issue. I am not concerned with those private companies or corporate houses, who opt for the G.D.R. route, but I am more concerned with the public sector undertakings, because it is a very prestigious public sector institution in our country and is doing a good job. While raising this issue at the moment. I am not going to dwell upon the lapses on its part. We can discuss it later on as to what is going wrong with the VSNL in other areas. At the present moment I am concerned with the success of the G.D.R. issue. I have certain apprehensions. In 1994, SBI CAPS were the Company's advisers. I do not know why they have been kept aside this time. SBI CAPS were our own internal Indian company, which were advisers for the V.S.N.L. Instead of SBI CAPS, Messers Cazenove, who is only a broker, and H.S.B.C. 'S James Capel, have been engaged. They were also responsible for this fiasco in 1994. The same person have been engaged at an exerbitant price. I fail to understand why this has been done. I want the Government to respond as to what they have decided in this respect and what they expect is going to result to the G.D.R. of V.S.N.L. I draw the attention of the Government on this and demand a statement from the Minister of Telecommunications, who is in charge of the public sector undertakings, giving details on whether they have fixed some minimum price, and the amount they are going to mobilise under this. I do hope that the Minister will come forward before the House and give details. I need the support of those Members who are interested in the proper functioning of our public sector undertakings.

RE. US VICE-PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO A KHALISTANI

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFARIS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): Madam, I am thankful to hon. Members, who have mentioned yesterday about the Vice-President of America's letter to a Khalistani.

May I submit this to you?

The Government's attention has been drawn to a letter from the Vice- President of the United States to a Gurmit Singh Aulakh, self-styled President of the Council of Khalistan. The [illegible] with the concerns expressed by the hon. Members in the House on this matter. The letter that is highly objectionable betrays complete lack of knowledge or understanding of the political realities in Punjab, which should be abvious to any observer.

The Government has taken up strongly the matter with the Govt. United States, both in Delhi and in Washington. The State Department has clarified and said: "The vice-President's letter on Punjab: The United States does not and has never supported the establishment of an independent State of Khalistan, which has been a goal of Sikh separatists in the Indian State of Punjab. The United States continues to view Punjab as an integral part of India. The Vice-President firmly supports this policy."

The US Ambassador has conveyed his Government's regrets at the misunderstanding caused. He has reaffermed his Government's position as stated above. The state of normalcy in Punjab, the high level of economic activity, the successful holding of two elections to the State Assembly and elections to the Parliament clearly indicate that Khalistan only exists in the figment of some misguided imagination. The Government has forcefully conveyed to the authorities in the United Stated to desist from providing any encouragement even through inadvertence to such elements. Thank you.

RE. IRREGULARITIES BY FOREIGN BANKS INCLUDING CITI BANK

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to draw the attention of the Government, the Parliament and the country to the growing delinquency being perpetrated by foreign banks in our country. This House has been discussing on a number of occasions the role of foreign banks and this House was unanimous in suggesting that the Government should not be soft on the delinquency of the foreign banks. Although this is a general question. today we have come across a unqiue example, the way in which foreign banks violate the law of the land. A particular person had bought a car taking a loan from the Citibank. He did not pay back the instalment in time or he has defaulted one or two instalments. I am not holding any