि फाइनेंशियल बिजनेस खत्म होने पर यह लिया जायगा। मैं आप से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं, आप मंत्री महोदय से कहें कि दो घंटे या तीन घंटे बहस करने से न बजट आपका चला जायगा न फाइनेंस बिल चला जायगा, तो आप उनसे कहें कि अगले हफ्ते में इस पर बहस हो जानी चाहिए ताकि इसके ऊपर सरकार कोई निर्णय ले सके।

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर): कार्य सलाहकार समिति में यह तय हुआ था कि इन चार विधेयकों के अलावा साधारण बजट के साथ साथ जो पूरक मांगें हैं उनको भी लिया जायगा। उनके लिए समय भी निश्चित हुआ था। अब ऐसा लगता है मंत्री महोदय की घोषणा से कि पूरक मांगों को बाद में लिया जायगा। तो मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अगर इन विधेयकों को लेना अत्यावश्यक नहीं है तो इन विधेयकों की जगह पर पूरक मांगों को लिया जाय और साधारण बहस भी साथ साथ चले।

श्री बूटा सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी, मझे तो एक छोटी सी अर्ज करनी है कि हाल ही में पाकिस्तान के साथ जो हमारी लड़ाई हुई है उसके फलस्वरूप पंजाब की सरहदों पर रहने वाले लोगों की बुरी हालत है। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने और पंजाब सरकार ने भी जो आश्वासन दिये थे उन सब को सरकार ने छोड़ दिया है, किसी को भी पूरा नहीं किया, न उन लोगों को बसाने के लिए, न . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आपका कोई रेजोल्यूशन या मोशन है . . .

श्री बूटा सिंह : मैं चाहता हूं कि इस पार्लियामेंट में जो आश्वासन दिया जाय . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस वक्त तो आप वह उठायें कि जो हाउस के सामने कोई मोशन या रेजोल्यूशन या कार्यवाही हो जिसके लिए उन्होंने इसमें लाने का इकरार न किया हो। और इससे ज्यादा तो यहां कुछ नहीं हो सकता।

श्री बूटा सिंह : मैं मंत्री महोदय से दरख्वास्त करूंगा कि सरकार की तरफ से वह बताने कि कृपा करें . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, टेकचन्द समिति की रिपोर्ट आये हुए दो वर्ष के लगभग हो गये। कल प्रधान मंत्री जी को 200 के लगभग संसद् सदस्यों के हस्ताक्षर भी उस सम्बन्ध में प्रस्तुत किये गये हैं। सारे देश में बड़ी चर्चा है इस बात की। केन्द्रीय सरकार क्यों इस प्रश्न को टालती जा रही है? तो मैं चाहता हूं कि अगले सप्ताह में टेकचन्द समिति की रिपोर्ट पर जरूर विचार किया जाय।

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy (Koppal): I want to enquire from the Government whether they are going to place before the House the Fourth Plan and have a discussion on it before the general discussion on the Budget. It is better to have a discussion on the Fourth Plan before having a discussion on the General Budget.

श्री मौर्य (अलीगढ) : श्रीमन्, लोकर कमेटी के बारे में यहां पर प्रश्न भी आ चुका है। लोकर कमेटी की रिपोर्ट एक महत्वपूर्ण

[श्री मौर्य]

कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है । देश के संविधान के अनुसार जो शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्ज़ के लोगों के लिए राजनैतिक संरक्षण है वह सन् 70 तक है और अगर मैं यह कह दूं कि 67 का एलेक्शन आखिरी एलेक्शन होगा संरक्षण के आधार पर तब फिर लोकर कमेटी की रिपोर्ट का आना और उस पर बहस होना बहुत आवश्यक है क्योंकि डीलिमिटेशन कमेटी की रिपोर्ट भी चल रही है । अगर वह रिपोर्ट इस समय नहीं आती है तो उसका महत्व बिल्कुल समाप्त हो जायेगा ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद): अध्यक्ष महोदय, बहुत नियमों को खटखटाते खटखटाते फिर 193 नियम की मातहती में आप ने मुझ को एक बहस देने की कृपा की । अभी तक माननीय सदन के नेता से उसके सम्बन्ध में कोई भी सतोषजनक उत्तर नहीं मिला है । उनसे हमारे लोगों ने बात की और वह खाली यही कह रहे हैं कि जब बजट खत्म हो जायगा तब ऐसी बहसों की बात सोची जा सकती है । तीन हफ्ते बीत चुके हैं । अब यह इनकी जबर्दस्त बहस है कि भूख से मौत किसको कहते हैं । सदन में उस पक्ष से हमेशा आवाज आती है कि भूख से देश में कोई मरता नहीं है । मैं कहता हूं कि लाखों मरते हैं । अभी मेरे पास खत आया है कि केरल के बालकृष्ण नैयर भूख आन्दोलन से मरे और इलाहबाद के दो आदमी बेनी कुशवासा और मुगनी दर्जी भूख से मरे । इसलिए यह बहस आप फौरन करवाइए ताकि यह फैसला हो जाय कि भूख से मौत किसको कहते हैं और भूख आन्दोलन से मौत किसको कहते हैं ?

