

**REFERENCE TO MALARIA EPIDEMIC
IN THE PARALKOTE ZONE OF THE
DANDAKARANYA PROJECT**

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the very serious situation which has arisen out of the malaria epidemic in the Paralkote Zone of the Dandakaranya Project.

Sir, according to the reports available with me, the death rate is quite alarming. The average number of malaria cases in the Pakhanjore Hospital has been about 30 per day. Sir, according to the reports from the Public Health Centres at Bande and Kapsi, the ceases of malaria have been alarmingly high in number and, as on 9th August, 1974, the blood slides taken were 1,880 out of which 497 cases were found to be malaria positive, the percentage being 26.43 per cent. Sir, it is a tragedy of the highest order that even after 27 years of independence, such an alarming rate of malaria cases is there and that there is the malaria epidemic in this area. Sir, certain types of malaria such as cerebral and malignant are very fatal and about 50 per cent. of the staff and employees of the Dandakaranya Project are suffering from bouts of malaria and the rest are on preventive drugs.

Sir, I have received a telegram and also letters from the Dandakaranya Employees' Association stating that the coverage of medical aid is grossly inadequate. Therefore, Sir, I urge upon this Government to rush medical aid immediately to the Paralkote Zone of the Dandakaranya Project and save the precious lives of the employees and workers of the Dandakaranya Project.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 3-00 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at nine minutes past two of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two minutes past three of the clock, **Mr Deputy Chairman** in the Chair.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 176
**Underground Nuclear explosion conducted
by Atomic Energy Commission on the
18th May, 1974.**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we proceed with the discussion on nuclear ex-

plosion. Shri Prakash Veer Shastri is not here. Shri Advani is not here. Shri Shekhawat.

SHRI B. S. SHEKHAWAT (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Subramanian Swamy will speak, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I would like to raise a discussion on a matter arising from the nuclear device that was set off in Pokharan on May, 18, 1974. I do not think there are any two opinions about the desirability of having this test and I myself have complimented the Government for taking the step for setting off this explosion. There are a number of aspects of this explosion which deserve special mention. It was an underground explosion without the scientists having the benefit of having set off an overground atmospheric explosion. As is well known, setting off an underground explosion is far more difficult than setting off atmospheric tests. In fact, the preparation of a nuclear device for setting off underground explosions is far more sophisticated than building a nuclear bomb. So, I would like to set at rest this doubt. Some people feel that somehow we have only reached the testing stage and we have a long distance to go before we can produce the atom bomb. In the case of an atom bomb, we try to maximise radioactivity. But in the case of an underground explosion, we try to minimise radioactivity. This is a much more difficult thing to do. Therefore, this is certainly a very big scientific feat.

Secondly, the technique of implosion is a very sophisticated technique and the fact that the very first test that this country undertook, was based on the technique of imposition is very heartening thing. And thirdly, Sir, I would like to commend this Government especially for maintaining secrecy about the test. And I would like to say that even I myself, who keep very close contact with what is going on in the field of atomic energy, has not even the faintest idea of its coming. But the time for compliments is over

because this explosion was set off on 15th May of this year and now almost three months are over, and we have to look at the problem more realistically as to where we go from here and where we go from this nuclear test. I think, enough praise has been lavished and we, especially I myself and members of my Party, are very happy that the position that we have been taking for the last 12 years has been vindicated, though grudgingly, by the Government.

Sir, the issues that are relevant for this discussion are: Why do we have to set off this explosion? I am not in favour of explosion. The question is: What is the logic, what is the doctrine that you have got and what plan have you got in setting off this explosion? Now, take the word 'peaceful explosion'. The way that we go on hammering that it is peaceful seems like the old saying about a lady who protested too much. In fact, when you protest too much, you begin to worry whether there is something behind it. Sir, it is wrong for the Prime Minister to tell this House that there has not been a departure in the policy relating to explosion. In 1970—I forgot the exact date—she did say that nuclear tests—nuclear tests include underground nuclear tests—are in the category which is barred for Indian peaceful programme. She changed it a little later, perhaps, a year later. But, initially, she did take a very categorical position. When she was in Canada in 1973, the position she took in a television interview made it out that underground nuclear tests would not be considered peaceful because the line of division is very thin. Sir, I would like to make a small diversion. In the United States, there has been a speculation that this is a second try for the Government of India at nuclear tests, and that actually, we did try earlier but we failed. One Senator—I forgot his name—went to China and after coming back, made the statement. I tried to look at this particular thing, with whatever little contact and knowledge I have, and I must say that this is ridiculous. The Government of India, to my knowledge, never tried out an atomic test earlier. But, I did discover one thing that the Government of India had scheduled a test a few

