

measures to provide meaningful relief and rehabilitation, but that is only the beginning of the process. Sri Lankan Government has to create conditions whereby the Tamil people's legitimate political aspirations for a life of dignity and self-respect can be met and the successful process of devolution as envisaged in the 1987 Accord with India can be implemented. So, I can assure you, Mr. Raja, that bulk of my time with the President of Sri Lanka was spent in discussing the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. We are very deeply concerned. I explained to him that we have a legitimate concern about the well being of Sri Lankan Tamils. It has a bearing on Sri Lanka's relations with India, and, therefore, I urged him to do all that he can to satisfy the legitimate political aspirations of the Sri Lankan Tamil community. I thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up Special Mentions. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to remove apprehensions about the alleged rigging of electronic voting machines in the country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this House to the allegations made by certain persons and activists about the possibility of rigging through EVMs. It has been claimed that the EVMs could be manipulated to favour a particular party or person with the use of particular software. While it is inconceivable that in the 21st Century, certain groups can scandalize a tested technology, yet I seek urgent attention of the Election Commission and the Government to this controversy. Though the Election Commission has reposed faith in the efficient and foolproof working of the EVMs, yet a vocal section of public and activists are still unconvinced of the EC's response. It has also been claimed that certain European countries are withdrawing EVMs to ensure transparency. Prior to recent revelations, two technical Committees were set up by the Election Commission in 1990 and 2006, headed by Prof. Indresan, which, on both the occasions expressed satisfaction over safety measures installed in the machines. I would ask the Election Commission to set up another Committee of Experts to interact with these activists and technical experts and come out with conclusions. It has also come to light that the production and accreditation of the EVMs was outsourced to private companies by the concerned PSUs BEL and ECIL. I would like that the Election Commission should issue guidelines on the outsourcing by the PSUs and report to this House within a stipulated time. The EC should formulate elaborate voting system guidelines like in the USA.

Demand to increase the Haj Quota for Andhra Pradesh

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं विदेश मंत्रालय का ध्यान हाजियों खसूसन आन्ध्र प्रदेश के हाजियों को पेश आने वाली मुश्किलात की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। हर साल हिन्दुस्तान से तकरीबन डेढ़ लाख लोग हज पर जाते हैं। पिछले कुछ बरसों से इन डेढ़ लाख में से सिर्फ एक लाख सीटें ही हज कमेटी के जरिए जाने वाले हाजियों को दी जाती हैं और बाकी पचास हजार सीटें प्राइवेट टूर ऑपरेटर्स के हवाले कर दी जाती हैं, जिससे सिर्फ पैसे वाले लोगों को ही फायदा होता है। गरीब मुसलमान हज कमेटी के जरिए हज पर जाने से महरूम रह जाते हैं, जिसमें खर्चा भी कम होता है। भारत सरकार ने हज कमेटी के जरिए जाने वाले एक लाख हाजियों के लिए हर सूबे का अलग अलग कोटा मुकर्रर किया है। निहायत अफसोस की बात है कि विदेश मंत्रालय ने आन्ध्र प्रदेश के