श्री दे० शि० पाटिल (यवतमाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आदिवासियों को एरिया रेस्ट्रिक्शन से कांस्टीट्यूशन में जो उनको सुविधा दी हुई है वह मिलती नहीं है । पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट स्कालरशिप विद्यार्थियों को नहीं मिलती है । सरकार ने यह निर्णय किया है कि एरिया रेस्ट्रिक्शन रिमूव किया जायगा । एक साल हो गया, बिल लाने का अभिवचन दिया था, लेकिन अभी तक बिल नहीं लाये । लोकर कमेटी अप्वाइंट हुई । 6 महीने हो गये, उसने अपनी रिपोर्ट भी दे दी । लेकिन वह बिल अभी भी नहीं ला रहे हैं । इस से उनके साथ बहुत अन्याय हो रहा है । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि वह बिल कब आयेगा ?

श्री प्र० प्र० शर्मा (बक्सर) : टेकचन्द कमेटी की रिपोर्ट पर अगले सप्ताह विचार होना चाहिए ।

Shri Warior (Trichur): The Leader of the House was pleased to say that he would get a reply from the government of Madras about Mr. Umanath being permitted to be present in this House. We should get a reply from him.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): We were discussing the Banaras Hindu University Bill and the discussion was suspended when we were very much near passing that Bill. May I know when it will be taken up again and passed? The more the delay, the greater will be the trouble; we are always in for trouble in that place and I feel that the Bill will put an end to some of the problems which are facing us. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Leader of the House when that Bill would be taken up.

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय (दमोह) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में बीड़ी बनाने वाले कारीगर काफ़ी हैं लेकिन वहां उन्हें मजदूरी कम मिलती है तो मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं कि यह बीड़ी विधेयक कब तक आयेगा ? इसी सैशन में उस को आना चाहिए ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : श्रीमन्, जितने सवाल उठाये गये हैं और उन में ख़ासतौर पर डा० लोहिया का सवाल, उन सब का

एक ही जवाब है कि ग्राप जानते हैं कि हमेशा से हाउस में यह क्लिग्रर कन्वेन्शन चला ग्रा रहा है ग्रौर उस का एक कारण यह है कि बजट सैशन में जब तक फाइनेंशियल बिजनैस खत्म नहीं हो जाता तब तक जनरली हम नो डेटिड मोशन या ग्रौर कोई किसी तरीके की रिपोर्ट्स नहीं लेते हैं । ग्रभी हम ने परसों ही तमाम लीडर्स ग्रौफ़ दी ग्रुप्स को बुलाया था ग्रौर उन लोगों से भी हम ने इस बारे में राय ली । ग्राज फिर हम ने सवा तीन बजे मीटिंग बुलाई है ग्रौर उस में सब चीज़ पेश की जायगी । फाइनैंशियल मैटर्स में सब से ज्यादा ज़रूरी यह होता है कि फाइनैंस बिल दोनों हाउसेज में एक खास तिथि तक पास हो जाना चाहिए । इस के साथ साथ डिमांड्स भी पास करनी हैं । लीडर्स ग्रौफ़ दी ग्रुप्स के साथ जो हमारी बातचीत हुई है ग्रौर जो टाइम उन्होंने रखा है उसके हिसाब से भी ग्रभी 8, 10 घंटे की कमी रहती है । कोई भी ग्रन्य काम ग्रभी न लिया जाय सिर्फ फाइनैंशियल मैटर्स को ग्रगर हम शुरू करते हैं तब भी 10 घंटे की कमी रहती है । उस कमी को मेक ग्रप करने के लिए दो सुझाव ग्राये हैं । हम एक दो शनिवार को बैठ जायं । ग्रब दो शनिवार को बैठ कर भी हम उस काम को पूरा करेंगे . . .

