

20. Both sides welcomed plans by the concerned Indian agencies for the manifestation of the year long celebration in the UK of Rabindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary, commencing in May, 2011.

**New Delhi**

**July 29, 2010**

**Recommendations of National Commission of  
Economically Backward Classes**

\*436. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether National Commission of Economically Backward Classes has submitted its report to Government recently;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations of the Commission;
- (c) whether the Commission has recommended for special treatment and reservation benefits for the poor among socially upper castes and has equated them with OBCs;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government would amend the Constitution to provide reservation to socially upper castes poor in Government jobs, education, housing, health and social sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) The Commission for Economically Backward Classes has submitted its report on 22.7.2010.

- (b) to (g) The Report is under consideration of the Government.

**Attack on fishermen from Tamil Nadu**

\*437. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the attack on fishermen from Tamil Nadu by the Sri Lankan Navy;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported during the last one year;
- (c) whether Government has taken up the matter with the Sri Lankan Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by authorities concerned?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) There have been incidents of apprehension and firing upon Indian fishermen allegedly by the Sri Lankan

Navy. However, the Sri Lankan Navy has denied responsibility in such incidents of firing on Indian fishermen. Since 2009, there have been 6 incidents of attack on Indian fishermen. In 2009, there were no fishermen killed or missing. Recently in July, 2010 we have had an incident in which one fisherman was reportedly killed and three injured.

We are constantly in touch with Government of Sri Lanka on the issue of safety and security of our fishermen. Further, as soon as such incidents are brought to our notice, the matter is taken up immediately with Government of Sri Lanka on a priority basis. Keeping in mind the humanitarian and livelihood dimensions of the issue, on 26th October, 2008, both sides agreed to put in place an understanding on practical arrangements to deal with bonafide Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). As part of these practical arrangements, it was decided that there will be no firing on Indian fishermen and vessels and Indian fishing vessels will not tread into sensitive areas designated by GoSL along its coastline. We have impressed on the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that the Sri Lankan Navy to act with restraint, not fire on our fishermen and treat our fishermen in a humane manner.

#### **Import of unbranded Chinese phones**

\*438. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of rise in the import of unbranded Chinese mobile phones, which are posing a security threat, Government proposes to survey grey market deals and impose restrictions on the import of devices without proper International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated a renewed strategy to ban the use of these counterfeit Chinese phones in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government has already banned import of mobile handsets (GSM) without IMEI number or with all zeros IMEI, and CDMA mobile phones without Electronic Serial Number (ESN)/Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) or with all zeros as ESN/MEID.

(c) and (d) Department of Telecommunications has directed all the Access Service Providers to make Equipment Identity Register (EIR) compliant equipment operational and calls, from mobile handsets with IMEI numbers which are not available in the latest updated IMEI database of GSM alongwith without IMEI or all zeroes IMEI, are not processed and rejected with effect from 24 hrs. of 30th November, 2009.