

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA (Bihar): I would request you to direct the Home Minister to make a statement in the House.

**REFERENCE TO THE APPREHENSION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN HONG KONG ABOUT THEIR FUTURE**

SHRI KAPIL VERMA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I rise to mention a matter of great public importance. There is a great apprehension and concern among over six thousand people of Indian origin living in Hong Kong who face the prospects of becoming stateless after the colony reverts to China on July 1, 1997. There is an equal number of Indian Passport holders who are also apprehensive about their future when the Chinese take over.

Leaders of the Indian community who went to London recently to canvass for British citizenship have returned deeply disappointed to Hongkong without any encouraging assurance though majority of British M.Ps, supported their demand. All that they will have is the status of British Overseas citizens after 1997 which really means only the facility of travel documents. They will have the normal right to British consulate protection.

Ethnic Chinese who constitute 98 per cent of colony's six million population are entitled to become Chinese citizens

in 1997. But the non-Chinese minority cannot become citizens for at least three generations. It is clear Beijing is not going to give them citizenship. They will be citizens of no country—neither of China nor of Britain. The ethnic Indians' representation to the visiting Beijing delegation has drawn a blank.

Sir, it is the moral responsibility of Britain to protect the interest of its passport holders. The Bishop of Birmingham has demanded in the House of Lords full rights of British citizenship for those ethnic Indians and has accused the conservative Government of racial prejudice in not granting citizenship. Sir, in my opinion, the responsibility devolves on the British Government of averting the kind

of problem that arose when Idi Amin came into power in Uganda in 1972 and expelled British subjects of Indian origin. This must not be allowed to happen again and it is the duty of our Government to intervene and bring pressure on the British Government to give full protection to its old subjects. It must be remembered that the Indian business community has contributed enormously to Hong Kong's prosperity, contributing 10 to 12 per cent of its economy, the export-import trade alone being 60 billion dollars. And because of their enormous wealth and financial expertise, several countries are trying to entice these ethnic Indians to their respective countries Canada, Australia and some Central American countries are in the forefront. Sydney city is stated to have promised them even a complete new Hong Kong and remove its racial immigration policy to help them come.

Sir, today we are facing a resources crunch while people who emotionally and otherwise belong to us but are in foreign countries are in a position to bring in a tremendous amount of risk capital plus financial expertise of a rare kind. The question, therefore, for the Government to consider is why they should not be brought back to our country to re-establish a Hong Kong here. The Government should hold talks with Hong Kong Indians in this matter and see what can be done to help them, But an important pre-condition should be that these ethnic Indians must conform to the rules and regulations laid down by our Government in accordance with our Constitution. I hope, this matter will give the urgent attention of the Government.

**REFERENCE TO THE DEMAND FOR REINTRODUCTION OF DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS**

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it will really be a pitiable sense that if anybody goes to the Madras airport or the Delhi airport exactly at 5 o'clock there will be

[Shri R. Mohanarangam]

more than 200 passengers standing in the queue daily

whose names are in the waiting list. It is because of the cancellation of the direct flight from Madras to Delhi and Delhi to Madras. I do not know what happens to the Secretaries of the Civil Aviation Department. Whenever a new Secretary comes, he at once cancels the direct flight from Delhi to Madras and Madras to Delhi. Two or three years back, when the same thing happened, almost all the Members belonging not only to Tamil Nadu but also to Kerala and other States, raised their voice that the direct flight should not be cancelled. Sir, due to the cancellation of the direct flight, not only the Members of Parliament but also VIPs who are expected to visit Delhi once in two days or twice in a week and whose names are in the waiting list are standing in the queue. And they go to the Duty Officer and also the officers concerned and beg them. We have to avoid such scenes. Even yesterday, when I came to the Madras airport, even though my ticket was confirmed, I was not in a position to get my ticket because they have issued 20 tickets more than the capacity. That being so, I do not know where exactly the matter stands at present. When the same question was raised some time back, our Transport Minister has also assured that everything will be solved by the first week of February and that a new flight will be introduced from Madras to Delhi and Delhi to Madras. Sir, whenever I raise this issue, the Transport Minister is not here and he does not know what we are going to speak here. Sir, you kindly instruct our Transport Minister or the Minister who is responsible for the Civil Aviation Department to introduce a direct flight from Madras to Delhi and from Delhi to Madras and avoid the utter disappointment and also the ugly scenes prevailing in the airports of Madras and Delhi.

SHRI THANGABAALU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I fully endorse what Mr. Mohanarangam has said.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu). I support his demand.

### REFERENCE TO THE ACUTE SHORTAGE OF COOKING GAS IN WESTERN UTTAR PRADESH

श्री घनश्याम सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, आपने मुझे उत्तर प्रदेश के पश्चिमी इलाके की उस समस्या की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित कराने के लिये जो समय दिया है उसके लिये मैं आभारी हूँ। पिछले तीन-चार माह से पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में कुकिंग गैस की कमी के समाचार अखबारों में प्रकाशित हो रहे हैं। इसके सिलसिले में बहुत सी बात माननीय मन्त्री जी के नोटिस में लाई गई हैं और स्थिति यहाँ तक भयानक हो गई है कि आई० ओ०सी० उपभोक्ताओं को एक महीने के बाद गैस दे पाता है, भारत पेट्रोलियम कारपोरेशन 2-3 माह के बाद गैस दे पाता है और यही हाल हिन्दुस्तान पेट्रोलियम का है, जिसके कारण प्रत्येक घर में, जिसके यहाँ पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में गैस की सप्लाई होती है त्राहि त्राहि हो रही है। अक्टूबर मास में भारतीय तेल निगम के अध्यक्ष श्री तोरी ने कहा था कि रसोई गैस के नौ लाख कनेक्शन दिये जायेंगे। जनवरी में मन्त्रालय के प्रवक्ता ने कहा था कि इस वर्ष 16 लाख कनेक्शन नये दिये जायेंगे। परन्तु सम्भवतः गैस नहीं दिया जा रहा है। श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा जी, तत्कालीन पेट्रोलियम मन्त्री जी ने कहा था कि उत्तर भारत में गैस सप्लाई में कठिनाइयाँ हुई हैं। उन्होंने यह भी कहा था कि इसी वर्ष खाना पकाने की गैस की कठिनाइयाँ समाप्त हो जायेंगी। लेकिन समाप्त होने के बजाय देखने में बढ़ी हुई आ रही हैं दिल्ली में रहने वाले इस बात को महसूस नहीं कर सकते हैं क्योंकि इंडियन ग्रायल कारपोरेशन दिल्ली में गैस सप्लाई को प्रायः रीटि दे रही है, इसलिये वहाँ के लोगों को कष्ट कम है लेकिन अगर आप दिल्ली से हटकर थोड़ा बाहर जायें, आप किसी भी प्रदेश में चले जायें तो फिर पता पड़ता है कि गैस की कितनी कमी है। मान्यवर, आप स्वयं जानते हैं कि जिन घरों में कुकिंग गैस से खाना पकाया जाता है उनमें यदि एक समय का खाना बनाने के लिये गैस न रहे तो क्या दशा होती है। इसी कमी के समय गैस के मूल्य में बढ़ोतरी को उपभोक्ताओं ने गम्भीरता से लिया है। यदि गैस की सप्लाई नियमित नहीं की जाती तो उपभोक्ताओं