कई माननीय सदस्य : नो सिटिंग्स ग्रौन सैटरडेज़ ।

श्री हरि विष्णु कामत : पिछले सैशन में दो शनिवार को हम लोग बैठे थे । (**इंटरप्शंस**)

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : ग्राप ने शायद पहले से कहा है ग्रौर हाउस की भी राय है कि शनिवार को हम नहीं बैठेंगे ।

Mr. Speaker: We have already said that we would not sit on Saturdays.

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : इस के ग्रलावा जैसे हर साल होता है इस बार भी हम ने यह तय किया है कि डिमांड्स जब शुरू होंगी तो हम 6 बजे तक बैठेंगे । (**इंटरप्शंस**)

जैसा मैं ने बतलाया ग्रभी टाइम के लिए हम लोग बिलकुल हार्ड प्रैस्ड हैं बाकी ग्रगर किसी तरह से समय निकल सके तो मुझे उन तमाम बातों पर जोकि माननीय सदस्यों ने उठाई हैं यहां पर बहस होने में कोई उज्र नहीं होगा ग्रौर हम उसे देख लेंगे । लेकिन जैसा मैं ने कहा हम फाइनैंशियल मैटर्स को टौप प्रायरटी दे रहे हैं ग्रौर फाइनैंस बिल को हमें दोनों हाउस से एक नियत तिथि तक पास कराना है ग्रौर उस के बारे में हम कोई खतरा उठाने को तैयार नहीं हैं ।

टाइम की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए शनिवार को बैठ जायं ताकि टाइम मिल जाय ग्रब यह ग्राप को फैसला करना है ग्रौर हाउस को फैसला करना है । चूंकि यह बजट सैशन है ग्रौर इस में हर मिनिस्टरी की डिमांड ग्राती है ग्रौर जनरल डिस्कशन ग्रौर बजट डिमांड्स के दौरान हम कोई भी चीज़ पेश कर सकते हैं, किसी मसले पर भी बहस कर सकते हैं फौम चाइना टु पेरू कुछ भी डिस्कस कर सकते हैं इसलिए भी हम ने नो डेटेड मोशंस को इस के दौरान लेने का फैसला नहीं किया है । क्योंकि कोई भी चीज़ छूट नहीं सकती है । इसके ग्रलावा स्पेसिफिक मैटर्स कोई भी नो डेटेड मोशन किसी न किसी मिनिस्टरी से तो सरोकार रखता ही होगा, हवा में तो होगा नहीं चाहे वह भूख हड़ताल की बात हो, टेकचंद कमेटी की बात हो या ग्रौर कोई भी हो ।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): Will the hon. Minister reply to all the points raised.... (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: He says that all these things can be discussed at the Business Advisory Committee meeting—whether we can find time and arrange for the discussion of these miscellaneous items.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): I want to make one suggestion. If the question is that the House should sit up to 6 o'clock for some days, then I would ask for an undertaking from the Leader of the House that he will keep the quorum in the House.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I think after 5 o'clock nobody would ask for quorum.

Dr. M. S. Aney: I would ask for quorum; you must keep the quorum in the House. Do not depend upon anybody not to raise the quorum. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let us hear the Minister now .

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: So far as Shri Kamath's point is concerned,—that we should have the general discussion of the general budget first in this House—we have already decided, and according to the programme which we are thinking, we will have an opportunity to have the general discussion here, before it is discussed in the other House.

Particularly, we have requested the Railway Minister, and he has agreed,—and your approval has also been taken, because this was suggested by some of the leaders of the Opposition—that instead of taking the railway demands first, let us take the general discussion of the general budget first, and then we shall take up the railway demands, because, it becomes stale after the presentation of the general budget—a long delay of 15 days is there. Therefore, we will have it earlier. In any case, it will serve both the purposes: we will have the general discussion earlier and we will also have the discussion here before Rajya Sabha takes it up.

