

[21 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

am sure there are many, many questions which everybody has in his mind because it is a question of food. We had the discussion. In fact, the Business Advisory Committee had allotted half-an-hour. But I fought it out and said two hours should be given because I knew it was a very sensitive issue. Now, we have discussed it for more than two hours. Please bear with me. We also have a statement by the Foreign Minister. If any other clarifications are there, you can write to the Minister or you can go and sit with him and quietly talk to him. Let me now pass the Bill. I will put the motion moved by the Minister to vote. The question is:-

"That the Bill further to amend the Food Corporation
Act, 1964, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken
into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 & 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

श्री शांता कुमार: मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ:-

"कि विधेयक को पारित किया जाए।

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now have the statement by the Minister of External Affairs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

External Affairs Minister's recent Visit to Nepal

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Madam, I wish to inform the hon. Members that I made a goodwill visit to Nepal from August 17 to 19.

The purpose of my visit was to personally convey to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev the deepest condolences of the President, the Prime Minister, the Government, and the people of India at the grievous tragedy that had struck Nepal in June. I also conveyed to His Majesty the good wishes of the President and the Prime Minister.

This visit was undertaken also to convey to the newly elected Prime Minister of Nepal, His Excellency Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba reaffirmation of India's commitment to building further on the existing friendship and cooperation between India and Nepal.

I took the opportunity of the visit to meet with the President of the Nepali Congress, Shri Girija Prasad Koirala, Leader of the Opposition, Shri Madhav Kumar Nepal, the President of the Nepal Sadbhavna Party, Shri Gajendra Narayan Singh, the President of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party, Shri Surya Bahadur Thapa as also senior statesmen, Shri Krishna Prasad Bhattarai.

While my visit was essentially for the purpose of conveying goodwill, and for reaffirming India's commitment to our traditional ties of friendship and cooperation, issues of interest to the two countries were also discussed. Some apprehensions had been voiced, in the media in Nepal, about the renewal of the existing Trade Treaty between our two countries. I conveyed that India remains fully committed to the growth of industry, in Nepal, enhancing trade between the two countries, also of growth of employment in Nepal. There were, however, certain issues that had emerged during the implementation of the Treaty over the past five years, which now need to be addressed, then discussed between the two countries, and necessary adjustments made. I expressed confidence that in the forthcoming discussions between the technical delegations of the two sides this would be resolved to mutual satisfaction. There had also been concerns expressed in Nepal about the possibility of adverse consequences, of a minor flood control embankment being constructed in district Siddhartha Nagar, of Uttar Pradesh. I conveyed that though technical provision had been made in this embankment for water to flow through 12 Regulators, and that there was unlikely to be any adverse impact, yet construction was promptly halted after the concerns of His Majesty's Government were received by us. Since then, technical officials have met at site and will meet again. About apprehensions that this embankment might cause damage to Lumbini, I affirmed that these were totally unfounded. Lumbini is as sacred to India as it is to Nepal.

I reiterated our willingness to jointly develop the water resources of Nepal so that Nepal becomes an energy exporting country. The leadership of Nepal assured me of their desire also to make progress in this field.

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I conveyed the Government of India's appreciation of the movement towards dialogue on the Maoist question and hoped that this would reach a successful conclusion.

Our continuing concerns with regard to the clandestine use of Nepal's territory for anti-Indian activities by the Pakistan ISI were also conveyed. I received a firm assurance from His Majesty's Government that any such activity against India would not be tolerated and that necessary steps would be taken.

My exchange of views with political leaders in Nepal was most fruitful, constructive and forward looking. I found unanimity that the ties of friendship and cooperation between our two countries should continuously be strengthened, in a spirit of friendship, for the benefit of the peoples of Nepal and India.