days before the U.P. election—on 15th February, 1974 . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, now you continue.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: It was scheduled for 15th February, 1974. And when they started digging, the scientists ran into water. So, that particular programme had to be given up, and this date was later shifted to May 18. And, unfortunately, this test could not be used for the purpose for which it was originally intended. If this was not intended to be an election stunt, then I would like to know the Government of India's policy on the question of nuclear energy and weapons. For example, what is the explicit attitude of the Government of India to nuclear weapons? In 1968, the Prime Minister said that she was not in favour of nuclear weapons because there was no substitute for conventional weaponry and that nuclear weapons were of no use. She said this in the Lok Sabha on 24th April, 1968. It is, therefore, commonly argued that nuclear weapons are of no use because they cannot be used. My argument is, precisely because the nuclear weapon cannot be used, it is useful. In other words, the usefulness of nuclear weapons arises mainly from the fact that it cannot be used. Although in the last 25 years nuclear weapons have not been dropped anywhere, the threat of use of nuclear weapons has been used at least 14 or 15 times. I think, even in the 1971 Bangladesh war, when the U.S. Seventh Fleet came to the Bay of Bengal, they carried nuclear weapons on board. It was also a nuclear propelled ship. But, that is irrelevant to the question. They did not have to tell the Prime Minister explicitly that if you go any further we will use nuclear weapons. The mere fact that the ship carried nuclear weapons was a sufficient threat. I know India was in complete jitters the moment the Seventh Fleet entered the Bay of Bengal. It is really very sad, very sad. (Interruptions). Nuclear weapons have been used in a variety of places, for example, to prevent the outbreak of a war in Quemoy in 1958 when the Chinese were about to capture the island, the United States issued

[Shri Subramanian Swamy]

a nuclear threat and prevented the outbreak of the war. Similarly, in the Chen Ban Dau island dispute between the U.S.S.R. and China the threat of the use of nuclear weapons was used to prevent the outbreak of war. The threat of the use of nuclear weapons can be used to prevent the outbreak of a war. It can also be used to speed up the negotiations.

Now, we have to look far ahead of what is going to be the strategic picture before this country. Now, we know, for example, that none of us really in the Government fore-saw the Bangladesh episode taking place. In fact, the Bangladesh thing took place rather suddenly and then we were caught napping, so to speak, and 12 million refugees came to our country and we had to go about telling the rest of the world and asking them what to do till the domestic public opinion forced the Government to go into Bangladesh and liberate Bangladesh. Now, similarly a situation can arise in the case of West Pakistan. There are fissiparous tendencies in West Pakistan. A situation is now developing between Afghanistan and Pakistan and you know what the Afghan Ambassador said when he came to this country. So, it is possible that we may again be caught napping and four parts of Pakistan may disintegrate. The question is what will this country do then, totally unprepared, and this will then become a cockpit of the super-power machinations and will be again in a great deal of difficulty. We know last time because of the total unpreparedness of the Government, this Government had to rush into signing the Indo-Soviet Treaty which, in my opinion, does not serve the interests of this country. But we had to rush into signing this Treaty because at that time we needed a psychological crutch and so we signed the Treaty. So, if a similar situation were to arise on the western frontier, we won't know what to do.

Now, coming to the technological side, the Prime Minister herself has said that the technological capability employed in the Pokharan test was with us in 1964. She was replying to a foreign correspondent when she said: All along you knew we had the capability. Why are you making

such a noise? In 1964 we could have set off the same explosion, but we did not. Now we find that we are in a position to embark on it to conceive a constructive programme and that is why we set off this explosion. Technologically we have not advanced beyond 1964; that is the implication of what the Prime Minister says.

Now, there are certain disturbing trends in atomic power programme. We have certainly failed on our power programme. Among the 15 countries producing atomic power, the position of our country was 5th some five or six years back. Today our position is dropped to 13th among the 15 countries producing atomic power. In 50s Bhabha, for example, had conceived that by 1975-76 we shall have atomic power capability of 3 thousand m.w. Then Sarabhai came and he changed it to 1 thousand m.w.—from 3 thousand to 1 thousand. Now, as far as our planning goes, I will not be really very surprised if we drop to 600 m.w. In other words, we are falling back on the vision that Dr. Bhabha had set before this country.

Secondly, look at Tarapur. Its most of the time is wasted. It has all kinds of problems. Why is this happening? If we are going to have nuclear tests for peaceful purposes, plutonium has to come from somewhere. Where are you going to produce enough plutonium to have a series of tests? Are you going to have these tests when there is some railway strike or sweepers' strike or some such strike to threaten the striking people? Wherefrom are you going to have sufficient plutonium?

Similarly, look at the state of affairs in the Atomic Minerals Division. A scientist is missing there and to this date the Government does not know of his whereabouts.

