

SENATE OF PAKISTAN

SENATE DEBATES

Monday, March 8, 1999

The Senate of Pakistan met in the Senate Hall (Parliament House) Islamabad, at thirty four minutes past six in the evening with Mr. Chairman (Mr. Wasim Sajjad) in the Chair.

Recitation from the Holy Quran

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

فَاِذَا مَسَّ الْاِنْسَانَ ضَرْبًا دَعَا نًا ثُمَّ اِذَا خَوْلَتْهُ نِعْمَةٌ مَّا قَالَ اِنَّمَا اُوْتِيْتَهُ عَلٰی عِلْمٍ - بَلْ هِيَ فِتْنَةٌ وَّلٰكِنَّا كَثِرْتُمْ لَّا يَعْلَمُوْنَ ۝

قَدْ قَالَهَا الَّذِيْنَ مِنْ قَبْلِهِمْ فَمَا اَغْنٰى عَنْهُمْ مَا كَانُوْا يَكْسِبُوْنَ ۝ فَاصَابِهِمْ سَيِّئَاتٌ مَا كَسَبُوْا - وَالَّذِيْنَ ظَلَمُوْا مِنْ هٰؤُلَاءِ سَيَّصِيْبُهُمْ سَيِّئَاتٌ مَا كَسَبُوْا وَمَا هُمْ بِمُعْجِزِيْنَ ۝
(سورة الزمر ۳۹-۵۱)

ترجمہ: جب انسان کو تکلیف پہنچتی ہے تو ہمیں پکارنے لگتا ہے۔ پھر جب ہم اسکو اپنی طرف سے نعمت بختے ہیں تو کہتا ہے کہ یہ تو مجھے (میرے) علم و دانش کے سبب ہی ہے۔ (نہیں) بلکہ وہ آزمائش ہے مگر ان میں سے اکثر نہیں جانتے۔ جو لوگ ان سے پہلے تھے وہ بھی یہی کہا کرتے تھے تو جو کچھ وہ کیا کرتے تھے۔ ان کے کچھ کام بھی نہ آیا۔ ان پر ان کے اعمال کے وبال پڑ گئے اور جو لوگ ان میں سے علم کریتے رہے ہیں ان پر ان کے عملوں کے وبال عنقریب پڑیں گے اور وہ اللہ کو عاجز نہیں کر سکتے۔

PANEL OF PRESIDING OFFICERS

Mr. Chairman: In exercise of powers conferred by Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 1988, I nominate the following Senators in order of precedence to form the Panel of Presiding Officers in this Session:-

1. Senator Dr. Javed Iqbal.
2. Senator Rafiq Ahmed Sheikh.
3. Senator Iqbal Zafar Jhagra.

(interruption)

جناب چیئرمین، نام تو اور بھی تھے لیکن وہ نظر نہیں آ رہے ہیں، تو میں نے سوچا جو ہیں ان کو رکھیں اس میں۔ In fact, the name on my list was Safdar Abbasi۔ لیکن وہ نظر نہیں آ رہے ہیں مجھے۔ میں نے سوچا ان کو یہاں بٹھائیں تاکہ ان کو جتا چلے۔ جی جناب ایس بلور صاحب۔

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed Bilour: Sir, with due respect, I protest in your honour because we gave a time of 5 O'clock and sir, if we start from five or five past five or fifteen past five, at least before 'Namaz' we can have one hour for working. Sir, this is not the way.

ہم پونے پانچ بجے سے یہاں آ کر بیٹھے ہوتے ہیں جناب۔

جناب چیئرمین، اصل میں میرے دفتر میں میٹنگ ہو رہی تھی۔ ہم آپ کا وقت بچا رہے تھے تاکہ جو وقت یہاں پر صرف ہوتا ہے اس کو بچایا جائے۔

Mr. Ilyas Ahmed Bilour: Sir, with due respect to your honour, I must say one thing,

Sir, I request۔ تاکہ کم از کم ہمیں ایک گھنٹہ مل جائے۔

your

honour that half an hour you can make it early. اگر ہمارا یہاں ایک گھنٹہ اجلاس چل جاتا تو اس کے بعد سوا چھ بجے نماز ہوتی اور پھر اس کے بعد ہم دوبارہ اجلاس شروع کردیتے۔ لیکن جناب اب یہ ایک routine بن گئی ہے۔ 5 Please make it sure, if you give time for 5 O'clock, you start by 5 O'clock. اگر اس Upper House of the Senate کا یہ حال ہے، اگر ہمارا ایجنڈا ہے تو جناب باقی قوم کا کیا حال ہوگا وقت کے معاملے میں۔ شکریہ جناب۔

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

جناب چیئرمین، اب میں leave applications پڑھ لوں۔ جی پروفیسر ساجد میر صاحب ذاتی وجوہات کی بنا پر مورخہ 26 فروری کو اجلاس میں شرکت نہیں کر سکے اس لئے انہوں نے اس تاریخ کے لئے ایوان سے رخصت کی درخواست کی ہے۔ کیا آپ ان کی رخصت منظور فرماتے ہیں۔

(رخصت منظور کی گئی)

جناب چیئرمین، قاضی محمد انور صاحب نے بعض ناگزیر وجوہات کی بنا پر آج مورخہ 8 مارچ کے لئے ایوان سے رخصت کی درخواست کی ہے۔ کیا آپ ان کی رخصت منظور فرماتے ہیں۔

(رخصت منظور کی گئی)

جناب چیئرمین، جناب فاروق احمد خان صاحب نے ذاتی مصروفیات کی بنا پر آج مورخہ 8 مارچ کے لئے ایوان سے رخصت کی درخواست کی ہے۔ کیا آپ ان کی رخصت منظور فرماتے ہیں۔

(رخصت منظور کی گئی)

جناب چیئرمین، جناب عبدالصمد ڈوگر صاحب نے بعض نجی وجوہات کی بنا پر آج مورخہ 8 مارچ کے لئے ایوان سے رخصت کی درخواست کی ہے۔ کیا آپ ان کی رخصت منظور فرماتے ہیں۔

(رخصت منظور کی گئی)

جناب چیئرمین، جناب سرانجام خان صاحب نے طے شدہ مصروفیات کی بنا پر

مورخہ 8 اور 9 مارچ کے لئے ایوان سے رخصت کی درخواست کی ہے۔ کیا آپ ان کی رخصت منظور فرماتے ہیں۔

(رخصت منظور کی گئی)

جناب چیئرمین، جناب جمیل الدین عالی صاحب نے ناگزیر وجوہات کی بنا پر آج مورخہ 8 مارچ کے لئے ایوان سے رخصت کی درخواست کی ہے۔ کیا آپ ان کی رخصت منظور فرماتے ہیں۔

(رخصت منظور کی گئی)

جناب چیئرمین، جناب جاوید ہاشمی صاحب نے اطلاع دی ہے کہ وہ اسلام آباد سے باہر ہیں اس لئے آج اجلاس میں شرکت نہیں کر سکیں گے۔ جی فرمائیے ڈاکٹر اسماعیل بلیدی صاحب

ڈاکٹر محمد اسماعیل بلیدی، جناب 26 تاریخ کے اخبار کے مطابق ہمارے ایک معزز رکن نے پوائنٹ آف آرڈر پر بتایا تھا کہ قندھار سے مسلح گروپ بلوچستان دہشت گردی کر رہے ہیں۔ میں اس واقعہ کی وضاحت کروں گا کہ وہاں 26 تاریخ کو جمعیت علمائے اسلام کا ایک جلسہ تھا۔ انہوں نے تقریر کر کے جلسہ ختم کر دیا۔ وہاں پر پشتو آباد میں ایک سینما تھا۔ وہاں کی ایکن کمیٹی نے سینما کے خلاف کورٹ میں بھی رٹ داخل کی تھی۔ اس سینما پر کچھ لوگوں نے بد بول دیا اور سینما کو نظر آتش کر دیا جس کی ہم بھی مذمت کرتے ہیں، نہ ہم نے وہاں پر عورتوں کو مجبور کیا کہ وہ برقعہ پہنیں جیسا کہ ڈاکٹر حنی صاحب نے یہاں ہاؤس میں بتایا۔

جناب چیئرمین، نہیں انہوں نے آپ کا نام نہیں لیا۔

ڈاکٹر محمد اسماعیل بلیدی، نہیں انہوں نے مذہبی گروپ کا نام لیا ہے۔

جناب چیئرمین، نہیں انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ کچھ مذہبی لوگ وہ کر رہے ہیں۔

ڈاکٹر محمد اسماعیل بلیدی، اس میں باقاعدہ ہمیں indicate کیا ہے۔ اس وقت

افغانستان کے جو حالات ہیں یقیناً عقیدے کے طور پر ہم ان کو سپورٹ کرتے ہیں لیکن یہ تو نہیں ہے کہ وہ آکر بلوچستان میں دہشت گردی پھیلا رہے ہیں اور جمعیت علماء اسلام اس میں ملوث

ہے۔ میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ بیان سراسر غلط ہے۔ ہمارے ابھی تک 185 ساتھی قید میں ہیں اور گورنمنٹ نے حساس طور پر اس مسئلے کو لیا ہے۔ اس سے پہلے بلوچستان میں کئی ایسے واقعات ہوئے ہیں۔ ایک مہینہ پہلے سول ہسپتال پر راکٹ لانچروں سے حملہ ہوا۔ اب تک سرکار نے کوئی ایکشن نہیں لیا ہے۔ ہمارے 185 لوگ ابھی تک قید میں ہیں اور صوبے سے لے کر مرکز تک اس پر اتنا ایکشن لیا ہے لیکن دوسرے جو دہشت گردی کے ہزاروں واقعات ہوتے ہیں اس سے مرکز اور صوبہ ٹس سے مس نہیں ہوتا ہے۔ کل بھی ہم نے ڈاکٹر حنی کو طلب کیا تھا، اس نے معذرت کی اور اس نے کہا کہ میں اس کی تردید بھی کرتا ہوں۔ لہذا وہاں پر چونکہ قبائلی طور پر ہمارے پشتو اور بلوچ حریانی اور فحاشی کے خلاف ہیں اور وہاں مذہبی رجحانات ہیں۔ وہ چاہتے ہیں کہ وہاں پر مذہبی قوانین نافذ ہو جائیں۔ میں متعلقہ وزیر سے کہتا ہوں کہ ابھی تک ہمارے 185 لوگ جو جیل میں ہیں ان کی تحقیقات ہائی کورٹ کے حوالے سے کی جائے۔ اگر ہم مجرم ہوئے تو ہم قبول کریں گے اگر نہیں تو وہاں کی حکومت نے جس طرح وہاں پر اس بات کو اچھالا ہے یہ سراسر ہمارے خلاف پراپیگنڈہ ہے اور اسلام کے خلاف پراپیگنڈہ ہے۔ لہذا آپ رولنگ دیں۔ اس کی مکمل تحقیقات کی جائے۔

جناب چیئرمین، جی جناب اکرم شاہ صاحب۔ آپ بھی کچھ فرمانا چاہ رہے ہیں۔

جناب اکرم شاہ خان، شکریہ جناب چیئرمین۔ جناب چیئرمین! ڈاکٹر حنی صاحب یہاں نہیں ہیں۔ گزارش یہ ہے کہ بیٹھے کے روز ڈاکٹر عبدالحنی صاحب نے یہاں پر ایک واقعہ کا ذکر کیا تھا کہ کوئٹہ میں ایک سینما جلایا گیا اور کوئٹہ کے لوگوں کو خوف زدہ کیا گیا۔ دہشت زدہ کیا گیا۔ جناب چیئرمین! میری آپ سے گزارش ہے کہ موجودہ حکومت اس ملک میں مذہبی منافرت پھیلا رہی ہے، لوگوں کے جذبات کو ابھار رہی ہے، مذہبی جنون پیدا کر رہی ہے۔ اس کے لئے میں آپ کو کوئٹہ کی مثال دوں گا۔ اس سال پورے رمضان المبارک میں کوئٹہ کے شہریوں کو دہشت زدہ، خوف زدہ کیا جاتا رہا۔ لاشی بردار جلوس نکلتے رہے، حکومت نے اس کا کوئی نوٹس نہیں لیا۔ وہاں پر درجنوں وڈیو، ٹیلی ویژن اور وی سی آر کی دوکانوں کو توڑا پھوڑا گیا حالانکہ ان کے پاس لائسنس تھے، وہ لوگوں کی پرہیزی تھی۔ لوگوں کو تجارت کرنے کا حق تھا لیکن زبردستی درجنوں دوکانوں کو توڑا پھوڑا گیا، وہاں پر تمام دوکانوں کو زبردستی بند رکھا گیا۔ وہاں پر ہر رات دس بجے سیکورٹوں

