

कल्पना है। तो मैं जैसा कह रहा था, अग्रवाल समाज की जो उत्पत्ति है, वह अग्रवाल धाम से हुई है और आज भी सारे भारतवर्ष से लोग वहाँ आकर नतमस्तक होते हैं और उसमें बड़ी आस्था रखते हैं और सारे भारतवर्ष के लोग उसे अपना धाम मानते हैं। इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए यह उचित होगा ताकि हमारा आने वाला समाज, आने वाली संतान इसे समझ सकें। हमारे अग्रवाल भाई भी इस बात से सहमत होंगे। मैं आपके द्वारा महोदया, सरकार से पुनः प्रार्थना करूंगा कि इस नेशनल हाइवे नम्बर-दस, जो दिल्ली से सिरसा-हिसार का नाम है, इसके नाम का परिवर्तन करके महाराजा अग्रसेन के नाम पर इसका नाम रखा जाए। (धन्यवाद)।

श्री राम दास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): महोदया, जो प्रस्ताव मेरे माननीय मित्र, सांसद ने व्यक्त किए हैं मैं उसके साथ अपने आपको एसोसिएट करना चाहता हूँ। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि अग्रसेन महाराज आज से पांच हजार साल पहले इस देश में आए थे और उन्होंने इस देश के अंदर एक ऐसे समाज को स्थापित किया था जो वैश्य समाज के नाम से, अग्रवाल समाज के नाम से जाना जाता है और अग्रवाल समाज हजारों साल की परंपरा और उसकी व्यवस्था से निकला हुआ समाज है। आज हमारे देश के अंदर यह समाज लगभग दस करोड़ लोगों का है और इन दस करोड़ लोगों ने इस देश की उन्नति के लिए, प्रगति के लिए—चाहे वह राजनीतिक हो, चाहे आर्थिक हो, चाहे अन्य क्षेत्रों में हो—काफी योगदान दिया है और अग्रसेन महाराज द्वारा प्रेरित यह समाज आज राष्ट्र की सेवा में सभी क्षेत्रों में लगा है, चाहे वह आजादी की लड़ाई रही हो, चाहे उससे भी पहले की लड़ाइयाँ रही हों, उसमें भी अग्रवाल समाज के लोगों ने अपना पूरा योगदान दिया था और यह सामयिक होगा, ऐतिहासिक निर्णय होगा कि अग्रसेन भी महाराज जी के नाम से इस मार्ग का नाम बदलकर जो दस नम्बर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग है, उसको बदलकर अग्रसेन महाराज के नाम से उस रास्ते का नाम घोषित किया जाए। मैं भी सरकार से निवेदन करूंगा कि अग्रवाल बंधुओं के मन को एक प्रकार से प्रेरणा देने के लिए यह उचित होगा। धन्यवाद।

#### **Bandh Call given by certain Organisation in the North-East Region.**

DR. B. B. DUTTA (Nominated): Madam Vice-Chairperson would like to draw the attention of this House also to a matter of serious concern not only to the people who live in North east but to the nation as a whole. Madam, a newly-formed students' organisation

gave a *bandh* call on the 15th August, 1994 in the North-East. They were supported by a few other organisation, most of whom are discredited organisations. They do not have any appreciable support in the Region. The *bandh* call which was given on the 15th August was taken as an insult to the nation. It is a day on which we rejoice over our independence. It is a day on which we remember the people who had sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country. That is why all the political parties opposed this *bandh*. They advised them to cancel it.

The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. Narayanasamy) in the Chair: However, the *bandh* call was not withdrawn. But what happened later was much more ominous. Thirty-six hours before the *bandh*, the Indian Airlines stopped booking of the tickets. They cancelled most of the flights at the Guwahati airport. This Guwahati airport is the nodal airport and imagine the flights were cancelled without consulting the State Govts. particularly the Govt. of Assam which had a special role to play in this regard. A lot of telephone calls were made by travelling the people. Ultimately, what happened? Only one flight from Calcutta to Imphal via Guwahati to Calcutta was allowed to operate. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I myself went to Guwahati to participate in the Independence Day function. At Guwahati, we could see that all the State Chief Ministers and their colleagues in the Government had made elaborate arrangements for observing the Independence Day in a befitting manner. In Guwahati itself, there was a very nice ceremonial parade addressed by the Chief Minister preceded by flag hoisting.

Guwahati city itself was completely free from any incidents. I came to the airport to catch the evening flight on the 15th, without any police escort. There were as many as 57 passengers on that day waiting to board that lone flight coming from Imphal. I was told on the 15th morning that I could go over to Delhi to attend the Session on 16th August. They advised me that I could go to Calcutta and then take a connecting flight to Delhi. When I came to the airport, I was told that I had to purchase a fresh ticket. I asked, "Why", and they said that I would have to pay Rs. 535 extra. They

said that my ticket was open and that was why I had to pay the difference. Then, I said, 'It is written, 'open' on the ticket, but my name was fed into the computer 24 hours before and it was okayed'. Then, I was told that they could not okay the ticket because the situation was uncertain; because the situation was uncertain, the ticket was not okayed and the route was changed. So I had to pay Rs. 535/- I paid it. I thought, let them take the money. But there was no connecting flight I was told to travel next morning and given the O.K. ticket for that. Look at the nature of their service everything at the expense of the customer. Does it show a positive attitude on their part? I found that the duty officer at the airport was not very happy that I was travelling on that flight. They would not like us to travel. Anyway, we came to Calcutta. Both the flights had already left for Delhi and the last one had left 40 minutes before. The authorities did not even take care to see to it that the passengers who were held up on account of the delay were taken care of by delaying the schedule of the connecting flight. So, we did not get the connecting flight. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I draw your attention to the condition of ordinary passengers. When I, a Member of Parliament, was harassed like this, what can happen to ordinary passengers? You can well imagine this. After all these confusions created by Indian Airlines...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Dutta, I would like to get one clarification from you. Your Special Mention is relating to the *bandh* call given by certain organisations in the North-Eastern region. Now, your attack is on the Indian Airlines.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, sir, I had attached two-three points with this main issue and they are already indicated in the Special Mention notice.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly conclude now.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: I am concluding. When 36 hours before the *bandh* the Indian Airlines said that the flights were to be cancelled, that only meant that they were co-ordinating with those organisation who had given the *bandh* call. On the one hand, the State Governments tried