Secondly, Uranium was smuggled and there is a charge against a Congress Minister in Bihar that he is behind the smuggling of uranium but to this also there has been no satisfactory answer. What is happening to uranium? Again, the Atomic Minerals Division is an important division. There is a labour trouble. No time has been found to solve the labour problem there. The whole Division has been transferred to Hyderabad where there is no building

and the employees are in a great deal of distress and suffering. It has been completely neglected.

It is all right for the masses or the faces on that side to look at the explosion as if these are the Divali crackers but let me tell you that you have not advanced an inch farther than 1954. If you want it seriously, you will have to think about the components. (*Time rings bell*).

In conclusion, let us have a look at certain problems. The first thing is let us not confine ourselves to underground explosions, that is a much more expensive and difficult thing to do. Let us go in for atmospheric tests. Here I would like to quote from the Treaty banning Nuclear Weapon Tests. Article IV of the Treaty says:

"Each Party shall in exercising its national sovereignty have the right to withdraw from the Treaty if it decides that extraordinary events, related to the subject matter of this Treaty, have jeopardized the supreme interests of its country. It shall give notice of such withdrawal to all other parties to the Treaty three months in advance."

Now the Treaty itself has a clause which provides for withdrawal from the Treaty. I do not see any reason why we should tie down our hands and not go in for atmospheric tests. We have to think about this. We can locate islands, we can locate regions where such tests can be converted and we should go in for atmospheric tests without any inhibition if you are serious about nuclear energy development. I can tell the benches here that future government in this country is not bound by all the idiotic and silly treaties that you have signed. Future government will certainly repudiate these treaties. If you do not do it, we shall certainly do it. (*Interruption*). We shall not accept any treaty signed under imperialist influence or woolly-headed thinking on the part of the Government. Certainly, future generation will be protected by us.

Secondly, I will suggest that certain components of the Atomic Energy Commission should be saved from wasting. Probably in this connection I would urge you to take the Parliament into confidence, if necessary

Members of Parliament, to look into something-like *garbar* that is going on in the Atomic Energy Commission, the Electronics Commission and the Space organisation to come up with an integrated programme of Rs. 200 crores per year to produce nuclear weapons for the protection of this country.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for the opportunity that you have given. I am only sorry that a good case has been completely spoiled by my friend, Mr. Subramanian Swamy. The way he has put the whole case, the good case has been very badly spoiled. I do not know whether the Jan Sangh feels proud of the way they are trying to project the idea of nuclearisation. I am certainly one of those persons who have been for a number of years wanting nuclearisation of India for bombs and for everything but not the way Mr. Subramanian Swamy is trying to do. We are taking steps on the basis of our strength. The decision to have a nuclear explosion was taken about 2-3 years back as was told by the Defence Minister. At that time, Sir, in 1971 we had come to Parliament with a massive majority. It was not out of weakness that we decided to have a nuclear explosion. We had our strength in 1971-72 when we decided to have nuclear explosion. So, Sir, basically this must be understood that whatever decision we take, we take on our own. May be, I personally feel, a halting decision has been taken; we should have done it much earlier. But let us not say about U.P. elections and President's rule. This shows the diseased mind of the Opposition people as to how a good thing done by our scientists and by the Government, they want to lower it down. You are not raising the prestige of this country by saying this . . .

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This is getting to be (*Interruptions*). What did I say? Why are you going away from the fact?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swamy, when you called the treaty idiotic and all that, let him also say.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I called the treaty idiotic; I did not call him idiotic.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Some criticism in the world that we have received after the explosion is due to the psychology in the world, the Yalta psychology, I must say, where the world was divided in two different spheres of influence by the big powers. Sir, it was the same type of reaction as we saw when Pandit Nehru launched the policy of non-alignment. The world was divided among the big powers but Pandit Nehru said: No; the countries had got freedom; liberation struggle had taken place. So those very countries decided to launch a non-aligned policy which was a challenge to that system at that time. And then, our non-aligned policy was a success. Same way, Sir, I will say our nuclear explosion or implosion, whatever you may call it is a success. We call it non-aligned explosion because we have neither joined the atomic weapons powers nor had we a fall out from this explosion.

Sir, why the world is angry with us? The very powers, the very countries, our friendly countries like Canada and others did not criticise the super powers when they had the explosions but when India went in for an explosion, they criticise us because the mentality of the world powers is to divide the world. But, Sir, the world has gone ahead; the world is going ahead and I am sure, more and more countries will come to take their new technology, new atomic power so that this monopoly of the five powers goes away.