لوگ لائیں اور ڈنڈے لے کر حکومت کی موجودگی میں، حکومت کی نگرانی میں، وہاں کے عوام کو، وہاں کے لوگوں کو خوف زدہ کرتے رہے۔

ابھی حال ہی میں جو واقعہ ہوا اس میں ڈاکٹر عبدالحئی صاحب نے کسی پارٹی کا نام نہیں لیا۔ جناب چیئرمین! اس میں کوئی شک نہیں ہے کہ وہاں پر ایک سینما تھا جس کے پاس لائٹس ہے جو کہ ایک عوامی تفریح کی جگہ ہے اور ہر کسی کو حق ہے کاروبار کرنے کا۔ وہاں پر جا کر اس سینما کو توڑا گیا، اس کو آگ لگائی گئی۔ وہاں پر موٹر سائیکلیں، سائیکلیں، جلائی گئیں اور پورے شہر میں ایک دہشت پھیلانی گئی۔ میری جناب چیئرمین! آپ کے توسط سے حکومت وقت سے یہ گزارش ہے کہ یہ جو کھیل ہم کھیل رہے ہیں، یہاں پر جس طریقے سے فرقہ پرستی کو، مذہبی منافرت کو، مذہبی جنون کو ہوا دے رہے ہیں اور ایسے بیانات چھپتے ہیں اخباروں میں کہ آئندہ نشتے گھروں سے باہر نہ نکلیں، آئندہ کوئی عورت بغیر مرد کے اکیلے بازار میں سودا سلف کے لئے نہ جائے۔ اس طریقے سے یہ چیزیں جو ہم کر رہے ہیں یہ ہماری سوسائٹی کے لئے، ہمارے لوگوں کے لئے، ہمارے معاشرے کے لئے ٹھیک نہیں کیونکہ اس کے نتائج ہم باقی دنیا میں دیکھ چکے ہیں۔ میری آپ کے توسط سے اپنے حکومتی دوستوں سے یہ گزارش ہے کہ وہ اس چیز کا نوٹس لیں۔ اس قسم کے واقعات کو سرکاری سرپرستی حاصل ہوتی ہے۔ میں نے آپ کو بتایا کہ پورے رمضان شریف میں یہ سارا عمل جاری رہا اور حکومت نے اس کا کوئی نوٹس نہیں لیا۔ لوگوں کو کاروبار سے منع کرتے رہے، لوگوں کو مارتے پیتے رہے۔ لوگوں کو دہشت زدہ اور خوف زدہ کرتے رہے۔ شکر یہ جی۔

جناب چیئرمین، شکر یہ جی، جی جناب تاج حیدر صاحب۔

جناب چیئرمین، جی جناب تاج حیدر صاحب۔

Mr. Taj Haider: Sir, would the government wants to reply to this one?

جناب چیئرمین، جی راجہ صاحب! آپ اس پر کچھ کہنا چاہیں گے؟

راجہ محمد ظفر الحق، جناب! کونڈ میں چند دن پیشتر یہ واقعہ پیش آیا تھا جس کے بارے میں ڈاکٹر عبدالحئی صاحب نے ایوان میں سوال اٹھایا تھا اور اس معاملے میں واقعی دو رائے

ہیں۔ ایک تو ڈاکٹر حئی صاحب کا موقف ہے اور دوسرا جو بیدی صاحب نے آج بیان کیا ہے۔ تو یہ معاملہ subjudice ہے۔ کچھ لوگ گرفتار بھی ہوئے ہیں اور ان کے خلاف رپورٹس کے بعد قانونی کارروائی کی جارہی ہے تو ہمیں اس بارے میں انتظار رہے گا کہ عدالت اس کا کیا فیصلہ کرتی ہے۔
جناب چیئرمین، شکریہ جناب۔ جی جناب تاج حیدر صاحب۔

جناب تاج حیدر، جناب عالی! پچھلے ماہ حکومت نے ایک policy framework paper sign کیا ہے international donor agencies کے ساتھ۔ ہر چند کہ پہلے practice یہ تھی کہ caretaker government اس قسم کے policy framework paper sign کیا کرتی تھیں۔ یہ پہلی منتخب حکومت ہے جس نے بڑے فخر کے ساتھ اس policy framework paper کو sign کیا ہے۔

Sir, the economic crisis in the country has over taken the political crisis. In the last session an understanding was reached that there will be a discussion on the policy framework paper and its implication on the national economy. Would you be so kind as to fix a couple of days during this session so that this policy framework paper can be debated upon? Because in the last session an understanding was reached.

جناب چیئرمین، جی اس سیشن میں تو شاید یہ ممکن نہ ہو لیکن may be in next session. یہ سیشن تو انشاء اللہ کل اختتام کو پہنچ جائے گا تو اسے پھر اگلے سیشن میں لیا جائے گا۔ جی جناب زاہد خان صاحب۔

POINT OF ORDER RE: LOAD SHEDDING IN MALAKAND

جناب محمد زاہد خان، جناب میرا WAPDA point of order سے متعلق ہے۔ خوش قسمتی ہے کہ منسٹر صاحب بھی بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں۔ میں نے ان سے یہ discuss بھی کیا ہے۔ جناب! جب سے میں سینئر بنا ہوں، دو سال سے میں ایک point اٹھاتا رہا ہوں۔ کبھی سوال کر لیتا ہوں، کبھی point of order raise کر لیتا ہوں کہ ہمارے ملاکنڈ ڈویژن میں سال کے بارہ مہینے

load shedding ہوتی ہے۔ کل بھی میں اپنے گاؤں گیا تو رات کو دو گھنٹے بجی غائب رہی۔ یہ routine load shedding ایک میں چلتی آ رہی ہے۔ جناب! پہلے بھی جو منسٹر صاحبان واپڈا کے تھے اور سابق منسٹر صاحب نے بھی کہا تھا کہ یہ لوڈشیڈنگ ختم ہو جائے گی۔ آپ مجھے بتائیں کہ پورے پاکستان میں کہاں لوڈشیڈنگ ہوتی ہے۔ کہیں بھی نہیں ہو رہی۔ ویسے تو یہاں کوئی بھی بات ہو تو انہیں اور کوئی جگہ نہیں متی اور وہاں جا کر اعلان کر دیتے ہیں۔ اگر شریعت بل آیا تو اس کے متعلق بھی وہیں جا کر لوگوں کو بتایا گیا۔ تو ان لوگوں کے حال پر بھی تو رحم کریں جناب۔ کیا وہ لوگ اس پاکستان کا حصہ نہیں ہیں۔ جناب! وہاں سے تو پانی آتا ہے۔ پورے مالاکنڈ ڈویژن سے پانی آتا ہے۔ دریا وہاں ہی ہیں وہاں سے تو پانی آتا ہے۔ بجلی تو اسی سے بنتی ہے۔ دو مہینے پہلے جب بہت لوڈشیڈنگ ہو رہی تھی تو وہاں ہڑتالیں ہوئیں اور لوگوں کو دو مہینے جیلوں میں اس بناء پر بند کیا کہ ان لوگوں نے نہر کا پانی بند کیا تھا اور ان پر بغاوت کا کیس بنا دیا گیا۔

جناب! وہاں ہمارے ساتھ کیوں ناانصافی ہو رہی ہے۔ جناب ہمارے دو گاؤں کے ٹرانسفارمر جل چکے ہیں۔ ایک گاؤں میں پچھلے ایک مہینے سے بجلی نہیں ہے۔ لوگ اندھیرے میں بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں۔ وہ بیچ رہے ہیں۔ اب تو آپ نے اسے فوج کے حوالے کیا ہے۔ وہاں کوئی شنوائی نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔ جناب! اس کا حل کیا ہے؟ اس لئے میں آپ کی وساطت سے یہ پوائنٹ نوٹ کروانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ہمارے حال پر رحم کریں۔ اس عذاب سے ہمیں نکالیں۔ ہم بھی پاکستان کا حصہ ہیں۔ ہم بھی پاکستانی ہیں۔ آپ لوگ پتہ نہیں کس وجہ سے ہمارے علاقوں میں لوڈشیڈنگ کرواتے ہیں؟ ہم تو پورے پاکستان کو بجلی provide کرواتے ہیں اور سب سے سستی بجلی ہائیڈل کی وہاں ہی سے متی ہے لیکن آپ ہمارے علاقوں میں لوڈشیڈنگ کرتے ہیں۔

جناب چیئرمین، اتفاق سے آج وزیر صاحب موجود ہیں may be he can respond.

جناب محمد زاہد خان، جناب وزیر صاحب! اس کی تحقیقات کروائیں کہ یہ لوڈشیڈنگ کیوں ہو رہی ہے۔ جناب! سال کے بارہ مہینے ہوتی ہے، یہ نہیں کہ صرف ابھی ہو رہی ہے۔ جناب مجھے اس کی وضاحت ضرور چاہیے۔

Mr. Chairman: Minister for Water and Power.

جناب گوہر ایوب خان، جناب چیئرمین! معزز سینیٹر بجا کہہ رہے ہیں، دیر اور سوات کے علاقے میں یہ کافی عرصے سے problem رہا ہے، load sector ہے یہ باقی ملک میں کہیں لوڈ شیڈنگ نہیں ہے، آج ہمارے پاس surplus power ہے تقریباً ایک ہزار سے لے کر بارہ سو میگا واٹ تک۔ وہاں پر ایک نیا گرڈ سٹیشن بن رہا ہے، اس کا کام تقریباً estimated تھا 30 جون تک پورا ہو گا، تا کہ اس تمام علاقے کی technical load shedding ختم ہو جائے، جناب یہ planned نہیں ہوتی، یہ technical ہوتی ہے۔ میں نے کہا ہوا ہے کہ جون سے پہلے پہلے complete کریں تا کہ معاملہ حل ہو سکے۔

جناب چیئرمین، گوہر صاحب! میں چترال گیا تھا ' and there I saw a small

power plant which has been constructed by the poeple with their own resources.

It was providing electricity to a hundred homes. وہ کہہ رہے تھے کہ اس پر خرچہ کوئی پانچ سات لاکھ روپے ہوتا ہے اور وہ خود اس کو manage کر رہے تھے اور سو گھروں کو بجلی جا رہی تھی۔ اب مجھے یاد نہیں ہے کہ was it run of the river, I think it was run of the river. تو may be something like this can be encouraged. خصوصاً مالا کنڈ وغیرہ میں تو یہ ہو سکتا ہے۔

جناب گوہر ایوب خان، جناب چیئرمین! آزاد کشمیر میں 31 locations feasible

ہیں جہاں تقریباً ایک میگا واٹ سے لے کر 1700 میگا واٹ تک بجلی پیدا کی جا سکتی ہے۔ اسی طرح انڈس کے اوپر کافی سارے ہیں، بڑے project ہیں، چھوٹے تو بے پناہ ہیں، run of the river and reservoir، فرنیئر میں بے پناہ ہیں، مالا کنڈ III ہے جہاں سے irrigation tunnel بھی جا رہی ہے، وہاں سے power بھی generate ہو سکتی ہے 84 mega watt اسی طرح سوات میں کافی locations ہیں۔ ہم صوبوں کو بھی encourage کریں، خود بھی کریں اور foreign enterprises بھی اس میں interest show کر رہی ہیں اور ان کو expedite کرنے کی کوشش کی جا رہی ہے۔

جناب چیئرمین، جی زاہد خان صاحب! یہ چیک کریں، چترال میں میں نے دیکھا ہے،

you can do ' آپ لوگوں کو اکٹھا کر کے، کچھ حکومت مدد کرے، کچھ خود کریں، ' you can do

something.