their level best to see to it that the *bandh* was not observed, that the people could go freely and participate in the Independence Day celebrations; on the other hand, such an important agency like the Indian Airlines declared that the flights were cancelled. What policy is this? They will say that commercial interests dictated them because the passengers are few in number. I put this question: Is the commercial interest above the national interest? Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to warn this House that this kind of policy mistake, this kind of attitudinal mistakes, will gradually take the region away because the people get the message that even the Central Government is indirectly favouring the *bandh*. So, this is the kind of thing that is happening. We did such a kind of mistake in Kashmir; we should not do the same in the North-Eastern region. The situation is very bad there and, therefore, such mistakes should be avoided and the passengers should not be harassed like this. Even the catering service at the Guwahati airport was totally wound up even though there were 27 passengers from Imphal and 57 passengers from Guwahati. Nobody knows why the catering service was not there. It was a *tamasha*. We cannot explain our conduct to the people. Earlier, such a thing happened with the Railway service. Why should the Railways or the Indian Airlines go ahead and collaborate with those people who call for a *bandh* unnecessarily, that too, on 15th August? What is the message that goes to the people?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Kindly conclude. You cannot make a speech. It is only a Special Mention.

DR. B.B. DUTTA: Sir, kindly send a communication from this House to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. They should conduct an inquiry into this. We do not want that such a thing should recur.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER (Assam): Sir, with your permission, I would like to associate myself with this Special Mention. This is not the first time that the Indian Airlines had cancelled its flights. It has happened even before. Sir, this practice of cancelling the Indian Airlines flights 30 hours or 40 hours

ahead of the agitation programme has caused endless inconvenience to the travelling public, apart from sending a very wrong signal, which Dr. Duuta, very rightly pointed out. When you cancel the flights, the Railways will cancel the operation of the trains and it gives signal that you are also supporting the *bandh*, you are also supporting the agitation programme. It has a very unhealthy practice. Sir, on that day, I had also booked. On the 15th of August, I was supposed to come to Delhi. But, I could not come. They said: "You take a ticket for tomorrow." I came on Tuesday and as a result, I missed one day's work in the House. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the Civil Aviation Ministry particularly, through you, that this unhealthy practice of cancelling the flights whenever there is a *bandh* or an agitation programme, should be done away with and the travelling public should be given some relief. Thank you.

#### **Plight of Homoeopathic Drug Manufacturers**

**SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very serious problem which has emerged as a result of the new pricing policy, especially with respect to the decontrol of prices of ethyl alcohol and the liberalisation of trade in molasses. As you know, these two are very important inputs in the manufacture of homoeopathic drugs. Now, for the past few months, we have been discussing the impact of GATT and we have been informed that a number of countries who are apprehending an escalation of the drug prices, are switching over to indigenous systems of medicine and here also, to avoid the possible disastrous impact that we will have on the pharmaceutical prices, we should adopt a policy of encouraging these indigenous systems of medicines in a big way and those programmes should be taken up expeditiously. But, what we are seeing is that the price of ethyl alcohol has increased to the tune of 500 per cent in the last one-and-a-half years. I would like to quote the prices. "In July 1993, the price was Rs. 4.75, whereas now, it has reached Rs. 21/- and in January 1993, it was Rs. 3.95 and now it has come up to Rs. 21/-." That

means, an increase of 530 per cent. Now, as you know, the homoeopathic system of medicine provides a cheap mode of treatment for the poorer sections of the people and unfortunately and incidentally, most of the homoeopathic drug manufacturers are located in West Bengal and they produce drugs in the small-scale sector. So, the entire industry is being devastated today. What we would like to demand is that a communication should go to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers that at least, there should be some provision to supply ethyl alcohol and molasses to the drug manufacturers in a manner that the prices of homoeopathic drugs do not shoot up because many of the voluntary organisations, eminent voluntary organisations like the Rama Krishan Mission or the Bharat Seva Sangh organise free medical centres where they give homoeopathic treatment to the people. All these centres are closing down because of the escalation of prices. This is a very serious matter. In fact, we are also informed of a new move by the Government of India, to amend the Cosmetics Act, by inserting a new amendment, whereby new homoeopathic drugs would be bottled in at least 500 ml size bottles. Earlier you could have it in 30 ml bottles. That means an open encouragement to bigger firms, bigger units at the cost of the smaller units and at the cost of the treatment of the poorer sections of the people.

Countries like China are avoiding the adverse impact of GATT on things like drugs and pharmaceuticals by adopting the indigenous system. We are doing away with the indigenous system, particularly the type of treatment which caters mainly to the interests of the poorer sections of the people. This is a very serious matter. Sir, through you, I would like to have a communication sent to the Ministry in this regard. Immediately some measures should be taken so that at least these basic components for the homoeopathic drugs can be supplied through the POS in such a manner that the drug prices can be controlled and this industry can be saved. Thank you.

**SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to associate myself with not only the sentiments but also the expression of facts that