Sir, whatever we have done is just a spin-off from the steady development of the programme which Dr. Bhabha and Pandit Nehru had launched at that time. We must pay and this House must pay tributes to Dr. Bhabha who before independence had thought of establishing and starting the work on atomic energy and Jawaharlal Nehru took it forward. Sir, even Pandit Nehru had many times said that we do not want to follow what others do; India wants to get on its own strength and will become technologically powerful. Sir, the Scientific Policy Resolution which the Parliament had passed was in that direction and atomic energy was one of the most

important parts of scientific development. The country has to go ahead; nuclear energy and power has to be strengthened and must go forward to build up a new society, and a new socialist country.

When the nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty was about to be signed, India rejected saying that we will not sign it. And it was rightly rejected because it was an unequal treaty. Big powers could retain the nuclear weapons; they could produce nuclear weapons but not others. Even, Sir, in the NPT, a peaceful explosion could be done by only 5 powers and not by others.

And the supervision of the nuclear energy programme could be done only by those who are all nuclear powers, who have been proliferating these things. That is the situation. How could India accept to sign that treaty? I am sorry my friend, Mr. Subramanian Swamy, only quoted Shrimati Indira Gandhi's particular statements. I am sure if the records of the House are seen and if the reports of the Consultative Committee on Atomic Energy are seen you will find that the Prime Minister and the Government had clearly said that they will carry out explosions for peaceful purposes. Not only that; when the non-aligned conference was held in Lusaka the non-aligned powers in a Resolution have said that peaceful underground explosions can be conducted. So whatever the Government of India has done it has done very correctly and it is according to the decisions taken and announced by the Prime Minister earlier. Sir, the only thing of which I am rather critical is that it should have been done earlier than now. Even now I want to warn that there are certain forces both within the Government and outside because I have talked to many important people and they say that if you had more nuclear explosions and make atom bombs it will be a very costly affair and we should not go about it. Sir, when our nuclear explosions took place many powers in the world were shedding crocodile tears for our poor teeming millions. They were saying that poverty was our first enemy and we must fight it out. I would like to know after the war, after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing is it not a fact that Britain and the Soviet Union launched on a programme

of nuclear weapons development when they were still recovering from the ravages of the war. In the same way China was recovering from the failures of the Great Leap Forward when they decided to go in for nuclear weapons development and nuclearisation of their country. France had its own economic difficulties and was fighting the Vietnam war and the Algerian colonial war when she went in for nuclearisation. So, Sir, the position in the world today is this. A nation is not merely strong just because of economic growth or agricultural growth. A nation is considered strong on the basis of its warheads, its military power, its defence expenditure. As I have always fought for economic and socialistic growth, in the same way I would like to fight here for making India strong in matters of defence also with nuclear weapons, nuclear bombs. I would like to quote Herbert Klein, Presidential Aide of Nixon, who pointed out when they were trying to improve relations with China that 800 million Chinese armed with nuclear weapons could not be ignored. Yes; they could be ignored as they were all these years but not after 15 nuclear blasts at Lop Nor and two earth satellites. In the same way Nixon could afford to neglect Japan when he was trying to negotiate with China. At that time Japan's former Minister of Foreign Trade referred to the possibility of Japan's future generations considering the nuclear weapons option if his country was pushed around. Sir, it must be clearly understood that no Parliament, no Government, no Prime Minister can bind a nation for generations to come and I feel that as long as the world powers are playing this game of proliferation, as long as there are stockpiles of atomic and nuclear weapons, this country will have to go in for the manufacture of atom bombs, nuclear bombs, hydrogen bombs and all that in order to keep ourselves strong.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Tamil Nadu): You want to make all these bombs?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Krishan Kant, this is the only one thing you are generally saying wrong.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I know I am quite correct because in my thinking I am

not bogged down by any influences. I am sure in the interests of India it is very necessary. Just see what Japan which has been very critical of us has to say about this. In a Japanese White Paper in 1970 they have said that 'possession of defensive nuclear weapons was not a violation of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution renouncing war'. Japanese forces are being strengthened, reinforced and modernised. When all these things are taking place, may I know why India should lag behind? I congratulate the Government on what they have done; we should not lag behind. There must be clarity of vision in these matters. It must be understood that if more powers come in there will be more proliferation. What happened to biological warfare? When the question came up more than thirty countries in the world were capable of making biological agents. These thirty countries, including all the big powers, signed a convention agreeing to ban the production and storage of biological agents. In the same way today I read that Pakistan and Iran, both in their own way, are trying to have a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia. I do not want the Government of India to come out every tie with a clarification that we are doing it for peaceful purposes. Why should we be apologetic? If India needs it and changes take place in the world situation, certainly we will go nuclear and manufacture nuclear bombs and nuclear weapons. Why should you bind the future generation to behave like that? Only one or two points I would like to bring to your kind notice. I had brought this to the notice of the Government and the Prime Minister and I think the Minister was also present. It is about the danger of theft and stealing of nuclear fissile materials. A report by Prof. Mason Wilbich has come out about the danger to international peace and security of stealing fissile materials and their subsequent use by organised criminal gangs. There are various ways in which the Mafia-type organisation inside any advanced industrial country could develop their own atomic weapons. This aspect should be subjected to adequate discussion and scrutiny by the Government. I had already referred to this matter and at that time I wanted the Department of Atomic Energy to create a cell