I am happy to report to the hon. Members that relationship between India and Nepal continues to be that of mutual trust and friendship. I am confident that these ties will continue to remain extremely friendly and cordial.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I thank the External Affairs Minister for taking the earliest opportunity of visiting Nepal and assuring our cooperation and expressing our condolence over the tragedy which took place recently in that country. After all, it was needed. Because of certain extraordinary situation, the normal practice of expressing condolence at the demise of the Head of the State could not be observed in Nepal. In this connection, subjects of mutual interest were also discussed. I would like to seek only one clarification from the hon. External Affairs Minister as he has discussed many issues of mutual interest during his stay in Nepal, including the Trade and Transit Treaty, which will, of course, be discussed at the technical level also -- whether he has conveyed the concern of this country about using Nepalese territory, particularly, to export, rather, encourage unauthorised export, of goods and services of a third country.

Some of the consumer goods, which are available in the market of this country, are not coming through the regular trade channel, Goods of other countries, by taking advantage of the liberal export-import trade between India and Nepal, are coming here through Nepal. There is a

provision in the agreement which has been agreed by both the countries, to make an assessment of the total requirement of Nepal, of such goods. There is a reasonable apprehension that in such cases some of them may find place in the Indian market. That is why this exchange of information and some regulatory mechanism in Nepal itself has been institutionalised. I would like to know whether this issue figured in the conversation during his stay in Nepal.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, in his Statement, the hon. Minister has stated that he had a discussion on enhancing the trade between the two countries, as also on the enhancement of employment in Nepal. Recently, the Nepal court gave its judgment, prohibiting employment of Indians in Nepal. I would like to know whether it is a fact. If so, how the executive there is trying to overcome that decision. This is number one.

Secondly, with regard to generation of hydel power, which is available aplenty in Nepal, it is a long pending issue. Whenever our people go to Nepal or when they come over here, we discuss it but no concrete action has been taken so far. If it is implemented, there would be surplus power and we need not go in for any thermal or coal-based power generation in India. I would like to know whether any concrete steps are planned on this.

Thirdly, on the ISI activities, people are actually using Nepal as a place for militant activities against India and militants are entering India through Nepal. I would like to know whether the spread of terrorism in India through Nepal has been discussed there. If so, let us know the details of it.

Fourthly, consumer goods, particularly, goods manufactured in China are smuggled into India through Nepal. This is done because there is a free trade route between the two countries. I would like to know whether this point also figured in the Minister's discussions with the Nepal Government. If it had been discussed, kindly enlighten us on that. The flooding Chinese goods are agitating the minds of the people, as also the traders.

I hope, you would clarify these points.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी ने नेपाल की यात्रा करके भारत की सद्भावनाएं वहां तक पहुंचाई, इसके लिए तो उनका स्वागत और धन्यवाद है। मैं केवल दो छोटे प्रश्न पुछना चाहता हूं। जैसा कि माननीय प्रणब मुखर्जी ने

प्रश्न उठाया है वह हमारे देश के व्यापार को उद्वेलित करता है और हमारे देश के अंदर आयात को प्रभावित करतना है। जैसा कि हम सब जानते हैं कि पॉमोलिव आयल हम इंडोनेशिया से इंपोर्ट करते हैं, अब क्योंकि हमारे देश के ही तिलहनों पर उसका दुष्प्राव पड़ा इसलिए केन्द्र सरकार ने उस पर ड्यूटी 25 परसेंट से बढ़ाकर धीरे धीरे 75 परसेंट तक कर दी। इस 75 प्रतिशत ड्यूटी से हिंदुस्तान में आयात तो जरूर कम हुआ है, लेकिन इंडोनेशिया का यह तेल नेपाल में जाता है और जहां तक मुझे जानकारी है, माननीय मंत्री जी इस बारे में ज्यादा बता सकेंगे, वहां पर चूंकि इस पर ड्यूटी बहुत कम है, निग्लीजीबल है, इस कारण फिर वही तेल पुनः घूमकर हिंदुस्तान में आ जाता है। इस का हिंदुस्तान के खाद्य तेल उद्योग पर बहुत भारी दुष्प्रभाव पड़ा है। इस तरह केन्द्र सरकार ने 75 प्रतिशत ड्यूटी कर का जो कदम उठाया, वह निरस्त हो गया।

