

not withdraw them because the past 15 years' experience is there. Unfortunately, hon. Members are not here. There were imports made of bugging devices for the last 15 years continuously ... (*Interruptions*) ... Are you prepared for an inquiry? Would the former Prime Minister and their leader accept an inquiry of any kind into this, into the import of bugging devices? What use it was made of and under whose authority, legal and otherwise—this has to be explained to the people. Our former Rashtrapati himself had said that bugging devices were planted, as Head of State, as Head of the Republic of India. Now it is too late in the date of express their moral indignation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What has been done with those devices?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: It will have to be found out. Madam, that is why we are trying to dismantle this authority in structure, that is why we want to amend these Acts, the Indian Telegraph Act and the Indian Post Office Act. That is the purpose and that is the aim of this Government which we shall fulfil and we shall take you into confidence. While we are prepared for any kind of discussion, we are not prepared for a discussion just to malign... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): We are not satisfied with the statement made by the hon. Minister (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The AIADMK Government in Tamil Nadu was doing the same thing. They have no moral right now. These people also have no moral right. They have been doing this. (*Interruptions*) ... They have no moral right ... (*Interruptions*) ... For 13 years they have been doing it.... (*Interruptions*)... It is they who did this nefarious thing in Tamil Nadu. He has no moral right to speak about this... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATTI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The Minister has just concluded. We will now adjourn for lunch till 2-45 P.M.

The House then adjourn for lunch at forty-four minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at forty-four minutes past two of the clock, the Vice-Chairman [Dr. G. Vijaya Mohan Reddy] in the Chair.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Restoration of Multi-Party System in Nepal

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY): Now, we shall take up Special Mentions. Yes, Mr. Sukomal Sen.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE (Maharashtra): Just a Minute, Sir, I will take just one minute.

May I take this opportunity to express not only my personal happiness and satisfaction, but also the happiness and satisfaction of the entire house on the resolution of the political turmoil in Nepal?

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): I have given notice of a Special Mention on this.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: I see, I had asked for it, but I was not allowed, probably because of this.

DR. BAPU KALDATE (Maharashtra): You have to associate yourself with his Special Mention.

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Well, I am very happy that democracy has been restored there and the demand for a multiparty system has been recognised. I only feel sorry that all this could have been done before 200 innocent citizens of Nepal lost their lives.

Ultimately, the lesson is that dialogue and discussion are the very heart of democracy, and not bullets; and payments. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We support it ... (*Interruptions*) ... The whole House supports it... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY): Mr. Kapil Verma, Special Mention... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will take half-a-minute. The Vice-Chancellor of the Kashmir University and the General Manager of the local unit of Hindustan Machine Tools were kidnapped. The Government has not made any statement as to what they will do about it. It is a very serious matter. The employees of the Central administration have been kidnapped and the Government is silent about it. What is happening? I want the Minister to come forward with a statement about it. (*Interruptions*)

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह ग्रहलुवालिया (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी तक काश्मीर इश्यू पर क्या हुआ है, गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करें। तीन दिन पुराना स्टेटमेंट लेकर वे आ जाते हैं। हाउस के खत्म होने से पहले वे स्टेटमेंट लेकर आयें ताकि हम उस पर विचार कर सकें। क्या वे सदन को एस्योर करते हैं? (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY): The Leader of the House is here, and the hon. Minister is here. They have heard what you have said. (*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: But there is no reaction.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY): They will inform. Mr. Kapil Verma.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: We are all happy about the welcome developments in Nepal where the King has ultimately bowed down to the overwhelming demand of people for restoration of a multi-party system and withdrawal of the ban on political parties. The word 'partyless' in the Constitution has been dropped and an interim Government is to be formed.

Thus, all efforts to prevent the winds of change sweeping many parts of the world from touching Nepal have been frustrated. The Nepalese people have undergone colossal repression. Hundreds have been killed and a large number of people including journalists have been arrested.