جناب زاہد خان، جناب والا! جو آپ کہہ رہے ہیں وہ بھی ہو رہا ہے۔ لیکن جو ان کی اپنی بجلی وہاں گئی ہے، وہ بھی تو ملے ناں۔ مرکزی حکومت اس کو encourage کرنے، صوبائی حکومت بھی encourage کرے، بلکہ لوگوں نے یہ سب کیا بھی ہوا ہے، لیکن اس میں بھی مسائل ہیں ناں، قرضے نہیں ملتے ہیں، کبھی پرزے نہیں ملتے ہیں، کچھ عرصہ تو چلتا ہے، لیکن پھر مسائل کھڑے ہو جاتے ہیں۔ پھر سب سے بڑی بات یہ ہے کہ وہاں جو already ہے وہاں پر گورنمنٹ کی بجلی ہے، وہ تو دیں ناں۔ میں نے دو گاؤں کا نام لیا ہے، ان میں ٹرانسمار بھی جل چکے، ایک گاؤں ہے تنگی تیرگرہ اور دوسرا رحمان پور تیرگرہ۔ ان لوگوں سے واہڈا والے پیسے بھی لے لیتے ہیں کہ یہ ٹرانسمار خراب ہو گیا ہے، پیسے دیں تو ہم اس کو ٹھیک کرنے کے لئے لے جاتے ہیں۔ لوگوں سے پیسے اکٹھے بھی کرتے ہیں لیکن مہینوں تک وہ لوگ اندھیروں میں بیٹھے رہتے ہیں۔ آپ کی بات پر بھی ہم عمل کریں گے، لوگ کوشش کر رہے ہیں، حکومت بھی سہولت دے دے، قرضے وغیرہ دے دے تاکہ لوگ وہ بنا سکیں۔

جناب گوہر ایوب خان، جناب چیئرمین! ٹرانسمارمرز کا معزز سینئر نے کہا ہے، میں نے یہ نوٹ کر لیا ہے، انشاء اللہ یہ حل کر لیں گے، ہماری جو surplus power ہے، اس کو ہم store نہیں کر سکتے ہیں، جو ایک ہزار یا بارہ سو میگا واٹ ہماری saving ہوئی ہے، اس کو ہم store نہیں کر سکتے۔ Wapda is a commercial organization, utilities کو بیچنا پڑے گا، جب تک ہم اس کو بیچیں گے نہیں، ہمیں revenue نہیں ملے گا۔ تو ہمارا تو interest ہے کہ وہ جتنا جلد utilize کر سکیں، بیچ سکیں، میٹر دے سکیں، اتنا ہی ہم کو فائدہ ہو گا، otherwise its a loss to us.

جناب چیئرمین، جی غلام قادر چانڈیو صاحب۔

جناب غلام قادر چانڈیو، شکریہ جناب چیئرمین! میں نے آج سے پانچ چھ دن پہلے یہاں پر ایک point of order اٹھایا تھا واہڈا کی recovery کے بارے میں۔ میں نے پہلے بھی کہا تھا کہ ہمیں واہڈا کی recovery پر کوئی اعتراض نہیں ہے۔ اس وقت لیڈر آف دی ہاؤس راجہ ظفر الحق صاحب نے کہا تھا کہ میں آپ کو اس کے بارے میں بتاؤں گا۔ لیکن آج تک اس کا کوئی

جواب نہیں ملا۔ آج چونکہ وزیر برائے واٹر اینڈ پاور بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں، میں وہ باتیں ان کو ذرا بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ سندھ میں خاص طور پر بڑی زیادتی ہو رہی ہے، دوڑ سٹی کے قریب واٹر کا عملہ recovery کے لئے گیا، ایک گاؤں پر پھلپ مارا، وہاں پر خواتین کے ساتھ جو سلوک کیا گیا، اٹھک بیٹھک کروائی گئی۔ میں نے ٹیلیگرام کئے۔ اس کے علاوہ سیشن جج کے گھر پر رات کو ساڑھے بارہ بجے پھلپ مارا گیا اور اس کے ملازم کو مارا پیٹا گیا، اس کے علاوہ ہمارے صوبائی MPAs کے اوپر بھی جعلی مقدمات بنائے جا رہے ہیں، کہ آپ کے اوپر واٹر کی recovery ہے۔ تو جناب عالی! میں وزیر صاحب سے یہ پوچھنا چاہوں گا کہ خاص طور پر سندھ میں یہ جو زیادتیاں ہو رہی ہیں اس کے لئے یہ کیا اقدامات اٹھا رہے ہیں؟ کیونکہ اس سے پہلے بھی اخبار میں ایک خبر آئی تھی کہ VIP حضرات جو گورنمنٹ میں بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں، ان کے لئے جو بھی ایکشن لینا پڑے گا recovery کے حوالے سے --- یا جو بجٹی چوری میں ملوث ہیں، ان کے خلاف آپ کو جو اقدامات اٹھانے ہیں، ان سے ذرا گریز کریں۔ اس کا ابھی تک کوئی جواب نہیں آیا۔ وزیر صاحب بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں، میں چاہوں گا کہ اس پر وہ اپنی statement دیں تو مہربانی ہوگی۔

Mr. Chairman: Minister for Water and Power.

جناب گوہر ایوب خان، جناب چیئرمین! اس طرح کی رپورٹیں سندھ، پنجاب اور فرنٹیر سے بھی آئیں ہیں۔ میں نے چیئرمین واٹر سے صاف کہا ہے کہ کسی کی بے عزتی نہیں ہونی چاہیے۔ ہو سکتا ہے اتنی بڑی فورس ہتھیں ہزار کی ہے کہیں نہ کہیں over-enthusiasm یا lack of experience سے کوئی واقعہ ہو جائے۔ ہم یہ باتیں deny نہیں کرتے کہ نہیں ہوئی ہیں۔ لیکن میں نے صاف کہا ہے کہ کسی کی بے عزتی نہیں کرنی ہے کیونکہ wapda is a commercial organization. ہمیں جیل بھرنے سے کوئی دلچسپی نہیں ہے۔ ہم تو صرف یہ چاہتے ہیں کہ recoveries ہوں، کریپشن ختم ہو، لائن losses ختم ہوں اور efficiency ہو کیونکہ یہ representative government ہے اور duly elected ہے اور ہم لوگ answerable to the people ہیں۔ میں نے صاف ہدایات دیں ہیں کہ ایسی رپورٹیں نہیں آنی چاہئیں اور انشاء اللہ ایسے اقدامات کیے جا رہے ہیں کہ یہ چیزیں نہ دہرائی جائیں۔

جناب چیئرمین، جی جناب حاجی جاوید اقبال صاحب۔

حاجی جاوید اقبال عباسی، ہمارے وزیر پانی و بجلی بیٹھے ہوئے ہیں اور ہمارے علاقے سے واقف بھی ہیں کہ لورے کے علاقے میں بارشیں اور مری سے ہو کر بجلی کی لائنیں جاتی ہیں اور NA-12 میں بہت بڑی لائن ہے اور پہلے جب راجہ نادر پرویز صاحب پانی اور بجلی کے وزیر تھے تو میں نے ان سے لکھوایا بھی تھا کہ اسلام آباد سے ڈائریکٹ تھانڈ لورے کو بجلی دی جائے کیونکہ جب بارش کے دن آتے ہیں برف باری کا موسم ہوتا ہے تو ہمارے علاقے میں بجلی بند ہو جاتی ہے کیونکہ لائن لمبی ہونے کی وجہ سے تاریں آپس میں ٹکراتی ہیں۔

میں وزیر صاحب سے گزارش کروں گا کہ راجہ نادر پرویز صاحب کے آرڈر موجود ہیں تو وہ NWFP کو کہیں یا اسلام آباد کے چیئرمین سے کہیں کہ ہمارے علاقے کو اسلام آباد سٹیشن سے بجلی دی جائے۔ وہاں اکثر اندھیرا رہتا ہے۔

جناب گوہر ایوب خان، جناب چیئرمین! حاجی جاوید کا point valid ہے کیونکہ جو لورے کی طرف لائن جا رہی ہے ہری پور کی طرف سے وہ extended ہے اور تقریباً ایک سو بیس کلومیٹر بن جاتی ہے اور ان کو کافی دقت ہوتی ہے۔ This is a genuine complaint and grievance. I will try my best and through Islamabad feasibility will do my best on this.

جناب چیئرمین، جی راشدی صاحب on a Point of order

جناب حسین شاہ راشدی، جناب میں جس point of order پر کھڑا ہوں وہ ویسے تو Minister for Communication سے تعلق رکھتا ہے مگر چونکہ معاملہ اہم ہے اور کچھ معلوم نہیں ہے کہ Minister for Communication کب ہاؤس میں تشریف لائیں گے۔ لہذا میں گزارش کروں گا Minister for Parliamentary Affairs سے وہ اگر یہ نوٹ کر لیں۔

جناب جب انگریزوں نے سندھ کو فتح کیا تو انہوں نے سب سے پہلے ایک پل بنایا جس کو لینڈس ڈاؤن برج کہتے ہیں جو روہڑی کو سکھر کے ساتھ ملاتا ہے۔ اس پر پاکستان کے بننے کے بھی تیس برس بعد تک ریلوے ٹریک چلتی تھی اور اب بھی ٹریک کے لیے کھلا ہے حالانکہ اس کی عمر کہتے ہیں کہ ایک سو برس تھی۔ اس کے ساتھ پھر کوٹری برج بنا ہے جو کوٹری اور حیدر آباد کو ملاتا ہے وہ بھی انگریزوں کے ابتدائی زمانے میں بنا تھا اس کی حالت بھی اب خستہ ہے

مگر اس کے باوجود بھی وہاں سے ٹرینیں گزرتی ہیں کیونکہ پٹے جو پاکستانی انجینئروں نے پل بنایا تھا، کوٹری کے پل سے بوجھ ہٹانے کے لیے، وہ پل بالکل ناکارہ رہا اور اس پر ایک دن بھی ٹرین نہیں چلی اور وہ پل ٹوٹ گیا۔

مگر اب خبر آئی ہے کہ لینڈس ڈاؤن پل جو پوری دنیا میں انجینئرنگ کا ایک شاہکار مانا جاتا ہے اور ایک عجوبے کی حیثیت رکھتا ہے، اخبار کی خبر کے مطابق اس کو فوری مرمت کی ضرورت ہے ورنہ یہ تاریخی پل کسی وقت بھی کسی بھی حادثے سے دو چار ہو سکتا ہے۔

لہذا میں حکومت کی توجہ اور خاص طور پر وزیر مواصلات کی توجہ اس طرف مبذول کراؤں گا کہ ازراہکم اس پر فوری توجہ دی جائے۔ اگر ہو سکے تو اس کے لیے کوئی سپیشل گرانٹ وغیرہ کا انتظام کرے وزیر مواصلات اس پر خصوصی توجہ دیں۔ شکریہ۔

جناب چیئرمین، اس جانب سے any response.

میاں محمد یسین خان وٹو، جناب ہم اس کو دیکھیں گے جی۔

جناب چیئرمین، جی جناب رضا ربانی صاحب۔

Mian Raza Rabbani: Sir, I am grateful. Sir, as you are aware that today being 8th of March is the International Womens' Day and this date was fixed sometimes in 1910 when the second International Womens' Socialist Conference took place and in that it was decided that to commemorate and reiterate the solidarity with the calls and struggle of the women each year the 8th of March would be commemorated as International Womens' Day. Keeping that in mind and keeping in mind the struggle of the women in Pakistan for the restoration of their rights, be they political, economic or cultural and against decadent and reactionary forces which seek to keep them confined within the four walls of the house and not to allow them to play their due and rightful role in the body politics of the nation, the combined Opposition initiated a draft resolution in connection with the International Womens' Day and giving support

to the Pakistani Women in their just struggle. I am happy to say that at your Office, the government, Raja Sahib and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister were good enough to agree unanimously to the resolution and the JWP has also been kind enough to fix their signatures. So, I don't think, there would be a problem in the passage of this resolution. Therefore, I would seek, through you, the leave of the House for the suspension of Rules and then beg permission to move the resolution.

جناب چیئرمین۔ جی کون کونسے rules suspend کرنے ہیں۔

Mian Raza Rabbani: Sir, I beg to move for the suspension of the Rules under Rule 236 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate of Pakistan 1988, that the requirements of Rule 27, 120 and 122 and any other relevant rule may be suspended and I be given permission to move the said resolution.

Mr. Chairman: It has been moved by Mr. Raza Rabbani.....

آپ oppose تو نہیں کر رہے ناں۔

It has been moved by Mr. Raza Rabbani under Rule 236 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate of Pakistan 1988, that the requirements of Rules 26, 27, 120 and 122 to be dispensed with to enable him to move a resolution before this House.

(The motion was adopted)

RESOLUTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mian Raza Rabbani: Sir, I beg your permission to the resolution

which reads that on the occasion of the International Womens' Day, the Senate of Pakistan resolves that it will protect the political, economic, cultural and legal rights of the Women of Pakistan. The Senate of Pakistan expresses concern at attempts to circumvent the role of Women and assure them of its support in playing their proper role in the political, economic and cultural development of the nation. The Senate of Pakistan further assures the Women of its support in their just struggle for the attainment and preservation of their rights under the Constitution of Pakistan.