महोदया, इसी प्रकार कुछ और भी आइटम्स हैं जिन पर हम यहां ड्यूटी बढ़ाते हैं, लेकिन वह नेपाल के माध्यम से यहां आ जाता है और हमारा ड्यूटी बढ़ाने का उद्देश्य खत्म हो जाता है, हमारे उद्योग पर विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ता है। अगर माननीय मंत्री जी ने इसे रोकने की दृष्टि से वहां कुछ प्रयास किए हों तो वह जानकारी देने का कष्ट करें।

SHRI SHANKAR ROY CHOWDHURY (West Bengal): Thank you, Madam Deputy Chairperson. I compliment the Minister of External Affairs on his successful tour of Nepal. I would just request for clarifications, if he discussed the following issues and if he can give clarifications. Firstly, of course, the most disturbing element in the traditional, friendly ties with Nepal is the emergence of the Maoist insurgency in Nepal which started off in Western Nepal and has now spread to Eastern Nepal which is bordering West Bengal and Bihar. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he could get any idea from the Nepalese Government of their reactions to the proposals in India for tightening surveillance on the Indo-Nepal Border because our proposals whenever we have attempted to establish increased surveillance on the Indo-Nepal Border have almost invariably in the past led to hostile reactions from the Nepalese Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister if this issue had been discussed. Secondly, did the issue of Kalapani come up? If so, what was the reaction of the Nepalese Government? Thirdly, in the context of the ISI activities, the increasing criminalisation on both sides of the Indo-Nepal Terai has now become a major concern for India, particularly in the light of the recent happenings in Bihar where connections between certain criminal elements in India were traced back to the border, across the Nepalese border, in the general area actually of Lumbini and that place. Fourthly, could India's feelings be conveyed in any way -- I do not know if that could be done on the decision of the Nepalese courts denying Nepalese citizenship to inhabitants of the Nepalese Terai who are considered to be the so-called illegal migrants from India though they have been staying there for

generations? Lastly, was there any discussion by the hon. Foreign Minister with the Nepalese Government regarding the problem of refugees from Bhutan of Nepalese origin who have moved through India and are now housed in camps in Nepal and who have the potential of creating problem on Indian territory, as far as both Nepal and Bhutan are concerned. Thank you.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Madam Deputy Chairman, I just need a few clarifications from the hon. Minister. As has been mentioned by our Chief Whip, this visit was definitely necessary after the incident that had happened in Nepal. But the points which I would like to know from the hon. Minister are these. The first one is: Whether the hon. Minister has been able to discuss the security of our airlines with them. This point was raised earlier also. Because of the hijacking of our flight, not only the entire country was in shock, but so much money Rs. 250-300 crores of our country is spent at the airports. And, probably, a request has been made by our Civil Aviation Ministry to the Government of Nepal that our security people, at least, be allowed to provide security to our airlines and our services. Has this been discussed? Have they agreed to it? Or, do you think there is any chance of entering into this kind of an agreement?

The next point is, our relations with Nepal were extremely fruitful. But I do not know what has happened during the last few years. On a small issue of Hrithik Roshan's statement, and that too, only on the basis of some rumours, there was a havoc with the people of Indian origin, businessmen and other Indians staying in Nepal. In fact, there was a fear that there would be a big exodus from that country. I would like to know whether this point has been discussed as to how this kind of a situation had arisen? This clearly shows that even on rumours, we have this kind of a problem for the people of Indian origin staying in Nepal.

Apart from the ISI activities I do not want to repeat what has already been said other terrorist organisations are also active in Nepal, getting training, etc. Have you discussed this issue?

Similarly, my other friends mentioned about the goods being supplied from Nepal. The whole purpose of the special agreement with Nepal is to see that the industries are developed in Nepal. If the industries are not developing there, the whole purpose is defeated. I would like to know whether this issue has been discussed.

Madam, the movement between Nepal and India is very easy.

Earlier, one could just walk. But, now, I understand, some kind of a documentary evidence such as passport or identity card, in the form of ration card, etc., is required. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this issue has also been discussed. Now, it is a very difficult situation altogether -- much more difficult than it used to be.

Another point you have mentioned is about the 'energy exporting country.' What kind of joint ventures in the field of energy are being discussed? I would like to know whether our public sector undertakings like NTPC, NHPC, Power Grid, or the private sector would be encouraged to join their power producing units and also transmitting units.

