

RAJYA SABHA

***-SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, July 26, 2006 / Sravana 4, 1928 (Saka)

WELCOME TO THE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM BELARUS

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have with us, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary delegation from Belarus, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency, Mr. Gennady Vassilievich Novitsky, Chairman of the Republic of Belarus National Assembly Council of the Republic of the 3rd Convocation.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the Leader and other Members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people, and that their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Belarus. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Belarus.

FELICITATIONS TO SHRI ABHINAV BINDRA, SHRI NAVNATH FARTHATE AND MISS AVNEET KAPUR SIDHU

MR. CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the whole House and on my own behalf, I congratulate Shri Abhinav Bindra for winning the gold medal in Men's ten-metre air rifle shooting, Shri Navnath Farthate for winning the gold medal for juniors events, and Miss Avneet Kaur Sidhu for securing an Olympic Quota place in the world championship at Zagreb, Croatia.

I wish they will continue to maintain their winning spree and bring many more laurels to the country.

MATTER RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Apprehension over Pakistan's nuclear programme

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I want to draw the attention of the Government and the country through you towards an important matter. For the last two days it is reported in the world's news papers that our neighbouring country, Pakistan has earned the capability of making 50 nuclear bombs through one reactor. Our security is in danger. It is a matter of great concern for the whole world. The USA is well aware of this. I want the Government to react strongly over this so that the people of world may know that our country is in a position to protect itself.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Digvijay Singh ji has raised a very important issue. It is important because at this moment, negotiations regarding nuclear agreement are going on with USA. Pakistan is being allowed to do all this. The USA has not imposed any restriction on Pakistan. We are not in a position to understand the double standard of the USA. It is very dangerous for our country as well as this area and at the international level also. What steps the Government of India are taking in this regard? I want the reaction of the Government in this regard.

SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: It has been reported in the news papers that Pakistan will be able to build 50 nuclear bombs every year. Now our security build is in danger with the growing threat from Pakistan and China. I want a clear-cut reply from the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): It has never been the practice that the Minister will give instant reaction or a response like that. This is a matter which requires serious discussions, if you want to have on it.

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): The response from the Government disappointed the hon'ble Members who had raised it. I would request the hon'ble Defence Minister to assure the House that no offence was meant. I don't think he intended the offence.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I would like to submit that it has never been my intention and it will never be my intention to convey any sense of disrespect to this House of which I am the product. I thought that I should speak in a humorous manner. The matter is too serious and it requires structured response from the Government. But, if anybody is hurt because of my observation, although I never meant it, I am sincerely sorry for it.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Increasing incidents of terrorist violence in the country, particularly in the context of recent bomb blasts in Mumbai

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI, initiating the discussion, said : I want the entire House to decide what further action should be taken in order to avoid such bomb blasts unanimously. The most important subject to be discussed today is about the bomb blasts that took place not only in Mumbai but also in other parts of the country. People are not happy with just condolences. They want firm action. Should we forget about the people who have got killed or do we remember them for further action? Can they assure this House categorically that henceforth the terrorists would not dare to throw bombs on innocent citizens? The culprits of 1993 incident have still not been punished.

My question is, what happened to the matter relating to surrender of Dawood back to our country? We have just forgotten that in 1992-93 under the leadership of Dawood, hundreds and thousands of people were killed in Mumbai, and nothing is being done to book them and to punish them. In Mumbai 110 bomb blasts have taken place. Thousands of people have been killed. My first question is whether you are serious in

stopping terrorism in our country. If you are really serious, then, everything can be done. Now, it is unfortunate that the city of Mumbai has become the most dangerous place to live in, and people have no faith that the present Government will be able to do anything in this case.

The Human Rights Commission cannot be more important than the lives of the people. I raised the issue of RDX in this House. I had also mentioned the names of persons who were arrested for storing this RDX. I warned the Government to take notice of this and take immediate action. I would like to know whether any inquiry was made with the Maharashtra Government in this regard. What was done after this issue is raised in this House? Why did the Government not take serious note of this issue? The Prime Minister had said that he had informed the Government of Maharashtra earlier that such incident may take place. Why did the Government of Maharashtra not take action? After the incident, what action have you taken against the Government of Maharashtra? You do not take action because that belongs to your party.

This House is fully in a position to know and ask the Government what is the report that you have received from the Government of Maharashtra, what they have said on what happened and why they were inactive. The intelligence of the Government of Maharashtra is very weak. So, if there is failure of the intelligence in Maharashtra, is it not the failure of the Government of Maharashtra? I am fully aware that the law and order is a matter of the State Government. They might have made a mistake, but, at the same time, is the Central Government not supposed to keep a watch?