جناب چیئرمین۔ جی، anybody راجہ صاحب! آپ اس پر کچھ کہنا چاہیں گے۔

راجہ محمد ظفر الحق۔ جناب چیئرمین! یہ ایک متفقہ resolution ہے اور یہ ان مواقع میں سے ایک خوشگوار موقع ہے جہاں گورنمنٹ اور Opposition کی آواز ایک ہے اور ہم اتفاق رائے سے اس resolution کی تائید اور حمایت کرتے ہیں۔ بلاشبہ آج کا دن نہ صرف خواتین کے لئے بلکہ انسانیت کے لئے اہم ہے۔ ہمیں اس بات کا فخر ہے کہ جب دنیا بھر میں خواتین کے حقوق کا کہیں تصور نہیں تھا۔ تو اسلام نے خواتین کو وہ حقوق دیئے تھے۔ قرآن حکیم کے احکامات اس سلسلے میں اور خود رسول اکرم صلی اللہ علیہ و آلہ وسلم کی حیات طیبہ ایک بہت اعلیٰ نمونہ ہے لیکن افسوس یہ ہے کہ ہمارے ملک کے اندر ان حقوق کے اوپر پورے طریقے سے نہ صرف یہ کہ عمل نہیں ہو رہا بلکہ مختلف طبقات کسی نہ کسی بہانے سے، کسی نہ کسی طریقے سے خواتین کو ان سے محروم رکھتے چلے آئے ہیں۔

اس بات میں بھی کوئی شک نہیں کہ مغربی دنیا کے معاشروں میں ابھی تھوڑا ہی عرصہ پہلے، اسی صدی کے اندر ہی وراثت کے حقوق دیئے گئے تھے اور ووٹ کا حق بھی ہندوستان میں خواتین کو پہلے ملا تھا اور باقی معاشروں میں بعد میں دیا گیا لیکن اس میں بھی کوئی شک نہیں کہ ہمارے معاشرے کے اندر ایسے ایسے جاگیردار خاندان ابھی تک موجود ہیں جو اپنی بیٹیوں کو وراثت میں سے حصہ نہیں دیتے۔ اس کے لئے مختلف طریقے اور بہانے تراش لیتے ہیں۔ اب بھی ایسا مرہد موجود ہے کہ شریعت کے لحاظ سے عورت اور مرد کی اپنی مرضی کے علاوہ شادی نہیں کی

جا سکتی۔ نکاح ان پر زبردستی ٹھونسا نہیں جا سکتا۔ یہ ان بنیادی حقوق میں سے ایک ہے جو اسلام نے صدیوں پہلے دیا تھا لیکن اس حق پر بھی آج عمل درآمد نہیں ہو رہا۔ بیوی کو گھر کے اندر خاندان کے ایک معزز فرد کی حیثیت سے ایسے حقوق حاصل ہیں جن کا تعین خاوند پر نہیں چھوڑا گیا بلکہ قانون اور شریعت نے وہ حقوق دیئے ہیں۔ اکثر اوقات ان سے بھی انہیں محروم کیا جاتا ہے۔ اس بارے میں آئین کے اندر بھی discrimination یا اس معاملے میں کوئی تفریق روا نہ رکھنے کا اعلان کیا گیا ہے لیکن میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ وہ ابھی تک مختلف شعبوں میں موجود ہے۔ اس لئے نہ صرف اس قرارداد کا پاس ہونا بلکہ اس کے لئے ایک social education کا ہونا اس احساس کو بیدار کرنا کہ وہ معاشرے کا ایک معزز حصہ ہیں independent of any one else ان کے حقوق ہیں۔ یہ نہیں کہ بیوی کی حیثیت سے یا بیٹی کی حیثیت سے بلکہ ایک فرد کی حیثیت سے ان کے اپنے حقوق ہیں لیکن کئی معاملات ایسے ہیں کہ قانون بھی پوری طرح ان کی مدد نہیں کرتا۔ ہذا قانون کے شعبے میں بھی بہت سی اصلاحات کی ضرورت ہے۔ تعلیم کی ذریعے سے حکومت کی پالیسیوں کے ذریعے سے بھی اس معاملے میں پیش رفت کی ضرورت ہے۔ ہذا آج اس بین الاقوامی دن کے حوالے سے میں اس resolution کے ساتھ اتفاق بھی کرتا ہوں اور میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ خواتین کے جو حقوق انہیں بحیثیت انسان بحیثیت ایک فرد نے چاہئیں وہ ان کو دلانے میں ان کی مدد کریں اور آگے بڑھ کر اس معاملے میں پیش رفت کرنے میں ہمیں اسی انداز میں مل جل کر کام کرنا ہو گا جیسے آج ایوان یہ متفقہ ریزولوشن پاس کر رہا ہے۔

Mr. Chairman: As there is no opposition, I put the resolution to the vote of the House

(The motion was carried)

Mr. Chairman: The resolution is passed unanimously. Syed Iqbal Haider.

Syed Iqbal Haider: Sir, I had moved a call attention notice this morning and I would seek your permission to move that call attention notice sir.

Mr. Chairman: This pertains to the Ministry of Petroleum and I have

received a letter from them saying that they have received the call attention notice today at about 3 p.m. and since this is concerned with a lot of facts which they had to investigate, they were asked to lay these facts before the House tomorrow.

Syed Iqbal Haider: Sir, I may only read. They may bring the reply tomorrow.

جناب چیئرمین: چلیں صرف پڑھ دیں۔ پھر بحث نہیں ہوگی۔

سید اقبال حیدر، صرف دو تین نکات ہیں۔ کوئی لمبی چوڑی بات نہیں ہے جناب۔

Mr. Chairman: Read it out.

Syed Iqbal Haider: Sir, I may read the whole. I hereby invite attention of the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources to a matter of urgent public importance mentioned below:

It is reported in "The Nation" of March 07, 1999 that the Petroleum Ministry without following the prescribed service rules has terminated the services of some 4200 employees of Sui Southern Gas Co. Ltd. at Hyderabad Station. They were fired without even taking into account the Supreme Court Order.

Sir, there are three orders. One is of the Sindh High Court which had restrained the dismissal of 1000 employees...

جناب چیئرمین: یہ بہتر ہوتا کہ اگر وہ موجود ہوں تو آپ یہ کہیں۔

So, it is better that you raise these issues - کورٹ کا آرڈر - کوئی نہیں ہے سپریم کورٹ کا آرڈر - that tomorrow when the Minister is here.

Syed Iqbal Haider: Sir, I will just brief the House. There are

judgements, sir.

Mr. Chairman: No, what I am saying is

کہ دکھیں ناں آپ ایک بات کر رہے ہیں ہو سکتا ہے وہ کہیں نہیں ہے۔ تو وہ موجود ہوں تو بہتر ہے۔

Syed Iqbal Haider: Then sir, I will authorise my colleagues to take over that because I have to attend the Supreme Court tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: No, no.

آپ نے point raise کر دیئے ہیں۔ Actually انہوں نے کہا ہے کہ چونکہ courts کا بھی ذکر ہے۔ We would like to find out.

سید اقبال حیدر، جناب judgements passed ہیں۔

Cases are not in the court at the moment. The last judgement is as late as of 11th February, 1999 of the Supreme Court in which they have restrained Sui Southern from terminating the employees.

جناب چیئرمین، چلیں آپ کسی کو authorise کر دیں۔ راشدی صاحب کو کر دیں۔

سید اقبال حیدر، جی راشدی صاحب کو اور رضا ربانی صاحب کو میں authorise کرتا ہوں۔

Mr. Chairman: O.K. Any other matter?

جناب فرمائیے جی راجہ صاحب۔

راجہ محمد ظفر الحق: جی Opposition کی طرف سے دو تین بار اس بات کا مطالبہ کیا گیا تھا کہ ہندوستان کے وزیر اعظم کے دورے کے اوپر ایوان کو اعتماد میں لینے کی ضرورت ہے تو وزیر خارجہ چونکہ وہاں بنگہ دیش meeting میں موجود تھے، وہ آج موجود ہیں اور ہماری خواہش یہ ہو گی کہ اس معاملے کو شروع کیا جائے اور اس کے بعد پھر اس پر بحث جاری رکھیں۔

چوہدری اعتراز احسن، آج ہی کریں گے۔ کل وہ نہیں ہیں یہاں، یہ مشکل آج
تشریف لائے ہیں ہمارے وزیر خارجہ اور جناب اس لئے ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ کچھ ان سے سنا جائے۔

Mr. Chairman: O.K. Minister for Foreign Affairs.

DISCUSSION ON INDIANS PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN

Mr. Sartaj Aziz: Mr. Chairman, I welcome this opportunity to brief the Senate regarding the visit of the Prime Minister of India Mr. Atal Behari Vajpaee to Pakistan on 20th and 21st February, 1999.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware that this visit took place at a critical juncture in the history of India -Pakistan relations. For the past 50 years, these relations have remained mired in wars extensions and confrontation. The core dispute of Jammu & Kashmir has remained unresolved. Firing between our troops still continues along the Line of Control and on the Sia Chine Glacier. Since May 1998, a more dangerous and volatile security environment has emerged following the nuclear tests by India and in response by Pakistan. As the honourable members are fully aware, the Indian nuclear test on 11th May qualitatively changed the security environment in the region and posed a direct threat to Pakistan's security. We were confronted by the threats and intimidations calling upon Pakistan to accept the changed strategic realities and specially to role back its principled policy of supporting the just struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination.

Pakistan was therefore, compelled to conduct its own nuclear tests in order to restore the strategic balance and demonstrate a credible nuclear

deterrent. This historic decision marked the watershed in Pakistan - India relations. For the first time in 50 years, we have acquired an independent and indigenous defence capability which is the ultimate guarantee of our security. The nuclearization of South Asia also underscored the urgent need for Pakistan and India to resolve all outstanding issues between them and in particular the central issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

At the international level, the nuclear tests served to focus attention on the need for resolving this root cause of tension between the two countries since it has become a nuclear flash point.

Accordingly, the UN Security Council Resolution 1172 calls for a dialogue between Pakistan and India to address the Kashmir issue. Similar views have been expressed in statement and communique of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries. The permanent five members of UN Security Council. Additionally prominent world leaders such as the South African President and current Chairman of the Non-Alliance Movement - Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of US- Mr. Bill Clinton and the UN Secretary General - Mr. Kofi Annan have echoed similar exhortations for a solution of the Kashmir dispute.

Pakistan has consistently sought a peaceful, negotiated and durable settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolution enabling the Kashmiri people to exercise their inalienable right of self-determination. Their struggle for obtaining this right has been met ironically with massive repression which has violated over the past ten years several other fundamental rights of Kashmiris including freedom of speech, movement or association. Experience of the last 50 years characterized by three wars and continuing tension demonstrate that use of force cannot provide the

solution to the problems between India and Pakistan. In the prevailing nuclear environment war is no longer an option, the only avenue available to both countries is that of dialogue and negotiations.

Guided by this conviction, Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif launched an initiative for resuming the bilateral dialogue with India, soon after assuming office in 1997. The strength of this argument was and continues to be that the people of both countries confront similar problems of poverty, hunger and disease. Both countries need economic development and social progress. However, as long as their relations continued to remain intangled in confrontation and tension they would be compelled to divert their resources away from developmental purposes towards continuing spiral of a wasteful arms race.

In order to break out this vicious circle, the Prime Minister repeatedly emphasized to the Indian interlocutors that it is imperative to ensure peace and security in the region by resolving all outstanding issues particularly the Kashmir dispute.

In June, 1997, Mr. Chairman, the Prime Minister's efforts achieved significant success, when Foreign Secretaries of Pakistan and India reached an understanding on an agreed agenda for bilateral talks which included the Kashmir issue for the first time in several decades and was to be discussed in a separate working group.

More importantly, in the New York meeting of 23rd September, 1998, the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India agreed and I quote, "an environment of peace and security is in the supreme national interest of both countries and that resolution of all outstanding issues including Jammu and Kashmir is essential for

this purpose. This historic agreement has become the framework and we touch stone for the bilateral dialogue process that commenced in October last year in Islamabad at foreign secretary's level.