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for studying this aspect. There does not seem to be any co-ordination between the Department of Atomic Energy and the Ministry of External Affairs. I was told that something would be done, but I do not know why the Department of Atomic Energy is afraid of creating a cell which will study and analyse what are the dangers of proliferation and not only proliferation but stealing and unauthorised use of it. This could have been done. Why has it not been done? I feel there is some lacuna and there is no proper co-ordination between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Atomic Energy. This should take place, as it used to be during Dr. Bhabha's time and Dr. Vikram Sarabhai's time. I feel you will lag behind if you do not do this. The information collected by the cell could be utilised by your delegates at the conference in Geneva and you can impress upon the world powers saying that the danger is not from India. The danger is not from small powers. The danger is from the five big powers. The diversion by pilferage of just 0.01 per cent of the fissile materials would be enough to produce a number of bombs and it would create havoc in the world. I would like the Government of India to look into it. When the Minister replies, he must tell us what has happened to the point which I have been raising for the last two years. Every time Dr. Sethna of the Department of Atomic Energy has been deliberately trying to mislead us. I do not want the Government of India to lag behind. This is just the time when we should take advantage of the leverage we have and perform many more tests and bigger explosions, so that we can influence the discussion not only now, but in the review conference on the non-proliferation treaty which is taking place in 1975. I feel we are sleeping. We must mobilise world opinion by using the present situation when we have got the nuclear leverage. We must try to force the big powers so that they will disarm themselves and reduce their arms. When there was a discussion between Russia and America last time they could not agree on one thing. They agreed on the prevention of nuclear war, but they could not agree on 'no first use' of nuclear weapons against

each other. They could not agree on that. We must create a climate and we must take Japan and other countries with us and see that the world powers are forced to have nuclear disarmament and destruction of all nuclear weapons. If within five or ten years they do not come around, India would be morally right to go in for nuclear weapons and even nuclear bombs. Then, no country in the world can say that we did not try our best and the future generation will not blame us that we have lagged behind.

Thank you.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: First of all let me make my position very clear. As an Indian, I am proud that we have exploded this nuclear bomb. It is a modern innovation and we have come on a par with the leading nations of the world. But, Sir, I do not feel as happy as my friend, Mr. Krishan Kant, on that side or as Mr. Subramanian Swamy on this side. If we look into our history during the pass two hundred years, the period can be called as the British period, the Gandhian era, the Nehru era and the Indira Gandhi era, which we are beginning now. Forget about the British period. But the rest of the periods are all based on our policy of non-alignment and non-violence, and we have not completely got out of it. So, this explosion gives us, on our side, a little anxiety. As Mr. Krishan Kant said, if somebody steals it and throws it, it can be a catastrophe. After this explosion, we have gained admiration in certain parts of the world and at the same time we have earned some suspicion from some other parts of the world. For example, our nearest neighbours, Pakistan and some of the Middle-eastern countries, have some suspicion, and now and then, they are casting aspersions on us, they are attributing motives about our final aim. In spite of the fact that Madam Prime Minister and other responsible leaders have made it very clear time and again that our intention is to use it for peaceful purposes, we are not totally and completely, cent per cent, able to allay the suspicion. It is a very delicate situation we are in.

When we are discussing this subject, my mind goes back to 1963 when, on the advice of Panditji, a delegation was sent to

America under the auspices of the Gandhi Peace Foundation. It was headed by the late lamented revered Rajaji. And our former Member, Shri R. R. Diwakar, was also a member in it. They went and met Mr. Kennedy to request him to ban nuclear explosions. Mr. Kennedy gave them 15 minutes. After hearing Rajaji who looked at his watch at the end of the time, Mr. Kennedy told Rajaji, "Do not look at the watch. Go ahead. I am hearing something fresh and new". He spoke for half-an-hour. After the interview was over, Mr. Kennedy said, "It is for the first time that I have heard such an illuminating talk about the danger to the world from nuclear weapons". He said that Rajaji's talk had a civilising effect on him and that this entire concept of nuclear weapons would undergo a change. This is our tradition, this is our history.