I read a statement from hon. Home Minister in Maharashtra that Railways have not provided adequate police force. Mumbai is the only place, where lakhs of people travel everyday by train and the life of all those people is in danger even today. Who is responsible for this? This is not an action by only seven bomb explosions. There is a chain of people behind it. The Prime Minister has also made a Statement that Pakistan must be behind this action. Why not culprits are being found out. It is really not possible to be tolerant. Government take must firm actions.

You want the law and order in Maharashtra. The terrorists feel that they can do anything in Maharashtra. Every time it is not necessary that we should go to the extent of saying that everything Pakistan does and then what happens to the local people who get in activities like killing the police people and we do not try to punish them.

Are you going to take action against those people who are anti-Indians and who give slogans of Pakistan? Is the hon. Minister going to be firm enough on this issue? Otherwise, you may not be able to stop such incidents. When Mr. Bush visited India after attacking Iraq, lakhs of people of the country come out in protest against America. Why cannot again the same people come out against such bomb blasts?

If you want the terrorism to be controlled in the country, then, please try to understand who are the people who do it. My most important point is that those people who did bomb explosions, those who are arrested, against whom the cases are registered, the list of all those people, the names of all those people should be brought before this House. We know that most of them belong to a particular religion or a community. It is a part of investigation. The Government wants to safeguard them because their votes are

secured. Why was the attack made only on the Western Railway. It is nothing but taking a revenge of what happened in Gujarat.

This has not happened all of a sudden. When are we going to be really united? My suggestion to the hon. Minister is that be honest and stick to the truth. If these are the people as I said, they may belong to the Hindu religion or the Muslim religion, I am not concerned. But, you must take action against them. These were all the Acts, whether POTA, MOCA or TADA, these were the Acts against terrorists. I do not know why they were removed. My demand is you make a stronger law which would book the terrorists and the terrorists will also be scared. Your appeasement policy has been responsible for the growth of terrorists in our country. This appeasement policy of the Government must be forthwith stopped and do not think of votes.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: This issue is very sensitive but it is in the interest of the country. In my opinion, terrorism is a ideology. It is a way to solve something and to achieve their goal. Such ideology is being presented throughout the world as an option. This is dangerous for the whole the world. Terrorism always has well - considered aim.

Since last so many decades, we are facing terrorism and are victim of it. We all know that a large part of terrorist violence is sponsored and supported by Pakistan. Pakistan has immediate and long term aims behind such terrorism. The immediate aim of Pakistan is that terrorism will continue in India till the Kashmir problem solve according to their satisfaction. The long term aim of Pakistan is that enemy should be compelled to surrender in front of terrorism. Such an aim is not for conventional warfare but for nuclear war also. It means we should prepare ourselves for nuclear terrorism also. Pakistan will not hesitate to use them. In the near future, we will have to face nuclear terrorism also.

We have to understand the aim of the terrorism and its ultimate goal. If their ultimate goal is to make a Pak-Asia here and they are trying to destroy the culture representing Indianess, then it is a big danger for whole of the country. At the outset, we should have unanimous opinion about the source of the terrorism and the ultimate goal of it. Entire country should accept this situation and there is a need for common consensus. If we feel that such type of terrorism aims to destroy the basic character of India, then it is not a matter of any particular political party or a Government but it is a matter which concerns the whole of the country and it should be looked at in that perspective.

The terrorist attacks are attack on our cultural harmony. The aim of terrorists is to destroy the whole of India. They are infiltrating even in our Army to destroy our security system.

The terrorist attack has an another dimension and that is their infiltration in the North-east sector of the country. Even today a bomb blast took place in Assam. The militant active in the North-east want to divide our country. This is being conspired at the international level. There are about 30-odd countries including India where about 135 terrorist organisations are active. They are attacking on our value system. The terrorist attack on India is a conflict between the idea of Pakistan and the idea of being Hindustan.

If terrorism prevails, half of the world will be under terrorists. So, it is not only a matter of simple communalism but it concerns the original concept of Indian culture, the Hindu culture. So we should consider it seriously.

A point was raised about the home grown terrorism spread all over the country. It is also as dangerous as international terrorism and Pakistan sponsored terrorism. About 160 out of 602 districts in the country are affected with the home grown terrorism such as Naxalities and Maoists.