The last point is, in para 8 of the statement, the hon. Minister has said, "...that His Majesty's Government that any such activity against India would not be tolerated and that necessary steps would be taken." May I know what that are these 'necessary steps'?

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I congratulate the hon. External Affairs Minister as well as the hon. Prime Minister. The visit has become necessary after the ghastly killing of King Birendra and his family members. Our people there were scared after that incident. Some of my friends, who are medical professionals, have started a private medical college in Nepal. After the Hrithik Roshan episode, they were scared, and the visit of our External Affairs Minister gave them confidence and faith. I would like to give him two suggestions. The first one is regarding the hydel projects. If our Government can give technical assistance to Nepal, we can get power from them.

The second one is regarding the ISI activities. You have mentioned that they have given a positive response on this. I would request the External Affairs Minister to visit Myanmar, Bhutan as well as Bangladesh also to give them more confidence and we can get a positive reply from them on this. Through this, at least, we can curb the ISI activities to some extent. With these few words, I once again congratulate the hon. External Affairs Minister.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी को बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने नेपाल की सद्भावना यात्रा की। महोदया, उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा बयान दिया है लेकिन यह अच्छा तो तभी साबित होगा जब सारी बातें जो इस समय बिगड़ती दिखाई देती हैं, वे ठीक हो जाएं। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में नेपाल के साथ जो हमारे संबंध खराब होते नजर आते हैं, उनमें माननीय मंत्री जी के प्रयासों से अवश्य सुधार होगा।

महोदया, यह बात सही है कि नेपाल के साथ हमारे मैत्री के संबंध रहे हैं और काफी समय से रहे हैं लेकिन यह बात भी सही है कि गत कई वर्षों से लगातार वहां भारत के खिलाफ प्रोपेगंडा होता रहा है। पिछले कई महीनों से तो भारत और नेपाल के बार्डर पर विशेष रूप से उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार की सीमाओं पर लूटपाट की बहुत घटनाएं हो रही हैं और यह भी सुनने में आया है कि शाही सेना ने भी उन घटनाओं में हिस्सा लिया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बार्डर पर विशेष रूप से उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार की सीमाओं पर जो लूटपाट की घटनाएं हो रही हैं और जिनमें शाही सेना ने भी हिस्सा लिया है, ऐसी विशेष रिपोर्टें अखबारों में छपी हैं, इस बारे में क्या उनकी नेपाल सरकार से कुछ बातचीत हुई है? दूसरी बात जो कई माननीय सदस्यों ने पूछी है, मैं उससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं और यह जानना चाहता हूं कि नेपाल के जिरिए चीन का सामान जो हमारे बाजार को खराब गर रहा है, उस संबंध में माननीय मंत्री जी की नेपाल सरकार से क्या बातचीत हुई है और किस सीमा तक इसका हल निकलने की आशा है?

श्रीमती सविता शारदा (गुजरात): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपनी नेपाल की यात्रा पर यह स्टेटमेंट सदन में रखा है, इसके लिए मैं उन्हें धन्यवाद देती हूं। मुझे उम्मीद है कि उनकी इस यात्रा से दोनों देशों के बीच सद्भावना बढ़ेगी। महोदया, कुछ दिन पहले टी.वी. पर एक सर्वे आ रहा था और उसमें यह बताया गया था कि नेपाल के साथ हमारे संबंध दिन प्रतिदिन बिगड़ते जा रहे हैं। उसमें यह भी बताया गया था कि नेपाल की तराई में रह रहे 30,000 लोगों को वहां से निकल जाने का नोटिस दे दिया गया है और उनकी संपत्ति को भी ले लेने का प्रयास किया गया है। इसके साथ साथ हमारे जो लोग वहां पर रहते हैं उनकी गाड़ियां और ड्राइविंग लाइसेंस भी कैसिल किए जा रहा हैं और उनकी संपत्ति को वे लोग छीनने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

महोदया, मुझे लगता है कि जो सद्भावना हमारे मन में उनके प्रति थी, जो विश्वासनीयता हमारे मन में उनके प्रति थी, जो प्रेम की भावना उनके प्रति थी, वह अब धीरे धीरे खत्म होती जा रही है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या वे अपने प्रयासों से दोनों देशों के बीच सद्भावना का माहौल वापस लाने का प्रयास करेंगे?