About the supplementary demands immediately after the general discussion, the supplementary demands will be taken up.

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : अगर समय निकल जाय तो हम उन सब चीजों को लेने के लिए तैयार हैं।

शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और सब उस में आ जाते हैं।

If you have time, then you can take it up.

Shri Maurya: It is a constitutional obligation; it must be taken up and discussed. It is an important matter. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He said that he will discuss it, if there is time.

श्री शिव नारायण (बांसी) : काम के सिलसिले में मैं एक सुझाव देना चाहता हूं। यह आम शिकायत होती है कि कोई कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर यहां नहीं बैठता तो मेरा सुझाव है कि गवर्नमेंट को एक मिनिस्टर विदआउट पोर्टफोलियो बना देना चाहिए ताकि हर समय यहां हाउस में बैठा रहे (**इंटरप्शंस**)

Mr. Speaker: What is this going on? Order, order.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: About the point made by Shri Warior, in regrad to Shri Umanath, we think that we will make some statement on Tuesday, as I have promised.

The Minister of Education (Shri M. C. Chagla): My hon. friend Shri D. C. Sharma asked about the Banaras Hindu University Bill. I have already spoken to my hon. friend the Leader of the House that he should give top priority to it. It depends upon the financial business, etc., and I am sure he will be able to find some time when we can discuss the Bill here. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I would request Shri Satya Narayan Sinha to invite Shri Sheo Narain to become a Minister without Portfolio!

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : यह बिलकुल अलग बात है। वैसे भी देखा यह जाता है कि पांच, पांच कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर्स बैठे रहते हैं लेकिन कहीं उनका पता नहीं रहता है।

12.39 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE.* INDO-PAKISTAN MINISTERIAL MEETING AT RAWALPINDI

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): As the House is aware, the Tashkent Declaration provides for various measures to be taken and various issues to be discussed between India and Pakistan. Both sides have been taking action in fulfilment of some provisions of the Declaration, notably Articles II, V and VII, which relate to the withdrawal and disengagement of forces, the restoration of normal diplomatic relations, and the exchange of prisoners. There has also been partial progress, in respect of the restoration of communications envisaged in Article VI, as also under Article IV, which calls for the discouragement of propaganda directed against the other country. However, for further progress in pursuance of the Tashkent Declaration numerous other issues of immediate as well as of long-term importance need to be settled and as a result of exchanges between the two Governments it was decided that to this end a meeting be held at Ministers level between the two sides at Rawalpindi on March 1st and 2nd.

Accordingly, the Indian Ministers of External Affairs, of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism, and of Commerce, accompanied by several advisers, had a brief formal opening meeting with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of Commerce and of Communications of the Government of Pakistan and their advisers on the morning of 1st March. Thereafter many meetings, formal and informal at Ministerial and official level, were held and a joint communique was issued on the evening of 2-3-1966. I place on the Table of the House a copy of the communique. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-5692|66).

As stated in the Communique, the talks in Rawalpindi were of an exploratory nature and led to useful exchange of views. During their exchanges with the Pakistan Government preparatory to the Conference, the Government of India had suggested that it be held to consider further steps towards the implementation of the Tashkent Declaration. The Government of India had added that, in particular, discussions take place on the questions of restoration of trade economic relations and communications and the property and assets taken over by either side. The Government of Pakistan had proposed that Ministerial meeting should discuss six additional items which were briefly, according to them, the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir, the reduction of armed forces following settlement of the Kashmir dispute, the creation of conditions preventing the exodus of people, the so-called evictions, the Farakka Barrage and the implementation of existing agreements.

Eventually it was agreed that the meeting take place without any agenda, each side naturally being free to raise whatever issues it wished to. At the discussions held on March 1st and 2nd, each side explained to the other at length which issues they felt could most appropriately and usefully be discussed at this stage to achieve the purposes of the Tashkent Declaration. The Pakistan Delegation high-lighted the question of Kashmir, which they appeared to consider as the root cause of all other Indo-Pakistan issues and which had to be tackled if progress were to be achieved in improving Indo-Pakistan relations. The Indian delegation reiterated the Government of India's views on the Kashmir question and explained that, as no useful purpose could be served by discussing it, the Conference should proceed to complete the normalisation of relations in the