Now, everybody says everywhere that our intentions are peaceful. But my only request is that we must not simply keep on saying like that; we must also put it into practice. The earlier we put it into practice, the better it is for us and for the rest of the world. Forgetting for the moment about war-heads, etc.—our intention is not to wage war on any country—we must try to see that the nuclear power, nuclear energy, is created so that the country will be saved from this critical situation and it is of great help to alleviate the sufferings of the poor people. Then only will I be happy, and people who belong to my school of thought would also be happy. If you go round the country and find out how many people have understood the implication of this, how many people are feeling the impact of this explosion, you will be thoroughly disappointed because not even one per cent of the entire population has felt the impact of it, because they are not in that position they are so poverty-stricken, their concern is only about their next meal.

So, it is all right that we have exploded the bomb; we have earned laurels all over the world and we have come on a par with other nations. But my request is this, Now the time has come when we must turn back and we should try to use it for

the uplift of our poor, down-trodden masses.

Thank you.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, harnessing of atomic energy for peaceful purposes is our national objective. Right from the days of Jawaharlalji, when in 1946 Hiroshima was bombed, while condemning that bombing he said that here is a power which if properly harnessed can go a long way to improve the lot of humanity. India's efforts in this direction have been going on since that time. It is no secret that the Atomic Energy Commission has been studying conditions under which peaceful nuclear explosions carried out underground could be of economic benefit to India without causing any environmental hazard.

Sir, underground tests for peaceful purposes have been undertaken only after there have been satisfactory answers to the problems of environment. The 18th May experiment did not result in any radioactive contamination of atmosphere. To quote the Prime Minister:

"The radioactivity was so well contained that a party of scientists was able to fly 30 metres above the site and reach up to 250 metres on the ground within an hour of the experiment without encountering any radioactive contamination."

Sir, what is more important is that in-keeping with the established scientific traditions the Atomic Energy Commission proposes to publish papers giving results of the experiment for the benefit of the scientific world.

We are proud that all the material, equipment, technical know-how and the personnel were all Indian. We have not violated any international law or obligation or commitment in this regard with any country. This is positively a tribute to the farsightedness of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister and the Atomic Energy Commission, and especially the

[Shri Nand Kishore Bhatt]

young scientists here who have been working day in and day out to achieve this successful test.

Sir, there have been mixed reactions to our experiment; particularly countries like Canada and Pakistan have been very much critical. The Prime Minister has reaffirmed our policy of using nuclear energy for peaceful and constructive purposes. We have no intention of developing nuclear weapons since it is contrary to our declared objective of international peace and respect to the sovereignty of all nations big or small. Pakistan has been harping on its oft-repeated theme of nuclear blackmail in spite of several clarifications by our country and India's willingness to share her nuclear technology with that country in the same way as with others. We are happy that recently there has been a change in the attitude of Pakistan and they have been trying to understand our point of view. One notable feature is that unlike the reactions of some world Governments, by and large the response of the peoples of different countries of the world has been just the opposite. They believe that India is a peaceful country quietly busy in finding solutions to her own economic problems consistent with her policy of self-reliant, democratic socialist economy.

Sir, at the time when this explosion took place I happened to be in Hong Kong attending an Asian Trade Union Conference where we had representative from almost all the democratic Asian countries. A resolution was sponsored by friends from New Zealand and Australia showing some concern about the Indian explosion. But when we took up this question individually and collectively with the representatives of these countries, I am happy to say that we could convince them of our bona fides with the result that the resolution condemning India's experiment was altogether changed hoping that the policies and the declarations of India would be in pursuit of human welfare and would contribute to solving the problems of the suffering humanity. They were quite appreciative of our effort and they hoped that the Government of India will only adhere to that

policy and that smaller and poorer countries will emulate from the example of India and will have everything to share and come closer to understand her way of working for the benefit of their suffering people. Sir, at no time has India departed from her policy of peaceful uses of nuclear power. This is clear from the fact that we have been a signatory to the Nuclear Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963. Our nuclear device test is not at all in violation of that treaty. But, we did not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968 which created a dichotomy between nuclear "haves" and "have-nots". India's test explosion has to be seen as a technological break-through by an Asian country with the single aim of using knowledge for constructive purposes. Sir, there has been a criticism that India is a poor country and instead of using its resources for dealing with the problems of her people, she has indulged in the luxury of exploding a nuclear device. A cursory look at the total investment in scientific and technological research shows that hardly 0.8 per cent. of our funds has been utilised for this purpose. Strangely enough it is all right for the industrially advanced countries to manufacture and sell vast quantities of lethal arms and vast quantities of conventional weapons of mass destruction to the poor developing nations, but they find it immoral for a country like India to utilise its scientific and technical know-how for solving its own problems, particularly the problem of poverty, which has become all the more huge in view of our population explosion which has gone up in geometrical progression, and which has made the situation really difficult! Sir, we know very well that we have got our own problems and we alone will have to find their solutions. It irritates people abroad, particularly the highly developed countries, as to why India wants to be a self-reliant country and why India does not want to go to them with a begging bowl. We are very happy and proud of our achievement. Indians all over the world, feel equally very happy and proud. They are completely with us and with the Prime Minister in all developmental efforts towards achieving our objectives.