We also emphasised that normalization of our relations with India would not be possible unless there was concrete tolerance on the Kashmir issue. However, in order to improve the atmosphere for serious negotiation, the Prime Minister also took several initiatives i.e., starting a bus service between Lahore and New Dehli, ordering the unilateral release of Indian fishermen and civilian prisoners, offering to sell surplus electricity to India and resuming exchanges in the field of sports.

These developments set the stage for the Indian Prime Minister - Mr. Vajpayee's visit to Pakistan on the inaugural run of the Bus service between Delhi and Lahore. In keeping our established practice a dignified welcome befitting a head of government was accorded to the Prime Minister Vajpayee. Apart from the formal session of the bilateral dialogue the two leaders held several rounds of informal talks. At the conclusion of the visit three documents were adopted. The Lahore Declaration, the Memorandum of Understanding and the Joint Statement.

I would like to place copies of these documents on the Senate record. The Lahore Declaration is by far the most important outcome of the summit meeting. It records the shared vision of the two leaders, not only about the future relationship between Pakistan and India but for the security and prosperity of the entire South Asian Region.

The very first operative paragraph of the Declaration establishes the commitment of both sides to intensify their efforts to resolve the outstanding

issue of Kashmir. Another paragraph calls for respecting human rights and fundamental freedom among which is the fundamental freedom of self determination.

The Lahore Declaration also underscores the commitment of both sides to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter as well as reiterating their determination to implement the Simla Agreement in letter and spirit. As most members, Mr. Chairman, are aware the UN Charter clearly calls for the implementation of all decisions taken by the World Body including the relevant resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir. As regard the Simla Agreement the outstanding issue to be addressed is the final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, it should be noted that in as many as three public pronouncements from Mr. Vajpayee confirmed a need to resolve the Kashmir issue through an integrated bilateral dialogue process. The Memorandum of Understanding also establishes a clear linkage between an environment of regional peace and security and resolution of the Kashmir dispute. Furthermore, the memorandum identifies eight concrete measures that are to be taken for ensuring peace and security as well as promoting stabilization and restraint in the nuclear and conventional fields. This is to be achieved through confidence building measures, the details of which are to be worked out by technical experts of the two sides.

The next round of Foreign Secretary level talks to follow up this is likely in the month of April. Mr. Chairman, from the floor of this August House I want to state categorically that there is no question of the government having compromised Pakistan's principled position on the Jammu and Kashmir issue as has been alleged by some quarters. There is no secret understanding or deal nor is there any weakening of our position on the Kashmir dispute. The government

remains committed as before to supporting the just cause of the Kashmiri people for self-determination and we shall continue to provide them political, moral and diplomatic support toward this end.

Indeed it is our conviction that the Government's policy of engagement with India at the highest level has better served the Kashmir cause. Indeed the most significant outcome of the Lahore Summit has been the agreement between the two leaders to intensify efforts for the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Chairman, as the Leader of the House indicated in his brief comments earlier, in preparation for the Indian Prime Minister's visit, I briefed the Standing Committees of both the Houses on Foreign Affairs to explain to them the background of the visit and the scope of the negotiation. The Prime Minister also invited the Kashmiri Leaders including the representative of the All Pakistan Hurriat Conference and leaders from the Azad Kashmir, both in the Government and the Opposition to take them into confidence because we considered them the most important party on this core issue. We have also asked India to stop his policy of repression in Kashmir by reducing their troops and providing better opportunities to Kashmiris to take part in political activities and visit other countries including Pakistan. It is also a matter of record that the summit meeting has been welcomed and praised by virtually every country and world leaders. The event has attracted wide presentation and commendation from the international media as well. Even within Pakistan, Mr. Chairman, we are happy to note that many Opposition leaders' and newspapers' comments have welcomed the initiative to raise the level of negotiation with India. The most important aspect of the international reaction has been the unprecedented focus on the need to resolve the Kashmir issue. Our commitment to peace and security has

also been lauded by the international community. We have clearly established that this can be achieved through the resolution of all outstanding issues in particular the core dispute of Kashmir.

There is now increasing appreciation in the world that peace, progress and prosperity in South Asia are not possible without environment of security and stability for which purpose it is imperative to resolve the root cause of tension, the Kashmir issue.

This fundamental reality has been repeatedly emphasised by the Prime Minister in his meeting with the Indian Leaders as well as to other world leaders. He has also stressed at every opportunity that not only Pakistan and India but the entire SAARC region would benefit tremendously from diversion of resources towards economic development, promotion of trade and regional cooperation at the SAARC Summit in Columbo we had put forward a proposal on peace, security and development aimed at creating an enabling environment for progress, prosperity of regional cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that the outcome of the Prime Minister Vajpaae's visit has been positive. It is now time for both sides to convert their commitments into deeds to translate words into action. We remain ready to do our part and to fulfil our obligation. It is our hope that Indian side will reciprocate in equal measures.

The hopes and aspirations of our present and future generations depend on the direction Pakistan and India shall take. We stand before the eyes of all humanity to redeem the pledge that we have made in Lahore and to the Kashmiri people. The choice before us is stark and simple between peace and prosperity or death and destruction.

Before concluding, let me again emphasise that we will value any advice and guidance from members of this august House that can be provided to us in dealing with the next crucial stages or in dealing with this important and complex issue. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Aitzaz Ahsan .

Ch. Aitzaz Ahsan : Mr. Chairman, you will recall that when we were told in your chamber that Mr. Sartaj Aziz, the Foreign Minister would like to disclose or make, I should not use the word 'disclose' but like to make a statement on the Indian Prime Minister's visit to Lahore. We initially wanted more time because you will recall and I want to place this on the record for the sake of my own colleagues that we insisted that this was a Private Members' Day and particularly Mr. Iqbal Haider had items on the agenda.

Now his items on the agenda, it was pointed out related to pharmaceutical products and syllabus, sir, generally everybody felt that since the Foreign Minister would not be here tomorrow, it might not be possible to adjourn his statement. Although these two or three items could perhaps in on account of the relative seriousness and contemporaneity of the matter raised by the Foreign Minister could take priority.

Accordingly, we agreed even though, Mr. Chairman, I hope that yawn was for the Foreign Minister and not for my speech sir, but accordingly we wanted, we hoped, we expected that the Foreign Minister would, when taking our own time from us, a Private Members' Day, come out with a statement that would be refreshingly indicative of what actually transpired. He must have been a ring side presence in the talks he must have been in the cockpit, he must know

more than what he has revealed. What he has said, seems to have, with respect I dare say, concealed more than what he has told us. I am utterly disappointed at the statement he has made, I took some notes as he was making the statement, I don't want to be wrong, an erroneous in recounting things he said but very briefly, it is the same stereo type copy taken out of a foreign office computer, which said that nuclear test has changed the environment. The U.N. Security Council Resolution 1172, the G-8 Resolution, Kufi Anan and U. S President Bill Clinton asked for a dialogue between the two parties. Pakistan has sort the peaceful negotiation and durable solution to Kashmir, use of force is no option, dialogue and negotiations were the only options.

Hence the Prime Minister Nawaz Shrif was unhappy at the poverty, hunger and disease in South Asia and at the wasteful arms race. He said that in June, 1997, Foreign Secretaries meetings for the first time brought Kashmir on the agenda. I read, I dispute much of these things but what he has said, September, 1998, the Prime Minister in the United Nations agreed to resolve the Kashmir issue and in October, 1998 the Foreign Secretaries met in Islamabad, progress on Kashmir was vital but unilaterally, Mian Nawaz Shrif at the bus service, the prisoners exchange and he decided to sell the power to India and decided to participate in sports contest. So three documents were signed in Lahore, the Lahore declaration, the memorandum of understanding and a joint declaration. The Lahore declaration happily required the implementation of the Simla agreement in letter and spirit and the three public statements of Vajpayee on Kashmir in Lahore, a while in Pakistan, established the recognition by the Indians that Kashmir was an out standing issue.

Then he said that there were eight concrete measures in memorandum

and he assured us that there is no question of the government compromising on Kashmir. There is no secret understanding and viz a viz the government of Pakistan will continue to support Kashmir and the summit has been welcomed by world leaders. Thank you very much Mr. Foreign Minister, if you wanted to take a class of eight year olds, this might have done very well. But I think you ought to give us some credit. We are not eight year old, we have heard all this before and heard it at nausea. There are many questions that have arisen before and after the summit. Mr. Chairman, it appears obvious from here when he mentions the G-8 Resolution and the U.S. President, when he mentions for instance the fact that this summit has been welcomed by all heads of States internationally, it has been generally welcomed. What seems obvious first of all is that Pakistan was posturing, not with an idea of getting the Kashmir issue solved, not with that idea of having a durable negotiated peace to use his own words. But it was posturing to appear to be moving, without actually moving and to appear to be moving to those powers with whom it was not negotiating, it was for the galleries that this summit was being played, there was no substance. He has almost between the line conceded that it was not meant for any substantive purpose. What was the purpose that some people in power internationally ought to see and perceive Pakistan as moving towards the solution, as willing to move towards the solution, that is why the roads of Lahore were painted and the trees were white washed. That is why the roads suddenly had lights from them, the street lights were replenished, but Mr. Chairman. the issue is, if that is so, then why go through all this, because what you have said, is nothing new, nothing post summit.

But then there are other questions that arise, what prompted Mian

Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan on a particular day to talk to an Indian Newspaper man and say, why does not Mr. Wajpayee get on to a bus and come to Lahore. That is not all, you know, these Indian Newspaper men often tell more than perhaps the Pakistani Ministers or authorities and persons might like them to tell. I see my friend Mr. Mushahid Hussain sitting, it is the same kind of the question what prompted him to take an Indian Newspaper man once upon a time to Dr. A.Q. Khan. The results of that might have been good or bad for Pakistan, I am not getting in to that issue at the moment. At the moment the issue is, I wish the Foreign Minister had told us, was it a calculated move or was a just an off the cuff night dream that the Prime Minister just took a swipe, not knowing what he was talking about.

Now if he was not knowing what he was talking about he should have told us what did the Indian gang, the Indian Prime Minister certainly calculated his response, if ours was calculated then why was it calculated, if our was calculated as indeed it might be, I am giving the benefit of doubt to the Prime Minister, I don't say with the casual, run of milk, kind of remark, " why don't you get out of bus and come", there must be some reasons, some homework that might have been done, some concept, some deliberation with the Foreign Office, with the kitchen cabinet in the colleagues when such a major gesture was being made, what was that deliberation, what was behind that particular remark and offer or invitation. And has the purpose that was deliberated been achieved or not. The Foreign Minister does not tell us why did he come to this House? Really, we are not eight years old, now if there was a purpose and there was a calculation that preceded that invitation, we are to be told, and whether it has been achieved or not, if you cannot tell us in public tell us in private but we

ought to be told, Parliament has to be taken in to confidence, now if it was not a calculated deliberated remark not with prior concern then once that remark had been made the Indian surely calculated how to respond and Mr. Vajpayee, the Prime Minister decided to get on to the bus. Now what was their purpose, what was his purpose, what was his intent? Have you tried to discern that if you have, please take us into confidence, if you have been unable to do that please take us into confidence, and confess, if you have not even thought about it please let us know and then resign, because then you are not even thinking, you are acting off the cuff. But if you have acted with cold and clear deliberation, as you ought to and you must, then let us know, if you did not and they did, let us know. If they did and you have a particular idea of what they wanted to achieve, let us know. Have they achieved that or not, let us know. Are you doing some work or studies on this in the Foreign Office or was it just a kind of invitation to a "Basant" roof top. Mr. Vajpayee come over and together we will fly kites and together you raise kites into the sky and both went back, both back to your own position because when Mr. Vajpayee, went back, he had something very different to say and his Home Minister, who is the major leader of his party, has even more different things to say which have been reported today.

Sir, what has come out of the Lahore Summit. What was your game? What did you expect of it and what have you got? Merely saying we had dinner together. He did not say that, I can mention those. He went to the "Minar-e-Pakistan" and mentioned Kashmir and said that Pakistan is here, to say that was a great gesture, that was a solid gesture, we find re-assurance. We don't need re-assurance from the Indians about Pakistan's existence. Pakistan has always been and will always be. We don't need that re-assurance, you may need

that but Indus and India have always been separate and please read your history and be confident.