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, सभी सवाल आ गए हैं, अब आप जवाब दीजिए। सविता जी ने भी पूछा है कि जो 30,000 लोग नेपाल की तराई में रह रहे हैं, उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए आप क्या कर रहे हैं।

श्री जसवंत सिंह: माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह प्रश्न कई और माननीय सदस्यों ने भी पूछा है, मैं सभी सदस्यों के सवालों के उत्तर दिए देता हूं। Hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee has inquired about the unauthorised trade. As you know, the Trade Treaty with Nepal has an automatic and an in-built renewal, subject, of course, to either of the party declining. Sir, the said Treaty is now up for consideration. Mindful, as my statement does make it clear, of certain experiences that India has gained in this regard, the Ministry of Commerce has sought time upto 5th September. Before 5th of September, the Ministry of Commerce will take appropriate action and intimate it to His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

Now, what are the difficulties when we say that we wish to continuously promote industry, employment and trade, trade must be enhanced between the two countries? Yes; Madam, there is free trade, but free trade is not a synonym for free for all. That is not how free trade operates. मैं इसका उत्तर हिन्दी में भी दिए देता हूँ क्योंकि कई माननीय सदस्यों ने इसका प्रश्न हिन्दी में भी पूछा है। यह जो व्यापार की संधि नेपाल के साथ है उसकी अवधि पांच साल थी और अपने आप वह पुनः जीवित हो जाती है यदि भारत या नेपाल में से कोई आपत्ति न करे। हमारा अनुभव रहा है कि यह जो विगत 5 साल है उसमें यह कहना पड़ेगा कि भारतीय व्यापारी भी दूध के धुले हों ऐसा नहीं है। होता यह है कि कुछ विशेष आईटम्स को नेपाल से भारत में आयात किया जाता है क्योंकि उनके आयात से भारत में मुनाफा कमा पाते हैं और उसमें मसलन वनस्पति घी है, वेजिटेबिल ऑयल है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

मैं बतलाए देता हूँ, आपकी चिंता मैं जानना हूँ। इसमें एक्रेलिक फाइबर भी है, हम जानते हैं अन्य चीजें भी हैं। हमने नेपाल को बराबर यह कहा है कि एक कंसेप्ट होता है जो प्रणव बाबू अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं — वेल्यू एडिशन। यदि वेल्यू एडिशन देश में नहीं होगा, नेपाल में नहीं होगा तो नेपालमें मात्र एक कंज्यूट हो जाएगा। कोई तीसरा देश नेपाल को सामान भेजेगा और वह भारत आ जाएगा। हमें यह भी पता टसा गहै ति वनस्पति कितनी मात्रा में जाता है यह तो नहीं कह सकता लेकिन कुछ वनस्पति भारत से चोरी छिपे नेपाल में जाता है और फिर भारत में आता है। यह केवल नेपाल को भी दोष देना उचित नहीं होगा। यह नेपाल को हमने अपनी बातचीत में कहा है। लेकिन अपने आप में यह मंत्रणा जो है एक तो टेक्नीकल लेवल पर है जैसा कि मैंने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है और कॉमर्स मिनिस्ट्री के जो ऑफिशियल्स हैं वे इसमें बातचीत करेंगे। हम चाहते हैं कि व्यापार बढ़े और हम साथ साथ यह भी चाहते हैं कि यह जो अनुभव प्राप्त हुए हैं पिछले पांच सालों में मसलन खाद्य तेल या कुछ फाइबर या आर्टिफिसल फाइबर के बारे में जिसमें भारत एक किस्म का डम्पिंग ग्राउंड न बन जाए थर्ड कंट्री प्रोडक्शन का। यह नेपाल को हमने समझाया और वह स्वयं स्वीकार करते हैं। That is not the principle of the Treaty of Trade between India and Nepal, and it must be addressed. It is Nepal's expectation, to which we subscribe, that the spirit of the Treaty should not be lost. I agree that the spirit of the Treaty is defeated, if these aspects are not taken care of. The details of this will, of course, be addressed both by the technical people, the officials concerned, and the Commerce Ministry. There is one additional item, because a number of hon. Members have said so. Therefore, I will go into this specific aspect in detail, which, ordinarily, I would not do, as it belongs really to the realm of the Ministry of Commerce, and that, Madam, is the concept of surge; and the concept of surge takes care of sudden surge, whether they are consumer goods, consumer non-durable items, consumer durable items, small items; and this has a particular reference to Nepal being misused or employed as a kind of a conduit for exports from the People's Republic of China.

