

(b) and (c) According to the information received from the British Government, though 'Kara' has not been declared as such as offensive weapon but in a recent case, a Sikh youth living in Britain was charged under the British Law with the using of a metal bangle of 'kara' as an offensive weapon in a public place. The High Commission of India, London and the Ministry of External Affairs have pointed out to the British authorities in London and in New Delhi respectively that 'kara' is a religious symbol for Sikhs and cannot be described as an offensive weapon. The case is pending trial. The person is at present on bail pending jury trial before a Crown Court.

Requirement of visa to citizens of Commonwealth Countries

1669. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that citizens of Commonwealth countries do not require visa for entry into Commonwealth countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the British Government has been harassing the Indian citizens at the immigration office in London;

(c) if so, what remedial measures have been taken by Government in the matter; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce similar measures for the citizens of U.K.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU):

(a) Regulations about entry of foreigners including citizens of Commonwealth countries vary from country to country.

(b) to (d) Some cases have come to notice in which Indian citizens have complained of harassment by the British immigration authorities at the time of their entry into the U.K. Gov-

ernment is alive to the problems of Indian visitors to the U.K. and have been taking up the matter with the British Government from time to time including specific complaints where details are furnished.

Government have no proposal to introduce visa requirements for U.K. Citizens coming to India.

Lethium machine lying idle in the A.I.I.M.S., Delhi

1670. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Lethium machine for psycho-treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Cartarisation machine in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are out of order for a long time; and

(b) if so, what is the amount involved in the equipment lying idle/out of order and the steps taken to make full use of this equipment?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RABI RAY): (a) and (b) There is no Lethium machine for psycho-treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. As regards the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, there are four cautery machines in the operation theatre, and all are in working order. There is yet another in the Gynee Department which is also in working order. Two machines of the Dermatology Department are obsolete. These cost Rs. 8000 each. M/s. Philips India Ltd., and Imperial Surgical Co., were contracted to undertake their repairs but due to the non-availability of spares, the defects could not be rectified.

Strifles/lockouts in industries

1671. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND

LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 168 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1979 and state:

(a) what is the number of strikes and lockouts in different industrial undertakings during 1976 and 1977;

(b) the number of mandays lost in those strikes and lockouts; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to promote industrial harmony during that period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR

(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA: (a) and (b) A statement showing the number of strikes and lockouts and the number of mandays lost therein during the years 1976 and 1977 is attached.

(c) The situation was under constant watch of the Government. The Industrial Relations Machinery both at the Centre and in the States continued to make efforts to minimise work stoppages through informal mediation, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements.

Statement

Number of strikes and lockouts and number of mandays lost therein during 1976 and 1977.

Year	Number of Strikes	Number of lockouts	Manday lost (in million) due to	
			Strike	Lockouts
1976	1241	218	2.80	9.95
1977 (P)	2,691	426	13.41	11.91

(P) Provisional and based on the returns/ information received in the Labour Bureau till 2-11-1978.

Services under 'Essential Category'

1672. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review their policy with regard to the services falling under the 'essential category';

(b) whether Government have taken any decision in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (c) There is no central law, at present, on essential services. However, the Industrial Relations Bill, 1978 introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 30, 1978 classifies 12 industries as "essential services". It is

intended that the Joint Committee of the two houses of Parliament, when appointed, may consider this as well as other provisions of the Bill.

Regional collective security

1673. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Asian countries have proposed a system of regional collective security;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries which have proposed such a system; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA
KUNDU): (a) to (c) In response to a request by the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the India