

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: Certainly we want the Government to react, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ALL the time the House wants the Government to react. I am happy that the Government is reacting.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE: React positively.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That I do not know. But for the reaction I am responsible.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Madam, I am aware that it is not only a very sensitive issue but it is a very very important issue. So, on this question, I would just like to assure the hon. House that the Government will not succumb to any pressure from any corner, to any pressure from any corner, while preserving its sovereign rights. Madam, our Government is firmly determined to protect nation's interests in this matter. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, with this very happy note, I adjourn the House for lunch for one hour.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-one minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirtythree minutes past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) in the Chair.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding taking up of some new works during 1992-93.

#### SPECIAL MENTIONS—contd.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Shri Ram Awadesh Singh, Not present.

Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur, Not present.

Shri A. D. Dave, Not present.

Shri Ramsinh Rathwa, Not present.

Shri Krishan Lal Sharma, Not present.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDMBARAM): Madam, those who are not present, should not be given any opportunity for one week.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Your suggestion will be considered.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, it should be not for one week, but for the whole session.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Including the Ministers. Agreed.

#### Report of Amnesty International on Police Atrocities in India

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Bihar): Madam Vice-Chairman, I wish to raise in this House the matter relating to the report submitted by the Amnesty International on India. The report was submitted a couple of months ago, but I have got a copy of it now. It is about torture, rape and deaths in custody. It has been brought out by the Amnesty International and has been sent to various people in this country, including myself. In this report they have given a complete list of all the deaths which have taken place in police custody, all the cases of torture and rape which have taken place in police custody. This report assumes importance because India has once again become the focus of attention of Amnesty International and the violations of so-called real or imaginary which go on in this country in regard to human rights. It does not merely stop here because the accompanying letter which has been sent by Amnesty International is an exercise in defence of the standing of Amnesty International, how it is an impartial and a fair organisation, how it has not merely picked up India but many other countries in the world for human rights violations, how it is through these

measures, through these reports trying to protect, preserve and safeguard human rights internationally.

Last year when I had received a copy of Amnesty's report on India, I had stood up in this House and I had made a reference to it. I had told the government that they should formulate their responses to reports of this kind. Because whenever I have gone abroad and I have met our Ambassadors and High Commissioners and other diplomatic representatives. I have seen this book which may not cause much concern to us here but which has become almost a matter of total preoccupation with our missions abroad. These matters are raised in foreign Parliament, in the U.S. House of Representatives or the Senate in the British House of Commons and other European Parliaments and other organisations. This is a report which is widely quoted. The newspaper reports which appear show India in a bad light. Our diplomatic representatives are worried because they are charged with the responsibility of protecting our interests, of furthering our interests. So they are very concerned about them. They repeatedly bring it to our notice that such and such thing has happened and ask what our response is. So I had requested the Government of India that we should have a mature and a considered response to the charges, to the incidents, to the report which is being filed, which is being prepared by an organisation like Amnesty International. I am sorry to say that till this date, at least, I am not aware of any response which the Government might have prepared, which the Government might have formulated in this matter. That is why I am constrained to raise this matter again.

Now here I am aware that they referred to Bhagalpur blinding incident. They referred to a death in custody of a member of a particular minority community in Hazaribagh district in Bihar, with which I am concerned. I have personal knowledge of some of these cases. These are submissions which I would like to make in all seriousness. It will not do for us to merely condemn the Amnesty International as an

agent of the CIA, as a body which is not fair, which is biased because they are raising specific issues. These specific issues have to be met.

This report is not merely about the violations of human rights in States like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab or Assam, for that matter. It talks of a number of such cases in Bihar, in Madhya Pradesh, in Tamil Nadu and in a number of other States which are not supposed to be or not considered by as to be terrorist-infested States, where we are not fighting the kind of battle that we are fighting in States like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Assam. So it will not do for us merely to condemn the Amnesty International.

