

तक सवाल है, राप्ती में जो पहले जलकुष्भी योजना बनी थी, उस जलकुष्भी योजना को नेपाल ने एक्सेप्ट नहीं किया, मंजूर नहीं किया क्योंकि उस क्षे उन का बहुत सा इलाका पानी में डूब जाता। इसलिए उस योजना को उन्होंने स्वीकार नहीं किया था। अब फ़ैसला यह हुआ है कि राप्ती पर भालू बांध बनाया जाए और उस के लिए दोनों साइड्स के एक्सपर्ट्स की मीटिंग एक महीने के अन्दर बुलाने का फ़ैसला किया गया था। पहली मीटिंग हो चुकी है और डिटेल्ड प्रोजेक्ट एस्टीमेट्स इन्हें दो साल के अन्दर बना कर, तैयार कर के देने हैं। इन प्रोजेक्ट्स पर जो काम हो रहा है, उस के बारे में मैंने जिक्र किया है। इस में दिक्कत यह है •••

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take more time.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Yes, I will take some more time.

MR. SPEAKER: Then we will continue after Lunch. We will meet at 2 o'clock.

13.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at three minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call the Minister of Agriculture, I would call upon the Prime Minister to make his statement.

STATEMENT RE. PRIME MINISTERS' VISIT TO BELGIUM, U.K. AND U.S.A.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): With your permission, Sir, I would like to make a

short statement on my visit abroad from June 5 to 17. But it is not so short, if I may say so.

During a short technical halt in Tehran, I met His Imperial Majesty the Shahshah of Iran at his invitation. At the invitation of the Prime Ministers of Belgium, the United Kingdom and the President of the United States, I visited their respective countries. I also addressed the Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly on Disarmament. The Minister of External Affairs, Shri A. B. Vajpayee, joined me in London and thereafter assisted me.

IRAN

2. At Tehran I had a useful exchange of views with His Imperial Majesty the Shahanshah of Iran and briefly reviewed the regional situation in the light of developments since his visit to India in February last. The exchange helped to harmonise our understanding and reinforce our interest in the political stability of and economic cooperation amongst the nations of our region. I am happy to say that we reached a broad measure of understanding on these issues.

BELGIUM

3. My visit to Belgium was the first at the political level since 1972. We have no political problems with Belgium, but the exchange of views with the Belgian Prime Minister was useful and ranged over the problems of Europe, Asia and Africa. In particular, we covered recent events in Zaire and agreed that the problem of security of the area should be left to the Africans themselves, under the overall guidance of O.A.U. I was also received by His Majesty the King of Belgians.

4. In Brussels I had also meaningful talks with the President of the European Commission, Mr. Roy Jenkins, and Mr. W. Haferkamp, Vice-President in charge of External Af-

fairs of the Community, and his colleagues. I urged upon them that as a major trading partner, we do expect the E.E.C. to facilitate trade and resist the logic of short-term problems and restrictive policies. It was agreed that negotiations for the renewal of our agreement with the E.E.C. due to expire next year, should commence at a high level soon. It was also decided to set up appropriate centres for India and the E.E.C. in Brussels and New Delhi respectively.

U.K.

5. I was in London from 6 to 8 June. I had audience with Her Majesty the Queen and we held official talks with the British Prime Minister, Mr. James Callaghan, while Shri Vajpayee had separate talks with his British colleague, Dr. David Owen. We had also bilateral discussions at the official level. I also met the Leader of the Opposition and the Conservative Party, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, as well as the Leader of the Liberal Party, Dr. David Steel. It was particularly useful to be able to meet a cross-section of British Members of Parliament in the House of Commons. In our discussions with the British Government, we covered matters of international and bilateral interest, particularly Southern Africa and North-South economic problems. We emphasised the necessity of avoiding any formula enabling Mr. Ian Smith to perpetuate racist minority rule in Rhodesia by one ruse or another. Our British colleagues assured us that they stood the main principles of the Anglo-American proposals and would strive to bring about a negotiated settlement between all the parties concerned. We discussed *inter alia* the nuclear non-proliferation matters in the context of U.S. Non-proliferation Act of 1978 and in the context of the Special Session of the U.N. on Disarmament.

U.N. SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT:

6. India participated very actively in the Special Session of the United

Nations on Disarmament and I place before the House a copy of my statement before the General Assembly on June 9. I submitted that commitment to disarmament must be total and it was futile to try to secure partial disarmament through a policy of balancing of forces in an atmosphere of mutual suspicion and fear. The Non-Proliferation Treaty has failed to arrest the growth of nuclear armaments either qualitatively or quantitatively, and I proposed that the Special Session should take a first step in nuclear disarmament through qualitative and quantitative limitations and a time-bound programme for gradual reduction of the existing stockpiles of nuclear weapons with a view to achieving their total elimination and mentioned in particular our own commitment to the pursuit of atomic energy and development for peaceful purpose and to eschew any utilization of this energy for explosion. I also emphasised the importance of expeditious achievement of a comprehensive test ban treaty. While the results of the Special Session fell short of our expectations, due largely to difficult attitude adopted by nuclear military powers, we believe that the Final Document adopted at the conclusion of the Session has some positive elements. In any case, we have still the opportunity to raise the residuary issues before the General Assembly.

7. In New York, I called on the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, and the President of the Special Session.

U.S.A.

