

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are also not ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The hon. Chairman is not personally reading these notices. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand to take appropriate steps to solve plight of Indians abroad**

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, many young Indians leave our country to pursue higher studies in USA, Australia, South Africa, Canada and U.K. through proper visa process. Their parents sell homes, take loans for funding their wards' foreign travel. Nearly 1,00,000 Indian students go to USA and 4,00,000 students from Asia go to Australia to pursue higher education and provide services, skills to support booming economy in the respective countries. But, what we are watching everyday is the increasing racial attacks on Indians. We have seen such problems in USA, UK, Dubai due to competition with locals there. Now, we are facing problems in Australia, South Africa, in addition, we have problems due to the Indian diaspora conditions in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, etc. Our students are feeling insecure, unsafe and their parents are worried and getting their children back thinking that the Government is not doing enough to protect lives of Indian citizens. This is a serious social, educational, diplomatic and probably economic crisis that no one is taking seriously. The foreign Governments are not acknowledging the gravity of the problem, or, their own culpability and not taking any serious action to solve it.

Sir, I, therefore, request the Government to immediately take up the matter with concerned countries and seek the assurance from them that a slew of steps, including increased patrolling and setting up of a hotline have been taken to ensure the safety of Indians abroad so that these unfortunate incidents should not recur.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with it.

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with this subject.

**Demand to take appropriate steps to control soaring prices  
of essential commodities in the country**

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the recent spurt in the prices of vegetables, dal, sugar and edible oil is alarming. This comes on top of significant rise in the prices of rice and wheat in the country last year. With a deficient South-West Monsoon, the price situation of all essentials in the country is fast turning from an alarming situation into a precarious one.

Sir, with limited supplies, India is marginally self-sufficient on many essential commodities. With the spectre of drought looming large, we could be falling short on food grain production as well as those of fruits, vegetables and other food items. That in turn dynamites the assiduously built 4 per cent growth story in the farm sector, which in turn torpedoes the overall growth plan of 7 per cent of