Now Mr. Chairman, let us go farther, there are other developments that have been taking place, now that you have been through the summit, now that each party has gone apparently back to its original position, what is the Chief Minister of Punjab doing in Washington. It is a major issue and I read from a press but I must say that this has been reported in the national press that the Pakistan's Ambassador admitted, sitting in a press conference with Mr. Shahbaz Sharif, Chief Minister of Punjab, this is Mr. Khokhar who explains about Mr. Shahabaz Sharif's meeting with Mr. Faily Burger. He says that the Pakistani side did not want to publicise the meeting, as it was held at the request of the US officials but he did say that the national security chief talked about the India Pakistan summit, seeking a detailed briefing from Shahbaz.

Now Mr. Chairman, why should not be the Sindh Chief Minister give a detailed briefing about this, why was he excluded, only because it was held in Lahore. Lahore is a town of Pakistan then why should not Frontier Chief Minister has been there in the talks. Is Punjab breaking away from the federation? What are we to understand Mr. Chairman, is Punjab opting out of it, taking all on its own.

I am going to come back to the story and I am going to come back to this particular point in conclusion but Mr. Chairman, when we heard that Mr. Vajpayee was coming, we thought that the Foreign Office must have done a great amount of homework. We thought that the Prime Minister's remark that why don't you get out to a bus and come must have been preceded by enormous thing then in the brain storming.... we thought may be, what a wise and good

thing for Mr. Nawaz Sharif, he has done. But Mr. Chairman, It appears that nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing was done. It was exact Mr. Chairman, as I said that the two were making to fly kites on Basant in Lahore. Now we nevertheless welcome that, because we genuinely believe that there should be no war. We genuinely, honestly believe that the issues between India and Pakistan can only be settled through peaceful negotiation. We believe definitely ourselves, that war is not the solution. It can create tremendous problems, the much much greater than the problems that we face today. So, when the two Prime Ministers were to meet, we were happy. We welcomed that interaction. We said yes, this a good thing. Mr. Chairman, I am just being informed that a Camera is recording my speech. I have no objection but you have already said that, light is on. I have just been informed. I have no objection but I want that video for my personal record. And I think, today you must call an explanation of that person who is responsible for having that light on.

Mian Raza Rabbani: Mr. Chairman, you have given explicit orders to this account that only recording of Senate proceeding will take place after you have been disburse and here the government is totally violating your directives.

Mr. Chairman: I agree with you.

Mian Raza Rabbani: And the camera is still on recording, kindly have that man removed straight away and take action against him.

جناب چیئرمین : گیا ہے ہمارا سیکورٹی والا۔

Mian Raza Rabbani: Sir, why don't you ask the Information Minister, he is sitting there.

جناب چیئرمین : کیوں جی مشاہد صاحب! یہ کیا ہو رہا ہے۔

جناب مشاہد حسین۔ جناب! کوئی ایسی بات نہیں ہوئی۔ اگر کیمہ پڑا ہوا ہے۔ کسی کا نکاح نہیں ٹوٹ رہا ہے۔ کسی کی فوٹو نہیں لی جا رہی ہے۔ کسی کی ریکارڈنگ نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔

میاں رضا ربانی: سر، ابھی بند ہوا ہے۔ نکاح کس کا ٹوٹا ہے۔ نکاح ٹوٹنے کی کیا بات ہے۔ چیئر مین کی رونگ ہے۔ چیئر مین کی رونگ کو pollute کر رہے ہیں اور کہہ رہے ہیں کہ ریکارڈنگ نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔

جناب مشاہد حسین: جب کیمہ فوٹو لیتا ہے تو لائٹ آن ہوتی ہے۔ معاف کرنا نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔

میاں رضا ربانی: ابھی لائٹ آف ہوئی ہے۔ اعتراض صاحب کی ابھی بھلی تقریر ہو رہی تھی انہوں نے خود ہی خراب کی ہے۔

جناب چیئر مین: اس میں مشاہد صاحب please, may be there some... ایسا نہ کریں۔

Mr. Mushahid Hussain: Sir, Your orders are supreme. You are the boss. there is absolutely no question of anybody undermining your authority, your order.

Mian Raza Rabbani: Sir, then who I have been find out. Who is he.

جناب چیئر مین: ابھی بھلی تقریر ہو رہی تھی۔ آپ کیا I have pointed out۔ چاہتے ہیں۔ یہ کام چھوڑ کر investigation شروع کروں۔ I look into that, کہ ان کی تقریر ختم کر دوں۔

جناب الیاس احمد بلور: جناب چیئر مین! وہ کیسٹ ابھی منگوا لیں۔

Mr. Chairman: I will do the more appropriate thing, I have asked Mr. Mushahid Hussain to ensure that the cassette which has been prepared is erased.

Mian Raza Rabbani: No, no, sir.

Mr. Chairman: I am confident that the directions have been given to the Minister will be followed.

آپ کیوں فکر کر رہے ہیں۔

میاں رضا ربانی: نہیں جناب، آپ اس کیسٹ کو اپنی custody میں منگوا لیں۔

Mr. Chairman: I have asked him to erase it personally I will do it.

آپ کیوں فکر کرتے ہیں۔ آپ مجھ پر چھوڑیں۔ یہ کام میرا ہے۔ آپ تقریر سنیں۔ اعتراض صاحب اچھی تقریر کر رہے تھے۔ آپ نے سارا ماحول خراب کر دیا۔ دکھیں نال ایک تو یہ ہے کہ violation ہوا ہے۔ That is my responsibility. مجھے بتائیں کہ نقصان کیا ہوا ہے۔ کیا کوئی غلط بات کر رہے تھے۔ نہیں، کوئی غلط بات کر رہے تھے کہ ریکارڈ ہو رہی ہے۔

میاں رضا ربانی: جناب یہ edit کریں گے۔

جناب چیئرمین، کوئی غلط ہو رہا تھا کہ ریکارڈ ہو رہی ہے۔

میاں رضا ربانی: جناب بالکل، اگر تو یہ کہیں کہ

the speech is going to be recorded, everybody would know. But why the speech is being recorded in a clandestine manner.

جناب چیئرمین، یا تو یہ ہو کہ اعتراض صاحب کوئی خفیہ بات کر رہے ہیں جو باہر آجائے گی۔

(interruption)

Mian Raza Rabbani: Why is the Minister denying it?

Mr. Chairman: I have taken note of it, I have directed the Minister and I am confident, he will carry out my orders.

جناب الیاس احمد بلور، جناب میری submission یہ ہے کہ وہاں ریکارڈ ہو رہی تھی۔ ہمارے وزیر صاحب *** فرماتے ہیں on the floor of the House کہ ریکارڈ نہیں ہو رہی ہے۔ تو میری یہ

At least do this thing. *** سنیں کیٹ منگوا کر اور دکھیں ***
(interruption)

Mr. Chairman: I will look into it.

Mr. Mushahid Hussain: I would request the honourable Senator
to withdraw his wordings. I don't like to be referred to as ***

جناب چیئرمین: یہ ایک دوسرے پر الزام تراشی مناسب نہیں ہوتی۔ I am
expunging ***those remarks. جناب اعتراض صاحب۔

چوہدری اعتراض احسن، جناب ویسے جو صحیح آپ کا رد عمل ہونا چاہیئے وہ تو یہ ہونا
چاہیئے تھا کہ جتنی تقریر ریکارڈ کی ہے میری یہ ٹیلی ویژن پر unedited دکھائی جائے۔ تب تو مانوں
کہ بھئی ان کو ریکارڈنگ کی کوئی سزا بھی ملی ہے۔ لوگوں کو پتہ بھی لگے۔

جناب چیئرمین، میں نے جو فیصلہ کیا تھا اعتراض صاحب، وہ یہ تھا کہ بھئی کوئی
ریکارڈنگ نہیں ہوگی اور اس کی background یہ ہے کہ پارلیمنٹ کی proceeding کی ریکارڈنگ
تب ہوتی ہے جب کوئی ایک نظام ہو۔ یہ نہیں کہ مرضی سے ایک کی تقریر کی ریکارڈنگ کردی اور
دوسری کی نہیں کی۔ Therefore, I prohibited that no recording would take place and
there is obviously somebody who does not understand کہ بھئی یہ کیا ہوتی ہے۔

چوہدری اعتراض احسن، جناب میں آپ کو بتاؤں کہ ہمارا مسئلہ یہ ہے کہ اب میری
تقریر ہے، مثال کے طور پر اس میں، میں نے یہ کہا کہ جب یہ اعلان ہوا ہم نے welcome کیا۔
اب اس کو چلایا جاسکتا ہے 'and it will be all my words' یہ میرے الفاظ ہوں گے اور میں ان
کو deny تو نہیں کرسکوں گا۔ لیکن ایک context سے نکال کر ان کو چلایا جائے گا، یہ ریکارڈنگ
اس لئے ہو رہی ہے اور میں اس لئے اس کے خلاف ہوں۔ اور میرے دو options ہیں۔ ایک تو یہ
کہ یا تو یہ چلائیں اس کو، کچھ تو سزا حکومت کو ملنی چاہیئے۔ اب یہ میری unedited تقریر چلائیں ٹی
وی پر۔ اور دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ کم از کم مجھے تو اس کی کیٹ دے دیں۔

***** جناب چیئرمین، ان الفاظ کو حذف کیا گیا ہے۔

Mr. Chairman: Since the recording was unauthorised, it shall be erased and the Minister would ensure that it is erased.

باقی یہ ہے کہ آپ کی تقریر سٹیپ پر تو ہے، اس کو آپ بھی لے سکتے ہیں، کوئی اور بھی لے سکتا ہے۔ ویسے اصولی بات یہ ہے کہ بصری ریکارڈنگ ہونی نہیں چاہیے unless there is some procedure agreed to. یہ نہیں کہ ایک کی ہوگئی اور دوسرے کی نہیں ہوئی۔ جس کی مرضی ہو کر دی۔ Some subordinate officials decide تو یہ پارلیمنٹ کی sacred proceeding ہے if they have to be recorded, they have to be recorded in particular manner and not random, with my permission. جناب اعتراض صاحب۔

Ch. Atizaz Ahsan: Mr. Chairman, I was submitting that when we heard of it, we honestly, genuinely welcomed it. Because we thought this is a movement towards a substantive and honest dialogue. We did know that this was going to be a mere photo opportunity. We did know that after the photo opportunity the Chief Minister would fly to Washington with that photo album to show to the officials there that look at it here, this is the Prime Minister of India and this is the Prime Minister of Pakistan, my elder brother, look at them smiling at each other. We did know that it would be a mere matter of form and not of substance.

Now, what they have lost in the process? I mean as a matter of forms, sometime also diplomacy can take a shape, the shape, the form of non-substantive gestures and perhaps move, still move forward, but that is not the case here. This was a substantive opportunity, a great window. Why? Because in 1999, Mr. Chairman, in many aspects the 1999 situation was different from the 1989 situation. In 1989, when the Prime Ministers of Pakistan and India had met, neither of us had detonated the nuclear device, neither had come out of

the closet. In 1999 both were manifest, declared nuclear Powers. The nuclear environment was indeed a pressure upon both to negotiate and talk. It is not Nawaz Sharif saying get on to the bus and Vajpayee coming. It was that environment that was pressuring him to come even at uncalculated remark by our Prime Minister, who did not know what he was saying at that moment because if he had calculated him then we deserve to know from the Foreign Minister what was the input that went into that calculation and whether or not that input and the required desires and prognosis have been achieved or not.

Secondly Mr. Chairman, besides the nuclear environment, the second major difference between 1989 and 1999 was that in 1989 Kashmir had not been in affirrance for a decade. For ten years Kashmir has been in affirrance. There has been an "intifada" in Kashmir. It trigered of at the time of the first PPP government and it has continued. It has sustained it. The Kashmiris have bogged down a very large section of Indian Army in Indian held Kashmir. This was the second pressure of which some advantage could have been taken in negotiations and talks.

