

12-05-2005 - Motion for consideration of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Bill, 2005.

Sir, I stand to support the Weapons of Mass Destruction and Their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Bill, 2005.

Sir, I congratulate the Minister for bringing forward this Bill at this time. It was just a few days ago that our hon. Minister along with the Prime Minister attended the 50th anniversary of Bandung Conference. That Conference, fifty years ago, represented the aspirations of the entire newly independent countries whose desire for peace, whose desire for development and whose desire for creating a better world order was most important. Those were the noble objectives for which they met there. Even in those days of our freedom struggle, India, as a country, was committed to peace, to humanness, friendship and solidarity. These are some of the hallmarks of our freedom struggle.

Today, if you look at the whole world, it is almost like sitting on an arsenal of deadly weapons – nuclear, biological and what not. Then it is the sophisticated delivery system that can take these weapons across the ocean to different continents. So, we are living today in a dangerous world. That is why, India, from the very beginning, took a stand of complete and general disarmament including nuclear disarmament. It is in tune with that that we are bringing forward this Bill.

Though, for the security of our country, for the defence of our people, necessary arms and armaments will be ensured, yet at the same time, we are making ourselves committed to it. We are also fulfilling the commitment towards the world community by saying that we will not be a partner to arms race or nuclear arms race for that matter.

There are countries that are sermonising about peace, about nuclear disarmament and all that. When they sermonise others, they are actually sitting on the heap of it. They tell us that we should not do it, as that is bad and all that. We will not believe in that kind of sermons. As a country, when we are committed to this, it has another aspect also – our aspiration for a better life and development.

There is a statistics which I was going through. If three per cent of the weapons of mass destruction kept by countries all over the world are destroyed or if those countries decide not to create those weapons – not by hundred per cent but to the extent of three per cent – that will provide enough money for mankind to completely provide literacy, higher education, total health care, better communication system and to create a world that will be much better than what it is today. Through this Bill, when we are committing ourselves to the obligations internationally, we are also trying to go forward with our aspirations of development.

I am concluding by giving one suggestion. Now, we had a meeting of the 50th anniversary of the Non-aligned countries I will request the Government to take an initiative to call a meeting for disarmament from the platform of the non-aligned countries and discuss how arms race could be stopped, countries could live in a peaceful atmosphere and the money thus saved could be used for better development of the world. If that is done, that will be one of the great contributions that India could do at this juncture.

With these words, I support the Bill. I hope, I did not take much time