श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मंडल (बिहार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, संसार में संख्या की दृष्टि से सब से बड़ा देश चीन है और उसके बाद हिन्दुस्तान आता है, लेकिन इज्जत की दृष्टि से हिन्दुस्तान का स्थान दूसरा नहीं है, बल्कि बहुत से देशों के नीचे इसका स्थान है। इसके दो कारण हैं। एक कारण तो आर्थिक है, क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को पेट भर खाना नहीं मिलता है। हिन्दुस्तान को भिखमंगे की तरह से दूसरे देशों के ऊपर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है और दूसरा अपमान का कारण यह है कि हम को अपनी सुरक्षा के लिये दूसरे देशों के ऊपर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है।

जब से राजस्थान में एक्सप्लोजन हुआ है उसके बाद से कुछ का ध्यान हम लोगों की तरफ गया। इससे यह लगता है कि हम लोगों में भी कुछ योग्यता है और अगर हम इस योग्यता का उपयोग करें तो शायद हम लोग अपनी सुरक्षा का भी काफी इन्तजाम कर सकते हैं और अपने पेट का भी इन्तजाम कर सकते हैं। आगे सरकार कुछ कर सकेगी यह कहना तो मुश्किल है, लेकिन इस एक्सप्लोजन की जो प्रतिक्रिया संसार के छोटे देशों पर हुई है इस प्रकार की प्रतिक्रिया, जो बड़े देश, प्रभावशाली देश गिने जाते हैं, उन पर भी हुई है। कोई तो साफ-साफ इसको जाहिर करता है और कोई इसको साफ-साफ जाहिर नहीं करता है। शायद ही बहुत कम देश ऐसे हैं जिन्होंने इसका स्वागत किया हो। हमारे पड़ोसी देश नेपाल ने इसका स्वागत किया है। शायद एशिया के और भी कुछ देश, इजिप्ट वगैरह, इसको अच्छा समझते हों, लेकिन अधिकांश देश जो अपने को अच्छा और समृद्धिशाली समझते हैं उनको यह एक्सप्लोजन अच्छा नहीं लगा। इसलिये हम अब आगे चल करके जो यह टेक्नोलोजी हमने डेवलप की है, इसको और भी आगे बढ़ाना चाहिए। मैं यह नहीं कहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार की जो यह पालसी है कि इसको पीसफुल परपोजेज के लिये यूज करेंगे, इस को मैं गलत नहीं मानता हूँ। और मैं भी चाहता हूँ कि इसको पीसफुल परपोजेज के लिये यूज करना चाहिये,

लेकिन अगर मान लीजिये कि आप इस देश को डिफेन्ड करने के लिये अस्त्र-शस्त्रों का निर्माण शुरू कीजियेगा तो उस पर भी खर्च कम नहीं होता है। लेकिन अगर मान लीजिये कि आप देश की रक्षा में तो समर्थ हों, किन्तु इस देश में लोग भूखों मर रहे हों तो ऐसी हालत में मैं नहीं समझता कि इस देश के धन का यूटिलाइजेशन अस्त्र-शस्त्रों और न्यूक्लीयर वैपन्स के निर्माण में खर्च हो, बल्कि मैं चाहता हूँ कि एटामिक एनर्जी को पीसफुल परपोजेज के लिये खर्च करना चाहिए। इसलिये मैं तब तक पीसफुल परपोजेज के लिए खर्च करने की बात है, इसके बारे में हमने यह सुना है कि इसकी जो टेक्नोलोजी है वह काफी कम्प्लीकेटेड है। हमने यह भी सुना है कि कुछ ऐसे धातु हैं जो वर्तमान साधनों से गर्मी लाकर गलाये तक नहीं जा सकते हैं और ऐसी कोई चीज हमारे पास नहीं है जो उन को गला सके। लेकिन न्यूक्लीयर एक्सप्लोजन में वह शक्ति है कि जो तीन हजार डिग्री तक गर्मी पैदा कर सकती है और उन धातुओं को गला सकती है। इन धातुओं को गलाने में एक डिफिकल्टी यह थी कि जिस पत्र में रख कर ये धातु गलाये जाते थे, खासतौर से तांबे के पात्रों में रख कर इनको गलाना पड़ता था, लेकिन तांबे में रिएक्शन हो जाने की वजह से इसमें कठिनाई होती थी। लेकिन न्यूक्लीयर टेक्नोलोजी में यह कठिनाई नहीं होती है। इसलिये इस माने में जो यह टेक्नोलोजी डेवलप हुई है, इसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ।