There is a talk of making a 'red corridor' in India. There is a foreign hand behind these people. It is a dangerous thing that help of terrorists is taken for winning elections. What are the economic and social conditions which give strength to these terrorists? These should be a general consensus in the country to root out all powers and elements fanning terrorism. Another attack by terrorists should not be allowed to happen. We should decide firmly that we would not allow any type of terrorism to grow in the country, the whole country will support you.

MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: In spite of terrorist attacks, the people of Mumbai and Srinagar have proved that the people are not afraid of them and these terrorists cannot break our integration. It is not an easy task to capture the criminals of such a dangerous bomb blast. These criminals should be given strictest punishment so that they do not even think of conducting any terrorist attack. While making arrests in such sensitive issue, innocent people should not be arrested so that these people will help you in arresting the culprits, 42000 police personnel are not sufficient for 1.5 crore people in Mumbai. Police and detective agency should be made agile and alert.

We need to think whether this terrorism is being operated from Pakistan or from America. Which power is backing Pakistan? America took Pakistan, instead of India, with itself in the war against terrorism. When America wanted to break Russia, then Al Qaeda was freedom fighter but when America was attacked, then America declared them as terrorists. From where terrorist organisations are getting weapons?

It should be determined as to what is terrorism, why terrorism surfaces and what benefit the terrorists want to take from it. The biggest culprit is the one who is patronising Pakistan in India. If we will doubt each other in the country terrorists will derive benefit of this thing. If we link terrorism of any Muslim with Islam and terrorism of any Hindu with Hindu religion, it is not a right thing. A few people may be terrorists but the whole community cannot be terrorist. We will think of the progress of our country instead of Pakistan's progress.

If the sight of doubt will be cast on 20 crore Muslim people in the country, then India will suffer more damage than Muslims. We will not allow to cause any harm to our country. Hindus and Muslims jointly can gain success in defeating enemies of the country. Whether terrorists were afraid of POTA? According to the Human Rights Commission report, most of the arrests under this Act were made with the intention of revenge. Same thing happened under TADA. There is need to integrate all the people of India. Only then we will be able to root out terrorism. (*Speech finished*)

Discussion not concluded.

YOGENDRA NARAIN,
Secretary-General.

******Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.**

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SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Increasing incidents of terrorist violence in the country, particularly in the
context of recent bomb blasts in Mumbai - *Contd.*

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: We have been facing terrorism in the past and Mumbai bomb blasts are to it. Terrorism created by strong, aims at target whereas terrorism created by weaker section wants to create panic by aimless incidents for creating terrors.

After Independence Gandhiji wanted to give some relief to Pakistan. People coming to India from Pakistan are representing weak terrorism. When Parliament was attacked, it was said at that time that there would be a deciding war to end the terrorism. Attack on the tower in America is a symbol of weak terrorism.

Today, India and Pakistan are the two nations. But 60 years ago the nations were one and Pakistani people were our brethren. By treating them as our brethren, this problem can be solved. I do not believe in soul. But when the mosque in Ayodhya was demolished, soul of Mahatma Gandhi must have wept. Likewise, when the Indian Muslims in Pakistan were beaten up by saying Muzahir, then the soul of Jinnah must have wept. Virtually, this division has gone against the Muslims either they are in Pakistan or in India. Our forefathers have made a mistake.

I always say to the people who claim to be secular that if you want to end the terrorism, Hindus should learn to adapt with the minorities of India and remove hatred from minds about them and demolish borderline. If the wall of Berlin can be demolished then why not our borderline can be abolished. Hindus living there will get love and affection. Chhatrapati Shivaji, Maharana Pratap or Subhash Chandra Bose are the national symbols of the country. We should not tie them with particular areas and

regions. Bhiwandi has come into the picture now. We should not defame all of them living there. People have gone there to earn their livelihood.

In a democratic State, we the Members of Parliament, want votes. We should not go out of extent for seeking votes. Terrorist activities have increased now-a-days not only India but in Pakistan also. Today George Bush has become the symbol of State terrorism. We have welcomed George Bush and Pakistan has also welcomed him. I think this is the reason for increasing terrorist activities. On Iraq issue we have condemned George Bush in both the Houses of Parliament. But after sometimes, we invited him and welcomed.

The Government should take responsibility for such increase in terrorism activities. I do not demand resignation from the Hon'ble Home Minister. But I want to know how honest he is on this account. Government should take responsibility of any such incidents. People are being killed by blasts. He should have resigned himself. If the Home Minister so does terrorists will see and understand that we are serious about terrorism. (*Speech unfinished.*)

Discussion not concluded.

YOGENDRA NARAIN , Secretary General

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

*** This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.**