The concept of surge means that if the country, i.e. India, experiences that in a particular item there is a sudden surge of imports from a destination, then India should have the right to go back to Nepal and say: address this issue as this is causing a grave imbalance in the trade between our two countries. So, on all these aspects, I would like to assure not simply Pranab Babu, but all the other hon. Members, that this was explained with responsibility and commitment to Indo-Nepal relations. We have done so with a view to correcting the imbalances of the treaty that we have now gathered through our experience of five years of its working with a particular reference to items of interest to India like vegetable oil, acrylic fibre, pipes and so on. I do not want to go into those details. They were all discussed. I found that there was a desire on the part of Nepal to continue the treaty. As my statement says, we made it clear that we have to carry out certain modifications that address these concerns. While addressing these concerns, our central purpose remained that Nepal's industrial activity should go up. As my statement says again, it will render greater employment in Nepal. The way to do is through value-addition in Nepal. This was the principal point that was raised by my distinguished colleague, Pranab Babu.

Shri Virumbi raised the question of ISI activities, energy and other additional trade in consumer goods श्री रामदास अग्रवाल जी ने व्यापार और खाद्य तेल की बात कही थी और यही बात अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने भी कही थी।

A number of hon. Members referred to the court ruling on citizenship. Let me clarify this issue. A one-man commission had been established by His Majesty's Government in Nepal. I don't want to go into details about the Commission's name and so on. It is a one-man's Commission to go into the grant of citizenship certificates, particularly to the citizens of Nepal of an area called Madhesh. They are also called Madheshi. Sadbhavana Party of Nepal, is principally from Madhesh. Other parties also have representatives from Madhesh. This one-man Commission determined a certain procedure for the grant of citizenship certificates. This procedure was challenged in a court. The court ruled that the procedure followed by this one-man Commission is incorrect. Therefore, the grant of certificates under the proposed procedure of that one-man Commission can no longer be held as valid. Following the court ruling, all the political parties of Nepal, with a great sense of responsibility and purpose have come together, addressed this question and have arrived at a unanimous solution. The Government of Nepal and also the Legislature of Nepal are also addressing this issue so that the ruling of the court of Nepal on this one-

man Commission and the procedure followed by it for grant of citizenship certificate can be resolved. This was discussed. I was re-assured by everyone concerned in the entire political spectrum that this will be addressed and a correct and amicable answer would be found to this problem.

My gallant friend, Shri Shankar Roy Chowdhury spoke on Maoists, of border surveillance, of Kala Pani, of ISI criminalisation, about the court and citizenship, which I have explained and about Bhutan refugees.

Yes; Madam, I have explained about the Maoist activities. There are two aspects of it. Some of the social points the Maoist vadis in Nepal have raised; and the present Prime Minister, His Excellency, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba, has addressed some of those social aspects. That is their internal matter. I would not like to comment on that, except what I have said in the statement, that we welcome any such development which leads to settlement, reconciliation. But on border surveillance, I have assured His Majesty's Government, the Prime Minister and everyone concerned, that in the adjoining States of the Indian Union, particularly, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, we will not be found wanting in anything. We assured full cooperation to the Majesty's Government in addressing the law and order problem, the criminalisation and the border surveillance aspect of the Maoist movement.

Actually, *Kala Paani* was not discussed. It did not come up for discussion. But it is part of the larger question of demarcation of the border and thus the Ministry would deal with it according to the agreement.