The third major difference between then and now, Mr. Chairman, was that at that time the Indo-Pak hawks were in the Opposition. Both Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Nawaz were in the opposition. Today both of them are in government. They could have given greater results like for instance it had to be a Republican President who could go to China. I grant them they managed to get a greater benefit of doubts, all democratic and Republican Presidents are the same. I am sure they are as committed to the progress and prosperity of the United States as anybody else. But one can do something that the others can't. Nawaz Sharif had that opportunity and he was talking to a gentleman who had that opportunity on

the other side. The hawks were talking like doves and they could go much farther. The fourth difference, Mr. Chairman, between then and now is that in that time we were in the tail wind of Afghan situation. 10th of February, 1989, the Soviets were withdrawing from Afghanistan and there was a flush of victory in Paksitan. Although we had recently taken over but in that flush of victory, there were opinions and hawkish opinions of chasing the Soviets into the Russian Republics. Chase them right up into the Russian republics to Sorbs valley of the Soviet Union and it was said and that is what infact gave birth to the concept of the Jalalabad operation. Now it just went down. It was a follow through. There was a flush of victory. There was no compromises. No talks. No dialogues. You could win territory by wielding arms. That was the concept. If yes, the Soviet Union had been destroyed by a brave struggle. But in the flush of victory, there was no possibility among great negotiation.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, permit me to say that with all due respect, to my friends on the other side, I hope they should not mind this because it is certainly a personal view, it is a personal perspective and i.e., that at that time, permit me to say, the Opposition was not as mature as the Opposition today. Today the Opposition welcomed the talks. In 1989 the Opposition came out with such gross, fabricated allegations, which they have been showing, unfortunately repeating on television programmes, Press Conference of the then Prime Minister of Pakistan and the then late Prime Minister of India and negotiation and trying to give an impression as if there was a lack of patriotism. Now that, Mr. Chairman, we could have done, we could have joined those who were protesting. There were hawks amongst us who said, lets get up, push the Awam out, this is the time, this is the time and had we added our numbers to those who were

protesting? It was not just Lahore, we could have possibly blocked the whole of Punjab if we asked the party workers because it is a major party. We could have held and decided to hold a rally on that day in Lahore and call for all our cadre from all over Punjab to come. No, we thought of national interest, we thought that the government would perhaps come out with a durable, negotiated peace for the betterment and the better future and the prosperity of our children, your children and my children. But Mr. Chairman, it was a disappointment, it was an utter gross disappointment and that disappointment, I do not only mention for that disappointment what Mr. Vajpayee, the Indian Prime Minister said when he went back to Dehli or what Mr. Advani has said, that they are going to say, possibly that is not the only disappointment but Mr. Chairman, there were a number of opportunities that have been missed. I recall Mr. Chairman, briefly, when I had the privilege of travelling with the Prime Minister to China last year, on my return, I mentioned that I felt the foreign office had not done its home work, it just is so. I think that foreign office as it is, I have nothing, no personal grievance against any foreign office's official but they have to serve Pakistan and if they serve Pakistan, and I, as a Parliamentarian, it is my right to demand of them the best performance and I think there was a lethargic, I told them that this is a lethargic. I do not hold the then energetic Foreign Minister, in fact I found him even in China, was over energetic, he felt that too, where I am driving at and I think that his successor Foreign Minister is also burdened with a paraphernalia that does not work. Once you have decided that, once Mr. Vajpayee had accepted the invitation, the foreign office should immediately have engaged if they had not already done it, months prior to that visit or weeks prior to the visit. But they immediately engage the Indians and locked horns in a comprehensive

dialogues before the Prime Minister met or spoke, could be discussed and the opportunity is that, that might have been opened out. Look at that, India and Pakistan in October, 1998 before the UN, both committed expressly and I would say despite these full stops and commas and emphasis, unambiguously, despite some room of flexibility or a slight crack in the door but unambiguously Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Nawaz Sharif that they would sign the CTBT but it would come into operation. Why could not a concrete declaration be made on the South Asian platform for this, because we do not want nuclear conflict. We do not want a nuclear arm race. As long as India can be restrained we want to be restrained and to restrain ourselves. I think, we are all very clear of that. I think, the government is clear and we are clear and I think, every Pakistani is clear. We do not want the madness of nuclear weapon. It is mutually assured destruction. So, Mr. Chairman, a move could have been made and I think, the Indian might have been willing to go for the first in response to the second on a principled position, they take that on global de-nuclearization. Why should we not join that voice. I think, a major part of the world, a modern developed nation would accept that happily, be very happy with that and joining with demand for the global de-nuclearization.

Then, thirdly Mr. Chairman, Siachin. You have said that we kept Kashmir over the side where we have started it. Fourthly, that the Foreign Minister said that although the progress on Kashmir is vital but Mian Nawaz Sharif unilaterally started buses and may took initiative on exchange of prisoners and sale of power to the Indians and in the sports. Siachin was almost sort of settled bilaterally. In Siachin, the enemy No. 1 of the Pakistani soldiers, our brothers and sons, who are young fathers or young married, who have also sons,

parents depending on them is not the Indian army or the Indian bullet as much as the weather, as the climate and the enemy No. 1 of India is not the Pakistani bullet, it is the climate, the weather. One 'chappati' from the Pakistani side costs Rs. 300, just one 'chappati' and you have to feed thousands of troops. One 'chappati' of the Indian side costs Rs. 567. Now, the analysis made that if you had done a little bit of home work, may be we would have gone to that position where the Indian could have withdrawn down to Kargil and we on this side, sparing our youth, the best of our youth, the worst of the climate and the worst of the weather frost by imputed arms, imputed noses, disfigured faces and dead bodies. Mr. Chairman, I do not know what really was in their minds.

Now, fourth Mr. Chairman, look at it, where are we, on the chess board between India and Pakistan, which is the frozen chess board, not a pawn can be moved or had been moved. India and Pakistan agreed to several things, both are agreed that there should be peaceful settlement, both agree that there should be good neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan, because we are two big nations of this sub-continent. Both agree that the war is not a solution, both agree that we should not have a nuclear conflict, both agree, therefore, we should solve the outstanding issues. Where is the diversion, mainly the diversion is, Pakistan says that the core issue is Kashmir, let us decide this first and every other issue will get aside because without deciding, settling according to our perspective, the Kashmir issue, no other issue can be decided, its not possible. The India says, let us decide the peripherals first and then by that time we will have good relations, better relations and then we will decide the core issue later"

Now the chessboard is frozen. Our king on the chessboard is Kashmir. Their king on the chessboard is non-Kashmir. These cannot be moved according

to Vajpayee and Advani and ask for this side and there is not a pawn that can be moved on this chessboard.

Now what homework did the Foreign Office do. I asked the Foreign Minister once in Foreign Affairs Committee, what homework have you done before this visit is. Are you going to get them to move a pawn from here to there, to make an exposure? Are you going to move something? Is there any homework? If you are pushing on Kashmir, their pressure is on peripheral, your pressure is on Kashmir. Supposing they suddenly concede and they loose pressure on Kashmir, on the peripheral while you are pushing on Kashmir. You can fall.

Have you thought of that, that imbalance of the whole thing can slide on that side. There is no homework on this and Mian Nawaz Sharif is the person who thinks, because he is Punjabi, because he is a Kashmiri, he is the one who can solve the Kashmir issue. I hope he does, anybody does.

If anybody wants to solve the Kashmir issue in accordance with the just and principled position, we say 'yes' it is welcomed, but you expose your weaknesses. The tragedy is when such interactions take place and they go back and at your initiative they take place and you have not done the homework and then people go back, they get frozen into the freezing room again, where the minds are frozen, where the issues are frozen, where the whole thing is jammed and into their own lock position.

Everybody suffers, the credibility of the process suffers. It is not just that we can go and show to the American that look at these photographs, No, it is the Pakistani psyche, the mind, the confidence in such interaction, peaceful negotiated interaction that suffers. Then those who are protesting, they get a

greater credibility. What you get out of it? Do not go into such purposeless contacts, Mr. Foreign Minister, when all you have got to tell us is what you have told us at the end of the day. This is nothing different from what you told me in the Foreign Relations Committee and the other gentlemen in the Foreign Relations Committee, and the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee is present, before the meeting took place, nothing new.

This is a set back, the set back to the confidence of people who want negotiated durable peace. You do damage this way. You may be happy to please the Americans but your foreign policy has major structural defect. The first, of course, in Nepolianic sense is that you are not strong at home. The strength of the foreign policy lies in the domestic policy. At home, you are a disaster in economics. The decisions you have taken, I am not going into it, I have recounted them from foreign currency accounts, to announcing the Kala Bagh Dam and vitiating the federal concept on principle to putting out military courts, to taking on the Supreme Court, all that. And you are not creating a consensus, domestic consensus. How can you have a strong foreign policy if you do not have a strong domestic policy based on consensus. Secondly, there is a total absence of direction in your policy. You do not know whether you are going or you are coming. You really do not know. You do not know what Mr. Vajpayee has gained out of this visit that he has made, he has come out as the man who can walk the seas, cross that border on a bus, pat the Pakistani Prime Minister on his back and go back and rigidly stay where he was in his position. What have you gained, you have told us what you have gained, you have just told us, this inspirit. 20 minutes that you have taken of our time which gave us nothing whatsoever. So, you have a total absence of direction in talking to the Indians

and in talking to the Americans, the only two that are relevant in this context at the present.

And you have a total absence of management, a complete absence of management Mr. Chairman, and that is reflected in what the Chief Minister of Punjab is doing in Washington. And I am going to conclude with these remarks Mr. Chairman, the Chief Minister of Punjab may be the most adapt, most qualified person to mingle with foreign personalities and to convince them. He may be the best diplomat known in Pakistan, he may be an expert in Foreign Affairs, he may also be an expert in Finance because these are the two foretastes, apparently that he wants to display abroad in Washington. He may be the best man we have known, the best Foreign Minister and the best Finance Minister, alright, if he has that, please, bring him to Islamabad, initially make him an adviser under Article, I think, 57 of the Constitution. He will have full ministerial stature. Then bring him into the Senate or you have save seats in Lahore, bring him into the National Assembly, make him the Foreign Minister, make him also the Finance Minister, make him also the Culture and Tourism Minister, make him that. He is your brother, make him that and let him travel all over the world, let him then negotiate on behalf of Pakistan, let him then be talking of the CTBT, let him then be talking about the American briefing about talks between Indian and Pakistani Prime Ministers, let him do that, but you can't have a Chief Minister. They said, Mustapha Kher went like this and somebody said, Mr. Abbasi went for this or that and then the Information Minister said that Mr. Shehbaz Sharif has been called by the World Bank for a conference.

Now, look at this, what does this says, the Punab Chief Minister, this is Shaheen Sehbai from Washington," a 'desi' Kessenger in the making? The Chief

Minister Shehbaz Sharif has passed acquiring the nickname of 'desi' Kessenger in Washington circles, that is ability to bring and carry secret messages". Although under thin way, badly camouflaged cover, creating the right lobby and crucial decision making circles here. Remember his first string last year when cruise missiles were flying across Pakistan to hit Usama Bin Ladin camps in Afghanistan and dropping in Pakistan territory as well, exactly at that time Shehbaz Sharif was with Strote Talbot and company in the State department. His latest mission to Washington, it has just been revealed and confirmed, was to see the top most security officials of the White House, National Security Adviser Sandy Bergar, Deputy Secretary of Strote Talbot and his Assistant Rick Endyfer. These meetings now, it was said that he has gone for a World Bank Conference and on the invitation of the World Ban. These meetings according to a State Department official were planned weeks in advance and then there is an American being quoted, " Shahbaz's meeting with Handi Burgur came at the time when the US was ready to launch its biggest man hunt ever for Usama, who the US intelligence agencies believe has fallen with the Taliban leadership and may be on the run ably aided by Pakistani intelligence". He was confronted, Shahbaz was confronted at his news conference at the Pakistan Embassy on Thursday evening about his meeting with Burgur, a stony silence on his part revealed more than he could have said in any number of words. Twice, he simply passed on the questions to Ambassador Riaz Khokhar sitting on his right. Mr. Khokhar explained and now this again tells it all, kindly see, Mr. Khokhar explained that the Pakistani side did not want to publicise the meeting as it was held at the request of the US officials but he did say that the NSC Chief talked about the India Pakistan Summit seeking a detailed briefing from Shahbaz.

White House and State Department officials, were more forthcoming in their statements on the meeting. Osama was discussed as was CTBT and other key issues now being negotiated between the two countries, they confirmed. What becomes more eminent is that the Sharif Brothers are engaged in direct personal diplomacy at the level with the key decision makers of Washington bypassing the Foreign Office and Khokhar's attempt to prevent the Shahbaz's visit as another ordinary investment seeking attempt by a provincial chief minister was feeble and unconvincing since he himself started playing down the New York investment conference when a reporter pointed out that not enough ground work had been done and no major investors were planning to attend. It is a modest effort Khokhar said, explaining the conference. Now, the correspondent then goes on to show and establish what a lot of importance and what a lot of funds were spent on Shahbaz's visit. Obviously, must be the Federal Government's funds because television crews and cars and press conferences and all that were hired to record every minute as if he was the Prime Minister himself. Of course, news are coming in the press that the Sharif family has changed horses already and this is a prelude to some major changes that the father has already decided upon. But that is their internal matter and I will not really dwell upon it. What is of serious concern to us and let me conclude on that Mr. Chairman, the serious concern is that there is no direction in foreign policy. The interests that dictate and shape our foreign policy are insubstantive, personal, private corporate interests. It is the sugar selling, largest sugar family of the country that has been selling sugar at 11 rupees to the Indians when the Pakistani citizens have been paying 18 rupees for the same amount of sugar. These are personal interests. Power selling in the bloody conflict with the IPPs about which finally the

WAPDA Minister has conceded that those actions have to be withdrawn for lack of evidence or whatever the strength of that case.