8. I had two days of discussions with the President of USA and met with members of the U.S. Congress. I also talked with eminent Americans in different walks of life.

9. My trip to Washington was part of my continuing dialogue with President Carter and the U.S. Adminis-

[Shri Morarji Desai]

tration. I was once again impressed by the President's frank, sincere and friendly approach in all our discussions. A spirit of mutual confidence and a genuine desire to understand each other's point of view obtains between us. This, I believe, provides a firm foundation for building mutually beneficial relations between the United States and India.

10. Our discussions in Washington covered a wide range of subjects connected with bilateral and international relations that are reflected in the Joint Communiqué, of which I place a copy on the Table. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2420/78]

11. I took the opportunity to impress upon President Carter and others the obligation of the two main powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, to set an example in nuclear disarmament, a field in which the nuclear-weapon powers had failed to make any significant progress. President Carter gave us a detailed account of the progress being made in their talks with the Soviet Union on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and Strategic Arms Limitation. I found him keen to move towards an early conclusion of Agreements in both these fields.

12. The nuclear issue is no doubt an important point of difference between the two countries. While President Carter explained the provisions of the U.S. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978, I reiterated that we could not be asked to accept full-scope safeguards by countries who themselves have nuclear weapons and who do not accept safeguards on their own nuclear military establishments. I argued that the U.S. legislation sought unilaterally to modify its obligations when we have strictly observed ours. In my view, the United States is obligated to supply enriched uranium to Tarapur until 1993 and cannot unilaterally stop the supplies.

13. I explained our point of view to members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House of Representatives Committee on International Affairs. The House Committee, which had held up its vote till it heard me, decided by an overwhelming vote the next day to clear the consignment of fuel for Tarapur. A few days later, similar action was taken by the Senate Committee. As you know, the House of Representatives has now approved President Carter's executive order for the shipment of 7.6 metric tons of enriched uranium.

14. Neither they nor we wish to under-estimate the difference of opinion on the continuing supply of fuel for Tarapur. However, I have reason to believe that there is a wider and better understanding of our nuclear policy and approach to nuclear co-operation than in the past. We have, therefore, agreed to continue our dialogue on the nuclear issue.

15. I also discussed with President Carter and his two colleagues concerned with commerce and international trade negotiations, the necessity of controlling the growing trend towards protectionism in developed countries. I also referred to the difficulties being encountered in the USA by our exporters of cotton textiles and engineering goods. It was agreed that there was considerable potential for expanding trade and other economic exchange between India and the U.S.A. Accordingly, the U.S. Secretary for Commerce, Mrs. Kerps, would be visiting India later this year to explore the potential. I am glad that my discussions have resulted in the U.S. Department concerned relaxing in their attitude regarding consignments of textiles which had been held up.

16. Naturally, I met members and representatives of the Indian communities wherever I went. They are increasing in size and in the nature of occupations. This raises complex

problems. We are interested in their welfare and commend all efforts leading to multi-racial harmony, enabling them to live in dignity. This demands of our Indian brethren abroad, acceptance of the laws of the land wherever they may be and adjustment to their economic and social environments in keeping with the ancient Indian tradition of tolerance. I advised our countrymen that by their conduct, they should prove themselves to be worthy of India, the country of their origin. In Britain, the immigrant Indian community was apprehensive of a worsening of racial relations. I drew the attention of British leaders to these apprehensions and conveyed to them as well as leaders of the Indian community the need for promoting mutual confidence and harmony between different ethnic groups. This was widely accepted as the best course.

Conclusion

17. I have come away with the impression from the countries I visited that there is a friendly and warm interest in India. There is a wide appreciation of the constructive approach we have made to international issues and to the policy of genuine non-alignment. Our measures to restore and safeguard democratic norms and personal freedoms have been warmly welcomed. There is also an awareness and appreciation of our efforts at economic development, devoting special attention to agriculture and the rural areas. Our desire to achieve self-reliance has been studied with understanding. There is understanding and admiration for the new orientation in our foreign policy. Most leaders felicitated us in the improved climate which prevails in South Asia and would like to see it continued and consolidated. The House can confidently feel satisfied that in a troubled world India's standing is higher and the world would like to see India grow in stability and traverse its chosen paths at home and abroad.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I want to ask a question from the Prime Minister by way of clarification. Only clarification please.

MR. SPEAKER: We will try to find out some time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: (Badagara): We want to have some clarification. I want to have only five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Unnikrishnan, we are trying to find some time. Five minutes will always go to fifty minutes. Each one takes only five minutes. We will try to find out sometime for discussing this matter. Yesterday, the Business Advisory Committee discussed this matter. We were expecting the Prime Minister to make a statement. We will try to find out some time for discussing the matter. Very soon the Minister of External Affairs is going to Belgrade and there will be a meeting of Foreign Ministers at Belgrade. We shall do it after the Foreign Minister returns from Belgrade.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Let it be before that.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Why not before that. We will probably like to share....

MR. SPEAKER: Belgrade meeting is on 23rd. There is no time. We will find out time. Shrimati Krishnan wanted to announce a very happy news.

RE. FAST BY SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR, M.P. FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO INCIDENTS IN AGRA—Contd.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Mr. Speaker, I think you very much for giving me this opportunity.

I have visited the tent where Shri M. N. Govindan Nair is on hunger strike. I conveyed to him the state-