

SHRI K. C. PANT: Sir, I do not fully subscribe to what Commander Jasjit Singh has said because I do not know whether the troops which return from Saudi Arabia will be formed into a separate Division or not. But we know that Pakistan is raising certain new formation, and to the extent the troops return from Saudi Arabia, it will add to the strength of the Pak army in toto.

So far as the reserves are concerned, again there are two opinions on the reserves. So far as the number of Indian troops in Sri Lanka is concerned, the figure quoted by the hon. Member is highly exaggerated.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What is the total number of troops?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put a separate question.

SHRI K. C. PANT: That is a separate question and I will have to look up the figures and give you exact and accurate figures.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: What is the total figure?

SHRI K. C. PANT: The total figure I can give you, if you put a question.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is in the question.

SHRI K. C. PANT: But this is not the basic question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not arise. You go on with your answer.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I only wanted to correct this because this figure of 100,000 has been floated around and if it comes to be believed then, it will create a wrong impression. Therefore, it is my duty to dispel that impression.

Now, so far as Pakistan having an edge over India is concerned, our whole Defence plan is directed at the objective of seeing that they do not have an edge.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You did not give correct figures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 322.

\*322. [*The Questioner (Shri Parva-theneni Upendra) was absent. For answer, vide Col. 33 infra.*]

#### **Gang of DOT-Busters in U.S.A.**

\*323. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:f

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang of dot-busters has come up in the United States which professes to eradicate 'dot' on 'bindi' on the foreheads of Indian women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this gang of 'dot busters' has attacked several Indian families and apartments in the United States leading to several deaths;

(c) whether the Indians in US have protested at the police inactivity in this regard, who have failed to take any action against this sort of gangsterism.

(d) if so, whether Government have taken up this matter with the US authorities and if so, what is their reaction in this regard; and

(e) the steps by which this problem of attacks on Indians by the 'dot\*' busters is proposed to be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) They have physically assaulted members of the Indian community in New Jersey in recent months.

(c) to (e) Government has taken up this matter with the U.S. authorities. The following steps have been taken:

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik.

Increased police patrolling; meeting of the Human Rights Commission (New Jersey) to discuss the problem and to resolve it; issue of a statement by the Mayor condemning violence and urging social cohesion. The Federal Department of Justice has been involved in discussions with local authorities.

SHRI MUKHTTAR SINGH MALIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this horrifying news of physical attacks on our women in foreign lands has shaken the conscience of all irrespective of caste, community or religion in our country. Sir, yesterday only we were discussing the problems of the harassment of women in our country. Now, it is very sad that this disease has spread even thousands and thousands miles away in foreign lands where our women are attacked because they put 'bindi' on their foreheads.

Not going far away from the question, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister that he has not answered to part 'b' of my question wherein it has been reported that some deaths have taken place because of these barbarous attacks by these gangsters on our women. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any deaths have taken place and if so, the number thereof? May I also know from the hon. Minister what is the response or reaction of the United States authorities to our talks with them and whether any protest has been lodged with them in this regard?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, the Government share the concern of the House and the hon. Member on these very unfortunate and deplorable incidents that have taken place in the city of Jersey not far from New York.

Ndw, with regard to the specific incidents of the 27th September, 1987, Mr. Navrod Mody, a 30 year old bank executive was beaten up savagely by a gang of white teena-

gers in Obakan city close to Jersey. He died in hospital on 1st October, 1987. The police arrested four youths but they were bailed out to enable them to attend school. The U.S. courts have now decided that four teenagers are to be tried as adults. This has been welcomed by the Indian community. The civil suit file claims damages and charges. Those two youths had earlier assaulted two Asian students.

On the 25th September also Mr. Kaushal ISharan, a doctor was beaten and left unconscious with serious head injuries.

On October 21, 1987 a mysterious fire occurred in a building in Obakn. occupied mainly by Indians in which Mrs. Savita Amin lost her life and there was considerable loss of property. On one occasion, local police took prompt action when two Indian women were assaulted by four youths on October 14th, 1987. The police officers pursued and caught the boys who were aged 16 and 17 years and within minutes, the boys were remanded to the custody of Juvenile authorities. In January 1988, an apartment building owned by an Indian Mr. Raj Gandhi was attacked by unidentified people. The connections to the fire alarm were cut power was cut and also the mail boxes of the Indians were opened. Raiders put posters on the lobbies saying, "Indians, go back, Hindus, go back." The Indian Embassy in Washington and the Consulate General of India, New York have drawn the attention of the State Department and Governor, New Jersey respectively to these attacks and requested for urgent steps to be taken to prevent any further attacks. The State Department has intimated that increased police patrolling has been arranged in the area. In specific cases of violent incidents, Governor Thomas Keene has initiated action to take remedial measures. In addition, meetings of the Human Rights Commission in New Jersey, have been held for discussing these problems

and resolving it. Whereas New Jersey has issued a statement condemning violence, the Federal Department of Justice has been involved in discussion with the local authorities. The matter has also come up for discussion during the proceedings of the House through its Sub Committee on Civil and Constitutional Rights and Anti-Asian violence in United States. Indian Embassy and the Consulate kept in close touch to watch the situation and they are in touch with the community leaders."