But even now how the situation unfolds itself is still to be seen, despite the successes achieved.

Dropping of the word 'partyless' in the Constitution is not enough. It is to be seen what type of Constitution the Drafting Commission frames whether it is a truly democratic Constitution that may meet the aspiration and needs of the people. It is also to be seen whether the proposed interim Government will truly meet the aspirations of the people and represent the people in true sense.

Because of the age-old ties between India and Nepal, we are interested in the progress and prosperity of the Nepalese people, without interfering in their internal affairs. We did help the Nepalese people in overthrowing the oppressive Rana regime. The Indian people were grieved at the repression let loose by the Nepal Government on their own people in recent years.

MPs belonging to various parties visited Nepal to take part in the Nepal Congress convention recently.

We earnestly hope that the Nepalese King will see the writing on the wall and permit a truly democratic Constitution to be framed and a representative Government to be formed

which may satisfy the aspirations and needs of the people.

Let the Government make a statement on how it views situation in Nepal, how the latest developments will affect our ties with Nepal, our security environment and the current problems under discussion relating to trade, transit, etc. with Nepal.

I hope the Government will make a statement before the House adjourns tomorrow.

Ill-treatment of AIR Hostesses of Indian Airlines and AIR India.

SHRI SUCOMAL SEN (West Bengal): I would like to refer to a matter connected with some adverse publicity which is going on against India and the Indian Government in a foreign country. This is because of mishandling of certain issues by the Civil Aviation Ministry and because of some wrong steps taken by them. You know Sir, that we have raised in this House again and again the matter regarding the discriminatory treatment meted out to some air hostesses of Air India and Indian Airlines. Sir, after many petitions they made certain recommendations for removing those discriminations. It was done after 100 Members of Parliament sent a memorandum to the Government demanding removal of discriminations. The Government of India, through its Civil Aviation Ministry issued a notification on 15th of October, 1989, asking the Civil Aviation Ministry to take certain steps for removing these discriminations in respect of retirement age of the air hostesses etc. The retirement age of the air hostesses which was formerly 45 years, was increased to 58 years through the notification at par with the other male crew. Now what has happened? It has been stipulated in the notification that after 45 years of age there should be a test of physical fitness. This physical fitness test is being interpreted by the Civil Aviation. Ministry, the Indian Airlines and the Air India as a medical test of the crew. It is not 45 years now. They have started medical fitness test after 35 years of

age. This is one aspect.

There is another aspect also. The Indian Airlines say that they will allow the air hostesses to fly up to 58 years of age after a medical examination every year. But the Air India says that the retirement age will be 58 years but they will be grounded at the age of 45 years. There are foreign nationals who have been appointed as air hostesses in Air India. One of the Japanese air hostesses who is working in the Air India was allowed to fly after 45 years of age. Sir, in Japan there is a very stringent Act against discrimination on the basis of sex. So, the Japanese and other foreign nationals were allowed to fly after 45 years of age. One Japanese air hostess was allowed to fly for 5 months after 45 years of age. All of a sudden she was grounded on the ground that the Civil Aviation Ministry or the Air India had got a new directive from the Government of India saying that the air hostesses should not be allowed to fly after 45 years of age. Now the Japanese air hostesses have filed a case in a Tokyo court. The Government of India, through the Air India, have submitted an affidavit in the Japanese court saying that it is the Government of India's decision not to allow the air hostesses to fly after the age of 45 years. I feel that it is most derogatory. The newspapers in Japan have started a campaign against the Government of India saying that there is discrimination on the basis of sex in India and even foreign nationals are not allowed to fly above the age of 45 years. Therefore, I feel that the Civil Aviation Ministry should take care of it. They should modify or improve the notification so that all types of discriminations against the air hostesses are totally removed. Thank you.

Incident of Setting 45 Houses of Harijans on Fire by Higher Caste People in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मेरे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका शुक्रिया अदा करती हूँ। इस वर्ष