Regarding the ISI activities, I have already explained, and His Majesty's Government has reassured me on this.

Regarding the Bhutan refugee issue, it was not raised. The Government of India's viewpoint is clear. This is essentially a bilateral issue between His Majesty's Government in Nepal and His Majesty's Government in Bhutan. Because of the special relationship with both the countries, it is not possible for us to consider granting a refugee status to citizens of either of these two countries. Already there is a free movement between these countries and India, and how do I consider a refugee status? I am not being tactical or legal. This is the reality. We have encouraged both Nepal and Bhutan to address this issue bilaterally. I am happy to report that their Foreign Ministers have met earlier; and, very shortly, due to meet again in this regard. We will continue to encourage both the countries to come together and find an answer to this problem.

5.00 P.M.

Mr. Santosh Bagrodiaji asked about airlines security. Now, this is an issue that was addressed following the hijack of that unfortunate airline. We don't have to continue to relive our history, particularly, in sensitive bilateral relations between India and Nepal. The hon. Member knows that before the resumption of flights by Indian Airlines, all the issues that he has referred to, were satisfactorily resolved between the two Civil Aviation Ministries, and I don't have to go on listing what needs to be done.

My distinguished colleague, Dr Alladi Rajkumar, mentioned about the ISI activities and suggested that I should undertake visits to Myanmar, Bhutan and Bangladesh. I want to inform him that I have already done so. Indeed, at the earliest opportunity, I would be doing so again. माननीय कौशिक जी ने शाही सेना द्वारा कुछ कथित कार्यवाही और बाजार के बारे में कहा। बाजार के बारे में मैं उत्तर दे चुका हूँ। शाही सेना के बारे में जो कहा है, हमारे पास ऐसी जानकारी नहीं है। जब जानकारी आएगी तो निश्चित रूप से मैं आपको अवगत करा दूंगा। हमें नेपाल सरकार से इसमें पूर्ण सहयोग मिल रहा है, आगे भी मिलेगा।

In conclusion, I wish to add just one line. What is needed in Indo-Nepal relations is a kind of stability. In order to acquire that degree of stability and maturity, we need maturity in relations between India and Nepal. I would urge upon hon. Members, at least, they should not really permit themselves to become victims of local rumour. These are issues between two sovereign countries. We are very respectful of the Kingdom of Nepal, in every respect. We wish that the relationship between India and Nepal should not be either hostage or subject to one or any other kind of rumour, whether in India or in Nepal, particularly, in India, because what happens within Nepal is really Nepal's internal matter. I would refrain from commenting on them.

But, we, in India, must certainly neither promote nor encourage any kind of rumours that colour the relationship between our countries, which is an ancient relationship, which is a unique relationship. There is no relationship of this kind that I can think of anywhere else in the world. It is not just simply geography or culture or history that these two sovereign countries are bounded together by, but even by rivers. In such a relationship, rumours have no place. That is the only request I make. Thank you very much.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा: महोदया, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया।

उपसभापति: आपका तो सबसे पहले दिया है, कोर्ट के बारे में।

THE LIVE-STOCK IMPORTATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2001.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have another Bill that the House is going to take up. It is a small Bill. I was reading the Bill. The Minister is here for a long time. The Bill only talks about import of certain animal products. They only want to insert a new section 3A which says that they can put a ban on the import of any live-stock product which may be objectionable. That is the main thing. Do you want to discuss it? There are only four speakers. If they so agree, they can be accommodated in another Bill later on. ...(*Interruptions*)... I must ask those people who have given their names. अगर हाउस एग्री करता है तो I will do it.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Madam, fortunately, the Law Minister, against whose name half-a-dozen Bills are there, is busy in the other House. Only three small Bills are there in the list.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : If the Minister is there, we can have some discussion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have more Bills. We have one Bill which Mr. Pramod Mahajan is going to pilot on behalf of Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. That is the Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2001. Another Bill is the Indian Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2000. Mr. Mahajan will be repealing everything in the House now.

If the House so agrees, we will take up the Live-stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, आप पहले मूव तो कर दीजिए, मैं आपकी छुट्टी कर दूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): Madam, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Live-stock Importation Act, 1898, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.