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Sir, it has been admitted by the hon. Minister that barbarous and cruel attacks on our women are very deplorable. I fail to understand as to why this matter has not been taken up seriously after they were informed of even deaths in such cases. Today ear ning<sup>3</sup> and other ornaments are being removed from the foreheads of our women. They are physically assaulted. Tomorrow, these hoodlums or hooligans shall be able to cut the hair of our women. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government of India through our Embassy has gone into the various causes as to why these, hoodlums or hooligans have indulged in such barbarous and cruel attacks so that the trouble may be nipped in the bud.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Well, Sir, I have read out in some detail the action that we have taken. Now he says that these hoodlums and hooligans have been indulging in these reprehensible acts. Now, the very words "hoodlums and hooligans put them outside the pale of any norms of decency. They are ostracised by society. Action has been taken against them. With regard to the reasons, the reasons are that the Indian community in the United States is doing rather well in various areas of community life whether it is in science, technology, medicine, law, architecture or engineering. This has created some socio-economic problems in certain areas in the United States and has resulted in

these what I may call, isolated incidents. It is not of epidemic proportion for us to take an alarmistic view but as and when these incidents occur, we take up the matter with the Government of United States promptly.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Sir, I have seen some American papers and the reports so that the attacks are racial and particularly our people have been chased, beaten up, their houses have been burnt and almost all these things done and they remind us of the Skinheads of U.K. Anyway, I would like to know what efforts have been made to curb these crimes; how many people have been arrested? The complaint of the local people is that the local police has not taken adequate action. What protection has been given to our people and whether any efforts have been made to find to lasting solution of the problem, so that this does not spread to other towns of the U.S. The basic problem is, our people are doing better there and they are jealous of that. Boys of 14 to 18 years want job opportunities, and all that. There should be a lasting solution for the problem.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: In the answer I gave I have spelt out the actions that we have taken. Yes, these incidents do have racial overtones. That is very unfortunate in deed and other minority groups have also suffered at the hands of these misguided elements of the American youth. What I want to emphasise is that these remain isolated incidents. They are not widespread throughout the United States. So far reports have come in only from the State of New Jersey. Now, why our people are singled out? As I said earlier, there are socio-economic reasons. The pressure is being felt because our people, our students, are doing extremely well in schools and topping the list. This has engineered and triggered the incidents. This has happened in the United States from time to time with people coming

from Latin American, from other parts of Asia and from Africa. What we are anxious to see is that these incidents do not spread, do not recur. They are a part of American life which is somewhat given to violence. This kind of unacceptable conduct is unbecoming. While I fully share the hon. Member's concern, I want to assure him and the House that we keep very close watch of what is happening to people of Indian origin even when they are not Indian passport-holders and it is the responsibility of the United States authorities because they have taken American citizenship. But, nevertheless, if any incident arouses racial passions, we would like to lower the temperature and calm down the passions feelings.

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** The people who have been attacked in the State of New Jersey of the United States of America are mostly Gujaratis and this has been going on for the last two years. Sir, the police did not take action on the plea that they were all juvenile criminals and there was no federal law so that they could be prosecuted. But, ultimately, under public pressure today, about a week back, the members of this gang have been arraigned and have been prosecuted by the Jersey City Court. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal from the Indian community that legal assistance should be provided by our Embassy in the United States.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:** No, Sir. It is not for the Indian Embassy to provide legal assistance. Legal assistance is available.

**SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:** They have demanded. *(Interruptions)*

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** It should be taken up at diplomatic level.

**SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:** What I am trying to say is that the cases that you have mentioned are already being dealt with by the authorities.

Now, these four young boys, juvenile delinquents, were released on bail. They were arrested and treated as adults. So, necessary action, in each and every case, has been taken. If a situation arises where it becomes necessary for the Indian Embassy to provide legal aid, we will examine it most sympathetically.