The point that I am making is that if the Government of India, if this country sincerely wants to challenge the contents of this report, then, we must be able to come out with our set of facts. We cannot merely say that this is a bogus organisation, we don't take cognisance of it. Let me say whether we take cognisance of it or not, internationally such reports are being taken cognisance of. If we do not come out with our facts in various cases, as we did in the case of that particular incident in Jammu and Kashmir where we sent our team to investigate, where we came out with an alternative set of facts then the impression which is being created by reports of this kind is that the Indian society has been brutalised that we are not a civilised nation any more, that we are not governing this country by the rule of law, that we are not maintaining the norms of human behaviour, that we are totally brutalised, that we are letting animal passions overtake us and that our police is not a worthy organ of State. This is the impression which is being created. So, I am raising this issue, Madam Vice-Chairman, with this request to the Government that they must formulate their views in this matter. I have a copy of the earlier 'Indian Express' which says, 'Amnesty's Anti-India Propaganda War', which is obviously done on the briefing of the Government of India because it condemns the Amnesty International.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar) : Will the 'Indian Express' ever write that ?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : "The Hindustan Times". I am sorry. I stand corrected.

The point I am making is that such knee-jerk reactions on the part of the Government should not be there. The Government should formulate its views. The Government should meet headlong the challenge which is being posed to this nation, its reputation and image abroad, by coming out with a considered response.

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH (Maharashtra) : Madam, I associate myself with Mr. Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) : Madam, while associating myself with Mr. Yashwant Sinha, I would add just one sentence. Since the Minister is here, I would like to stress that if this report is allowed to go unchallenged, then the world outside will start believing that State terrorism is going on in this country. Therefore, in all fairness, I should appeal to the Government to kindly take into account the allegations or abuses or whatever you may call them, and come out with clear facts so that things are put in the proper perspective. Otherwise, we will be under a cloud of suspicion that State terrorism is going on in this country.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : बिल्कुल यही बातें यशवन्त जी ने कही हैं।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया,

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : आप इसमें एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं ?

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : मैं एसोसिएट करता हूँ और मैं माँग भी करता हूँ क्योंकि मैंने खुद महसूस किया है। मैं जिनेवा गया था ह्यूमन राइट्स की कांफ्रेंस अटेंड करने। वहाँ मैंने महसूस किया था कि बहुत

छोटे-छोटे से मुद्दे, जो कि इंटरनेशनल प्लेटफार्म पर एमनेस्टी इंटरनेशनल द्वारा उठाए जाते हैं, जिनका जवाब भारत सरकार से किसी कारण नहीं जाता। मेरे वहाँ होते वक्त एक मुद्दा दानापुर जी०आर०पी० कस्टडी, मैं एक वेगनब्रेकर की डैय के ऊपर आया था, जिसका जवाब चूँकि भारत में नहीं गया था इसलिये वहाँ पर एक बड़ी उपहासजनक अवस्था बन गई थी। तो इनका जवाब तैयार करना चाहिये और सरकार को वह जवाब देना भी चाहिये।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज) : ठीक है। श्री रणजीत सिंह। श्री महेश्वर सिंह।

Steep hike in Delhi-Kulu and Delhi-Shimla Air Fare

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, जैसा कि आपको विदित ही है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश और विशेषकर कुल्लू और मनाली न केवल इस देश में बल्कि विदेश में भी देव-भूमि के नाम से प्रसिद्ध है। इस समय वहाँ जो हमारे पर्यटन-स्थल हैं, रमणीय स्थान हैं, वह हर वर्ष लाखों पर्यटकों के लिये आकर्षण के केन्द्र बिन्दु हैं।

महोदया, हिमाचल प्रदेश में तीन हवाई अड्डे हैं—एक शिमला में, दूसरा कांगड़ा में और तीसरा कुल्लू में। तीनों जगह हवाई सेवा उपलब्ध है और वायुयुक्त वहाँ पर हवाई जहाज खला रहे हैं। गत वर्ष के मुकाबले इस वर्ष इनके किराए में लगभग 65 प्रतिशत वृद्धि की गई है, जो कि सर्वाधिक है। देश के बाँकी हिस्सों से अगर इनका मुकाबला किया जाए तो इतनी वृद्धि कहीं भी नहीं हुई है। इसके फलस्वरूप वहाँ के पर्यटन की गहरा धक्का पहुँचा है। उदाहरणतया, गत वर्ष तक दिल्ली से कुल्लू का किराया 1,290/- रुपये था, जो कि इस वर्ष एकदम 2040/- रुपये कर दिया गया और इसी प्रकार शिमला का दिल्ली