

**RE. LAWFUL INDIAN CITIZENS  
FACING HARASSMENT BY BOMBAY  
POLICE**

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (WEST BENGAL): Madam Vice-Chairman, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this House to a very serious development. In fact, earlier in the Session, we have already raised this issue pertaining to the plight of some lawful Indian citizens who incidentally speak my mother tongue, Bengali language, who happen to be belonging to the Islamic religious faith, the plight of these people in the city of Mumbai. There are now reports that a large number of Bengali-speaking Muslims being greatly harassed by the South Mumbai Police. It is particularly in the South Mumbai areas. The Police are coming to the houses of these people at midnight, during nocturnal hours and in spite of the fact that they belong to West Bengal, some having produced passports, some producing voters identity cards, these people have been taken to police lock-ups, confined for days together. When their relatives go, they have been just threatened that the whole family would be picked up and subsequently, the whole family was being picked up. Madam, when some people produce their papers as proof of their identity that they are Indian citizens, they are just being torn off by the Police so that these people cannot have proof any more. There is a press cutting which showed the photo of a lady, Zehrab Bivi, and a photocopy of her passport. Madam, please tell me, is it a crime to be a Muslim in this country? Is it a crime in the country to speak the Bengali language? They are being dubbed as Bangladeshis! Earlier, we raised this. Now some people from some quarters say that Indians will have to produce passports to enter Mumbai City! Madam, this is disastrous for the unity and integrity of the country. We are passing through a very rough phase....(Interruptions)... People have to pay money. I am told that even Tamilians were picked up as Bengalis ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN  
(SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): I do not think he needs your briefings...(Interruptions).

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: These people started speaking in Tamil to prove that they were not even from Bengal. ... (Interruptions)... The police harassed them and extorted money from them. The point is that the situation has become very serious. I do not know whether there will be a demand in this House that the Press which has published this report should be wiped out. ... (Interruptions)... I do not know whether those fascist voices will be heard again. My point is that it is a very serious issue and the Home Ministry should take up this matter with the State Government immediately. Let all the political parties, cutting across party lines, condemn this kind of barbarism against a section of lawful citizens. I, therefore, commend this for the support of my colleagues irrespective of their political opinion. I urge upon the Government — the Minister is sitting here — that it is a serious issue and it should respond. The Government should respond to this issue and assure the House that this kind of a thing will not be perpetrated against a section of our lawful citizens. Thank you, Madam.

श्री वसीम अहमद (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सदस्य ने जो बात यहां कही है, हम उसका समर्थन करते हैं।

**RE. DEMAND FOR ACTION  
AGAINST AN I.B. OFFICER INVOLVED  
IN SPYING ACTIVITIES**

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Madam, without getting involved in a controversy, I have a point to make. ... (Interruptions)... Madam, today is the last day of the Session. So many issues have been raised during the Session. We have been requesting the Government to respond. This issue is one of them. Madam, I had raised an issue regarding spying by a senior officer of the