मैंने यह भी सुना है कि इसमें यह भी शक्ति है कि धरती के अन्दर बहुत नीचे तक पहुंचा जा सकता है और वहाँ तक पहुंचा जा सकता है, जहाँ तक कि किसी आदमी का पहुंचना असंभव ही था। इस प्रकार वहाँ से भी जिक्र, कोपर वगैरह जो होते हैं, उनको भी लाया जा सकता है। अभी पनामा की जो कैनल है, उस कैनल के समानान्तर में एक दूसरी कैनल बनाई जा रही है और हमने सुना है कि शायद उसमें भी हाईड्रोजन एक्सप्लोजन का उपयोग किया जाएगा। यह भी हमने सुना है कि लद्दाख में अभी जो थर्मल पावर स्टेशन खोलने की बात है, वह भी इसी एक्सप्लोजन के

(श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मंडल)

जरिये खोला जायेगा। हमने यह भी सुना है कि इस शक्ति के जरिये जमीन को गहरा से गहरा और ऊंचे से ऊंचा भी किया जा सकता है। कहने का मतलब यह है कि किसी जगह पर गड्ढा भी किया जा सकता है और किसी जगह को ऊंचा भी किया जा सकता है।

सिचाई और विद्युत मंत्री, जो परमाणु ऊर्जा विभाग, इलेक्ट्रानिक्स विभाग तथा अन्तरिक्ष विभाग से संबंधित संसदीय कार्य में भी प्रधान मंत्री की सहायता करेंगे : (श्री के० सो० पन्त) : उप-सभापति जी, मैं एक चीज को स्पष्ट कर दू। श्री मंडल जी ने अभी लदाख का नाम लिया। वहां पर तो दूसरी तरह का प्रयोग है। वह तो जिओ-फिजिकल और जिओ-थरमल एनर्जी है। एटोमिक एनर्जी का काम तो राजस्थान और बम्बई में हो रहा है। लदाख में दूसरी चीज है।

श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मंडल : हमने यह भी सुना है कि धरती के अन्दर जो गर्मी है उसको भी इस शक्ति से ऊपर लाया जा सकता है और उसको दूसरे कामों में कनवर्ट किया जा सकता है और उससे बिजली भी पैदा की जा सकती है। यह कहां तक सही है, यह कहना मेरे लिए मुश्किल है। इस तरह की बात हमने सुनी है जब हम यूरोप गए थे, कि इंस्टिट्यूट एफ्लुएन्स जो होता है, जो कल-कारखानों का एफ्लुएन्स होता है वह तो होता ही है, लेकिन वहां जो मंटर बहुत पुराना हो जाता है उसको कान रखेगा, कैसे उसका डिसपोजल होगा, यह भी एक प्रॉब्लम वहाँ पर है। तो उसको जो समुद्र में फेंक दिया जाता है, या किसी नदी बगैर में फेंक जाता है, एफ्लुएन्स के रूप में, वह समस्या भी न्यूक्लीयर एनर्जी के जरिए से साल्व हो सकती है, ऐसा भी हमको मालूम हुआ है। इसलिये जो टैक्नालाजी हमने हासिल की है पीसफुल परपज के लिये उसका इस्तेमाल इस ढंग से हो कि जल्दी से जल्दी अणु के मामले में या दुसरा जरूरी सामान जो लोगो का जीवन चलाने के लिये जरूरी होता

है, उसके प्रोडक्शन में इसको इस्तेमाल किया जाये। इस तरफ सरकार का ध्यान जाए, यह मैं सरकार से कहना चाहूंगा।

STATEMENTS BY DEPUTY MINISTER

I. Re. the Financial position of the Railways

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister may lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): On a point of order. We have taken the permission. I went to the Chairman and on his suggestion we have some submission to make to the House. After that . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is a financial statement.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I must bring to your notice one thing. I hope hon. Members opposite will bear with me for the simple reason that the issue that I am raising today bears on certain very important constitutional aspect as well as conventions that we have hitherto followed. I think quite apart from the other aspect of the controversy, this matter should be considered on merit. You know very well that yesterday we raised certain points. We did not get the satisfactory answer. I went and told the Chairman in the Chamber that during my 22 years of Parliamentary life, I have never come across such an experience in the matter of functioning of Government viz-a-viz Parliamentary institutions. I requested him to cite another example from our own constitutional practice or from a comparable situation in other countries where an identical system functions.

On the 19th August PTI carried a news item after an interview with President Giri. He is still the President of the country. This is the news item.