

to register complaint before the competent authority in Africa and also take up the issue with Chinese counterparts at the Ministerial level and see that fake 'Made in India' textile exports are stopped. Thank you.

#### **Demand to grant a special package for Sikh pilgrims going to Pakistan**

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): The Government of India has been very liberal for providing not only facilities but also financial packages for the Muslim pilgrims going for Haj to Saudi Arabia. The Government has also constituted the Haj Board and special Section in the MEA for this purpose. I propose that the Government of India should announce a special package programme for the Sikh Pilgrims for going to Nankana Saheb-Pakistan which is the birth place of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Every Sikh makes a prayer that he may get a chance to have *Darshan* of this historic religious place. This special package can be given in the first instance to those pilgrims who are below the poverty line. The Government of India should open a section in the MEA which should invite applications from the pilgrims and make arrangements for issue of Passports, Visas and transport arrangements for them at State cost. The pilgrims, unlike Haj pilgrims will get free boarding and lodging in Sikh Shrines in Pakistan, therefore, the expenses of this scheme will not be much. The visit should include Lahore, Gurudwara Dera Saheb, Gurudwara Panja Saheb and Nankana Saheb. This will be a good gesture by the secular country for the poor people of the Sikh Minority Community. The birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji falls in the month of November. I request that the Government may accept this proposal and start working on this so that large number of aspiring pilgrims could get the benefit from this year.

#### **Concern over unsolicited mobile calls and S.M.S.**

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, constant mobile phone messages and SMS from certain companies to the mobile subscribers has crossed all the limits of tolerance and that it is time that the Parliament takes serious note of these neo crimes committed almost round-the-clock.

Subscribers take these calls or open these SMS messages lest they should miss any important message relating to their families, business or any untoward incident.

These unscrupulous elements do not even verify whom they are approaching through their mobile calls. In fact, business norms and also sense of decorum, protocol and decency would require that these companies find out as to who is on the other side when they venture into unsolicited communications.

If the President of India or the Prime Minister were to receive mobile phones directly, these companies would have also targeted the VVIPs without any sense of responsibility.

In this situation, it is necessary that police authorities should take *suo motu* cognizance of this menace and book the companies and their directors. The most appropriate punishment that can be meted out to these directors is to provide them with mobiles with only incoming facility and torture them with telephone calls and SMS throughout the night.

It is high time that police should appeal to the public to file FIRs against such companies and that these companies and their directors should be prosecuted under the existing laws.

If need be, at a later date, the Parliament can amend the Indian Penal Code or any other legislation dealing with communications to make such offences punishable more severely.

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## SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

### **Need to strengthen the measures to prevent ragging in the institutions of higher learning**

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to all the Members of the House who have participated in this discussion on a topic which concerns all of us the menace of which troubles us as a nation. I know that several hon. Members have not just given their thoughtful views on the subject but have also suggested some ways of dealing with the menace. I am grateful to all the hon. Members who not only participated but also gave their thoughtful suggestions.

Ragging is not something new; Sir, it is something that has been going on for a long time. In fact, ragging goes back to the 7th Century and 8th Century AD. It started in sports because people used this as a measure of building confidence within the system for collective action. From sports it moved to the Military and when Army people started joining educational institutions, it came into educational institutions. The first death from ragging occurred way back in 1873 when a young student from Cornell University was ragged and he jumped into a gorge and died. It has now become a fashion it has assumed very serious proportions. It is abusive, it is violent, it is degrading, it is demeaning, it has very negative psychological impact and it can destroy not just the career but the life of a young person. Way back in 1999, there was a report pursuant to a Public Interest Litigation filed by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission. Through that Public Interest Litigation a Committee was set up, chaired by Prof. Unni of the Jawahar Lal University. That 1999 Report suggested several measures that ought to be taken to deal with this menace. Then, of course, came the judgment of the Supreme Court which not only defined ragging but suggested that guidelines should be issued in terms of the report submitted by the Committee, chaired by Prof. K.P.S. Unni. Now, also, several States like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka have legislations on the subject. So, we have had several States actually enacting on the subject to deal with the menace. But, Sir, I must compliment the Supreme Court for having taken a very serious view of the matter and setting up the Raghavan Committee on 5th December, 2006 which gave certain suggestions. The matter has been going on ever since. However two things have changed since