

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

recently elections have taken place in Zimbabwe and a so-called black government—that is what they call it—has been formed by Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa. Those elections have been denounced even by the United Nations Security Council and all the rest of the world as an elaborate fraud, a grand fraud. But Mrs. Thatcher has not said anything; on the contrary, she has expressed sympathy. We read in the newspapers that under Ian Smith who is ruling under the cover of the so-called elections, the racist regime is continuing and they are meeting Mrs. Thatcher. Now in such a situation, we take it that the racist persecution will continue. This is against our policy, against the basic, important aspects of our policy against racism.

Finally, Sir, she is a hawk—a war hawk. She wants arms drive. She is a die-hard imperialist and she has announced it. Therefore, in all these respects, we need to be alerted, need to be forewarned. That is why I say that Mrs. Gandhi should not have congratulated her. It is not a question of man or woman. It was the most unfortunate action she did. Surely a person calling herself or himself progressive should not congratulate such a blatant, racist reactionary in England when on her election, the Indian residents are protesting and expressing their apprehension. But I am not concerned with Mrs. Gandhi. I only wanted to point out that she happens to be an opposition leader now at the national level.

SHRI PILOO MODY: At last she has become a leader.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am more concerned with the Government—as to what is their policy. They will be meeting in Lusaka or somewhere for the Commonwealth Conference, I am told. Well, I do not know, now Mr. Morarji Desai has sent a message, “Oh, everything will be good, friendship will be strengthened,” etc.—all kinds of rosy things he has said. He

should know very well the Government should know very well that this Tory die-hard imperialist leader represents the racist forces and her coming to power would create problems not only for the Asians in the United Kingdom but also for the people who are fighting in Southern Africa against racist discrimination, apart from stepping up war preparations and arms race. So it is a matter of concern for us.

REFERENCE TO THE STEPPING UP OF THE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIANS, PARTICULARLY INDIANS IN U.K. SOON AFTER MRS. THATCHER'S COMING TO POWER

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention to a matter of great importance namely, the policy of discrimination that is being started in England recently after the election of Mrs. Thatcher. You remember, Sir, that some days ago it was I who had pointed out to the Foreign Minister that India should be on her guard since Mrs. Thatcher was coming to power because she has already said that the policy of discrimination would be speeded up and all the immigrants living in England would be ousted. To that Mr. Vajpayee had answered that when one is on the Opposition side one says something different but while on the Treasury Benches one becomes different. Sir, the matter is not different. She has come to power and just on the morrow of her victory she has started this policy of discrimination against the Asians in general and Indians in particular. Since Mrs. Thatcher has been called by the Queen and has formed the Government and since she is known for trampling upon the fundamental rights and human rights of Indian citizens in England, it is a matter of great importance that the Government of India should take up the matter seriously. When the next Commonwealth Conference is held the

matter should be raised there. The Government of India should formulate her policy and come out of the Commonwealth.

Now, let us know the incident which took place. I just said that the discrimination policy is being pursued or rather is being accelerated by the Tory Government. The Commonwealth, with their linkage throughout the world, have their Empire throughout the world. Recently there was an incident. If you go to England now you will not be allowed to have your cap on your head. You will not be allowed to have your Sherwani on your body. If you walk in the streets of England you will be told to go naked, rather you will be rid of your *dhoti* also. Recently, there a boy was told not to wear his head dress. You know, Sir, in India many people not only Sikhs, use turbans. Even Gujaratis wear turbans there. You remember the photograph of Mahatma Gandhi with a turban on his head. So that boy has been told not to wear his turban. This is glaringly a discriminatory law by the England Government led by the newly-elected Tory Prime Minister, Mrs. Thatcher. Her basic aim is to have a policy of discrimination against the Asians in general and Indians in particular. Why I am saying all this is that this matter should be noted seriously and our Government should reappraise their policy *vis-a-vis* the policy of discrimination pursued by England. I would, therefore, say that they should come out of the Commonwealth.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): Sir, there must be some rules governing Special Mention. Sir, I request that what Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and Mr. Jha said must be expunged.

REFERENCE TO THE ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMEND- MENT) BILL, 1978

SHRI G. C. BHATTACHARYA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, on the 3rd of May the Lok Sabha passed the Aligarh Muslim

University (Amendment) Bill denying minority character to the University. Now, Sir, because of that a serious situation has arisen. There was a strike in the Aligarh University. They have decided to stage a demonstration before the Parliament House. They have also decided and planned nationwide rallies, demonstrations, *dharnas* and hunger strikes to press the demand for restoring minority character to the Aligarh Muslim University. What is happening? This denial of the minority character to the Aligarh Muslim University is a very serious matter, particularly in the context of many other developments leading to this revivalism. I should say the Hindu revivalism. There are apprehensions in the minds of the minorities, whether they are Christians or Muslims and there are good reasons for that. There were communal holocaust in Aligarh and also in Jamshedpur. There is again an attempt to amend the Constitution to empower the Centre to protect the cow. Not only that, there is the so-called "Freedom of Religion Bill". The history text-books are sought to be written in a way to give a communal character and to do away with the secular character. There is a concerted effort in the media the AIR and the TV, to give impetus to the religious part of the entire society so that an apprehension is created in the minds of the minorities that they have no place in the country. Such a serious situation has arisen.

So far as the minority character of the Aligarh Muslim University is concerned, you know that the minority character was inherent there because after the mutiny the Muslims boycotted the English education and the British empire. What happened? Certain Muslim leaders decided that it was not correct and that they should not remain outside the main stream. Therefore, to give them higher education and the English education, they established this Muslim University. We have no right and nobody has any right to deprive that original character of the University. It is being done