**श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा:** क्या माननीय मंत्री जी जानते हैं कि गत दो वर्षों से इस प्रकार की घटनाएँ और दुर्घटनाएँ भारतीय महिलाओं के साथ की जा रही हैं? अब से चार माह पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री जी को और विदेश राज्य मंत्री जी को इस संबंध में मैंने पत्र लिखा था और जो उत्तर उन्होंने आज दिया है वही उत्तर मेरे उस पत्र का भी उन्होंने दिया था, माननीय मंत्री जी यह स्वीकार करते हैं कि कई मृत्युएँ हो चुकी हैं, कई आदमी बुरी तरह जखमी भी हुए हैं, घरों में भी आग लगायी गयी है, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितनी रिपोर्ट्स इस बीच में आई हैं, उनमें से किसी के ऊपर वहाँ की पुलिस ने कोई स्पेसिफिक कार्यवाही की है और दोषियों को दंडित किया गया है? यदि नहीं, तो भारत सरकार उस दृष्टि से क्या कर रही है?

**श्री के० नटवर सिंह:** सभापति जी, मैंने अपने बयान में पहले बताया कि जो केसेज हुए हैं, वे पुलिस के सामने हैं।

**श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा:** वहाँ तो सबकी जमानत हो गई है... *(व्यवधान)*

**श्री के० नटवर सिंह:** जमानत हो गई थी, फिर उनको गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है; जब उनको बताया गया कि यह बहुत खराब रवैया है, कानून के खिलाफ है, शराफत के खिलाफ है, तो उन चारों लड़कों को, जिनको बेल पर छोड़ा गया था, फिर गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है। अभी मैंने आपसे निवेदन किया कि हमारे वहाँ पर काउंसिलेट जनरल हैं, वह न्यू जर्सी से दूर नहीं हैं, जो खबरें अखबारों

को मिलती है, वे हमें भी मिलती है, वहाँ जो कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए थी वह शुरू की गई है वहाँ की पुलिस के साथ, डिपार्टमेंट आफ जस्टिस के साथ इसलिए यह कहना कि सरकार ने कुछ नहीं किया है समझता हूँ कि भा-मुनाभिब है।

SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Mr. Chairman, my own daughter lives in New Jersey. She was here in India recently and she has gone back just this month. She said some similar incidents have been reported from outside New Jersey. So I would like to know from the honourable Minister if our Government has information that these activities are confined only to New Jersey Or such incidents from outside New Jersey have also been reported.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: These have been reported from a town in the State of New Jersey. We have not had any reports of similar nature from other parts of the United States, as far as I am aware, and we sincerely hope that these incidents will not recur. The report so far is confined to New Jersey City and the neighbourhood of New York.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are conscious of the neighbourhood.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : सभापति जी, मैं समझता हूँ कि सिर्फ न्यू जर्सी का ही सवाल नहीं है, कुछ वर्षों से भारत वंशियों के साथ कुछ आक्रमण हो रहे हैं और आक्रमण की घटनाएँ इस प्रकार की हैं कि उनको वहाँ से भगाया जाए। यह पड़यंत्र निश्चितपूर्वक योजनाबद्ध तरीके से किया जा रहा है। अगर ऐसा नहीं होता तो दर्जनों घटनाओं का उल्लेख नहीं किया जाता। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ के भारतीय अपनी रक्षा कर सकते हैं, लड़ सकते हैं अगर भारत सरकार का स्ट्रॉंग समर्थन उनको प्राप्त हो। इसीलिए मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री जी जब तक यह इंडिकेशन नहीं देते हैं कि

भारत वंशियों की रक्षा के लिए हम हमेशा तत्पर रहेंगे, और जो विधिवत उनको सहायता चाहिए वह उनको मिलेगी, जब तक भारतवर्ष के प्रधान मंत्री स्वयं सदन में इस बात का उल्लेख नहीं करते, तब तक मैं समझता हूँ कि उनकी पूरी तरह रक्षा नहीं हो सकेगी।

श्री सभापति : डिप्लोमैटिक चैनल से जितना भी होना है, वह भारत सरकार कर रही है... (व्यवधान)

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : भारत वंशियों के बारे में मैंने पूछा है... (व्यवधान)

श्री सभापति : वह वाजपेयी जी से आप समझ लीजिए सब। प्रश्न संख्या 324।

#### Defence Contracts with M/s. Marconi Group

324. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHA-JAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Marconi Group have been charged with some fraudulent deals in Britain while in India it has been given several defence contracts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Marconi Group are avoiding field trials of their equipment in India; and

(c) the names and addresses of M/s. Marconi Group's agents/representatives in India involved in the above mentioned deals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The Ministry of Defence, UK,

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Pra-mod Mahajan.