Mr. Chairman, in that bloody arm twisting and sucking on the eyes and on the nose of the IPPs, the Sharif family has gone into that in a big way. When Hub Co.'s shares fell from 60 to 11, who was buying those shares? Their front men and now they want to make all compromises with all the IPPs that they have substantial interest in and want to sell power to India when there is none for Pakistanis. If it is a good commercial deal for the country we will still not be able, but the judgements and decisions are not being taken in the country's interest. It is one family that is not only running the foreign policy of the country but running the country. Unfortunately, it is one family based in Raiwind that has taken over not only the main office of Prime Minister and Chief Minister but now is eating up into the offices of Foreign Minister. There are two Foreign Ministers in Islamabad but none is briefing the Americans, if they need to be briefed, neither of them is briefing the Americans. If that is required, neither of them is briefing the Americans but the Chief Minister Punjab, the concern Mr. Chairman, is that for the sake of the interest of one family based in Raiwind, not only he has the foreign policy of the country being put in jeopardy, not only our other national interests are being thrown into the whims but I fear that the precedents set by the Prime Minister's brother, who is only after all the Chief Minister of one province briefing foreign powers about Mr. Vajpayee's visit is probably the most deleterious and the most insidious aspect of that dark corner of our environment today on which the Foreign Minister unfortunately threw no light. It could have been a corner that could have been lit up. It could have been a corner that could have provided light to the rest of the

area that we occupy a God gifted nation called " Pakistan". That corner was Lahore. That declaration was the Lahore Declaration. That Memorandum was signed in Lahore. That understanding was in Lahore, in that glorious city, what opportunities they missed. I think Lahore is never going to repent this as much as this particular episode in her history. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Akram Zaki Sahib, I think I will have to limit the time.

میرے خیال میں ۱۰ منٹ اب کافی ہوں گے

for each speaker. I think it will be more than enough.

Mr. Muhammad Akram Zaki: Sir, it would be insufficient for a Minister to reply the questions.

Mr. Chairman: No.

وہ تو ہو گیا۔ ایک وزیر صاحب کا ہو گیا۔ پھر وزیر صاحب wind up بھی کریں گے۔

Mr. Muhammad Akram Zaki: Mr. Chairman: I will speak tomorrow because for 10 minutes I can not speak.

جناب چیئرمین، چلیں آپ تھوڑا وقت زیادہ لے لیں لیکن میرا مطلب ہے کہ اب کچھ کرنا پڑے گا

because I think, we should finish this tomorrow.

یہ پھر چلتا رہے گا۔ یہی چلے گا۔ چلیں، شروع کریں آپ۔

(interruption)

Mian Raza Rabbani: Only the Minister, who will wind up then all other members will have equal time.

جناب چیئرمین، ہاں کوشش یہی کریں گے کہ اب تھوڑا limit کرنا شروع کریں۔

جی اکرم ذکی صاحب۔

Mr. Muhammad Akram Zaki: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have listened with great patience to the statement of the honourable Leader of the Opposition and I would like to first touch upon some of the positive aspects of his speech. I am very glad to say that he admitted and categorically stated that the Opposition recognizes the fact that war is not desirable and not an option. And that negotiated settlement of our disputes is the only path we are ready to pursue. So, in that sense I am very glad that there is a consensus and the government's decision to choose the path of negotiations is recognized and endorsed by the Opposition.

I wish that consensus having been declared the actions should have also been analysed in the same positive spirit. It has been asked whether the Prime Minister of Pakistan or the Government of Pakistan calculated when he decided to make a statement that the Indian Prime Minister could visit Pakistan on a bus, while talking to a journalist. Yes sir, the whole scenario was considered and calculated. There was in the Indo-Pakistan Sub-Continent a very serious effort being made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan, who seeks a negotiated settlement of the core issue of Kashmir and other disputed issues. And there was lack of response on the part of India. These efforts were made during his first tenure in office also and this vision, that he talks of peace and security in the region, is not something that has suddenly come up. This was clearly focused and announced even in the first tenure. But with the change of government came again a freeze and there were no serious negotiations for the 3 years period that the Opposition was in office. Everything remained frozen. On return to office serious efforts to find a negotiated peaceful settlement of the

dispute were resumed and the Foreign Minister has referred to the successful agreement of 23rd June, 1997. But I would say that there was a qualitative change in the situation in Sub-Continent in May, 1998. It was totally a new phase. India's attitude, in the past, had been its own self image of being a big and powerful country holding Kashmir by force, not willing to talk to Pakistan. And Pakistan's efforts were spurned by India in the past that they were not willing to talk to somebody whom they regarded not as their equal. The international community, for their own reasons of politics and economic interests, had more or less, adopted a posture of connivance at this approach. And the valiant struggle of Kashmiri people did not really make an impact on the global community's conscience. But the situation of May, 1998, when India resumed its nuclear tests, I would like to say for the sake of the record while the honourable leader of the Opposition said, in 1989 both were not nuclear power states, that India had demonstrated its nuclear capability as far back as 1974. So, there was one nuclear power and a large country and the other was not a declared nuclear power. That was a different situation. And when India adopted a threatening posture against Pakistan and there was international pressure on Pakistan not to respond in kind, but it was the bold and brave decision of the Government of Pakistan to correct the strategic imbalance and to rectify the psychological atmosphere and giving the people of Pakistan a sense of security, by carrying out its own tests. Now with this new situation the global community, which had turned a blind eye to the sufferings in Kashmir, to the brutalities in Kashmir, suddenly awoke up to the realization that now the conflict is too dangerous. Previously, the option was between dialogue and deadlock and India opted for deadlock because it had a self-image of its ability to carry on that policy. But the

dialogue to deadlock situation has changed, the option today is "dialogue and disaster" and neither of the two countries is willing to face a nuclear disaster. Therefore, there is a growing compulsion, internal compulsion of the leadership of the two countries to take the dialogue seriously. To allege that it was a non-serious affair for Pakistan. I think it is unkind. Pakistan has been seriously pursuing the Kashmir dialogue, it was India that was non-serious and it was the same situation that changed the attitude of India to that extent that the pressure they were feeling inside Kashmir, from the freedom struggle, their inability with 600,000 troops to crush the rebellion was the ground reality that the world recognized and there were voices raised all over the world which, the Foreign Minister has referred to the P.5, the G-8, the Security Council etc., and there was, therefore, international pressure on the India which did not exist before. And it is recognizing the factors of internal pressure of the rebellion and the international pressures that the Prime Minister of Pakistan made the calculative move to extend an invitation to Vajpayee, and his calculation was correct because this time the response was positive and he came. India was under pressure to come. There were other factors also which compelled India and I think, to say that it was only a non-serious affair and a photo opportunity is, I think, uncharitable and it needs to be reconsidered and reviewed. Yes, the Indians did some posturing while going back because after having come here and having agreed to negotiate on Kashmir they felt internal pressures. Let me say what was the outcome? The outcome was that for 25 years India was claiming that Kashmir was an integral part and they were not willing to discuss it. They not only agreed to discuss it, but Vajpayee came to Pakistan to discuss it and you know the significance and you can see under how much pressure he was to

be able to come here.

Now, the Lahore declaration has laid the framework for continuation of this dialogue on a serious basis. We are told and there are insinuations that everything has been done because the Americans wanted and yet there is a counter allegation that the Chief Minister of the Punjab has gone to explain what happened. If they know what happened and if they are the one who are dictating everything then why do they want to understand what happened? There is a basic contradiction between the two allegations that it is being done at the instance of outsiders. It was an indigenous decision and it reflects a determination of this Government that we want to seek a peaceful international atmosphere for our internal progress, for economic development and social justice. It is imparetive that we have peace in our region. I would submit through you sir, to the Leader of the Opposition that the two positions of India and Pakistan that he has stated are somewhat outnoded that Pakistan insisted on Kashmir first and India insists on other issues first. This was the position and in June, 1997 there was a substantial change in that position of both countries and they agreed to have eight different subjects and a composite and integrated dialogue through eight different working groups. This position was reiterated in the joint statement of the two Prime Ministers coming from New York on the 23rd of September '98 after the nuclearization of South Aisa.

So, now, it is not that Pakistan wants Kashmir first and they want other issues first, it is that the two sides have to move on all fronts and try to achieve progress. But it is possible that there should be progress only in certain sectors and the other sectors should remain frozen. So, the primary objective of the Lahore visit, that has been achieved, is that the ice has been broken. That India.

that was not willing to discuss seriously and meaningfully the question of Kashmir is now ready to discuss. Sir, you know that the path of dialogue is a difficult path.

There are examples before us of our neighbouring country China. They started negotiations with Britain to get back Hong Kong. It was painful process of negotiations spread over several years and when they signed the agreement, the agreement was to return Hong Kong after another number of years and finally they achieved their objectives. They had similar process of dialogue to get back Macao and that agreement also is going to be finally successful by the end of this year and they are proceeding similarly for the return of Taiwan.

So, we are serious and determined and if there is national unity and if the Opposition is really sincere in supporting this process of dialogue, there is no reason why through united action we cannot keep India on the right path of avoiding the disaster and continuing the dialogue with Pakistan which would succeed. The primary thing is that the rights of the Kashmiri people are the ones which we are supporting. And it is now after the May events that the global community has started speaking openly about the rights of the Kashmiri people which they were not willing to raise in the past.

I think, to have accused the Foreign Office of not doing its home work, is also an uncharitable view. I would like to place on record my compliments for our competent Foreign Secretary and his team who have been working during the last two years to carry on very difficult negotiations, very successfully and skillfully with their Indian counterparts and one of the most important documents that is on record is the agreement of 23rd of June, 1997. I have also seen how India tried to get out of that in September at New Delhi and in Dhaka and in

Columbo but ultimately it was their persistence and their clear vision that brought India to agree back to the same position that the questions of security and peace and the question of Kashmir are the primary issues which have to be dealt with at the Foreign Secretaries' level.

Secondly, sir, to say that the opportunities were missed and we could have signed number of agreements in Lahore, I think, with a history of hostility of 50 years with the relations being frozen and to the frozen chess board to which it has been referred, you cannot expect major agreement in the first meeting. The opportunities have been created, the opportunities have been opened up and now, if we pursue the dialogue, I think, the results will become obvious. To have said that on one meeting, they could sit and make documents because the secretaries should have prepared it earlier, is very unrealistic. The officials work under directions of the political leadership. It is only when there is a log jam and the political leaders meet, they create a new push, give new directions and it is only under those new directions that the officials can move forward to make progress.

I think the visit of Mr. Vajpayee was a very important, a very significant event in the history of Indo Pakistan relations. It has brought the focus of the international community on the problems of South Asia. The emphasis on elimination of poverty and cooperation within the SAARC region has also brought the interests of the international community. Now instead of blaming each other, I think the need of the hour is that the government and the Opposition, on such an important issue as relations with India, as the security of Pakistan and the nuclear issues, we should work for a consensus and a united approach. So that we move forward in a determined way and not waste our

energies. I am very sorry to say that the honourable Leader of the Opposition, of course, this is the purpose of the Opposition, instead of attacking the policies of the government, said that this was basically the interest of a family. I would not go into that but if families are to be mentioned then families are those which make themselves life Chairpersons, families are those which bring in their husbands into everything in the government. But these are the kind of things which vitiate the atmosphere. So let's not attack the families, let's say that it is important that India and Pakistan avoid a war. It is important that India and Pakistan conduct serious and meaningful negotiations and therefore, it is absolutely essential that there should be a united national effort to move forward and instead of telling the world that our government is not serious on negotiations, that they are just looking for posturing. We must support the serious efforts of the government and find out where India is posturing so that we can bring them in line to achieve national objectives. I thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 10.00a.m.

*[The House was then adjourned to meet at ten of the clock in the morning on Tuesday,
9th of March, 1999.]*
