

Tamils in Malaysia

†30. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is as vigilant about protecting the interests of the Tamils in Malaysia as it is about protecting the interests of the Tamils in Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details of the efforts made in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Yes, with due respect for the sovereignty of the States concerned.

(b) There is a large community of persons of Indian origin, predominantly Tamils in Malaysia. Their population is about 1.9 million, which accounts for about 8% of Malaysia's population. Tamils who migrated from India, make up over 70% of the Indian community. Most of them are now citizens of Malaysia, well integrated into their system. They are active in various walks of the Malaysian society and their rights as citizens of Malaysia are derived from the Malaysian constitution. Whenever there was some concern on the interest of Tamils living there, Government of India has suitably expressed its concern to protect their interests.

(c) Not applicable

Attacks on Indian students

†31. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian students studying in Australia have been attacked/are being attacked, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government considers these attacks as racist; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by Government to stop these attacks?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details, as available, are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 217 Annexure No. 2]

(c) Some of these could be treated as racial attacks — as stated by the Australian Government authorities.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.