

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 3rd March, 1978 the 12th
Phalguna, 1899 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Statement on immigration by Opposition Leaders in U.K.

♦241. SHRI JAGJIT SINGH AN AND:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the propaganda of the National Front in the United Kingdom and recent pronouncement of certain Opposition Leaders of that country regarding the immigration policy of the United Kingdom Government have caused grave concern to the Indian immigrants about their future stay in that country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian immigrants in the United Kingdom have been urging upon the Government of India to grant them dual citizenship as has been done by the Pakistan Government in respect of their nationals settled in that country; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the Government of India's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The British Government maintain that there is adequate legislation in the U.K. to deal with racial discrimination against Asian communities, and legislation governing the entry and stay of immigrants and their dependents. Both in the Parliament and outside, the British Prime Minister and the Home Secretary have recently reaffirmed the U.K. Govern-

J971 RS—1.

ment's commitment to a multiracial^ society and to protecting the rights of immigrants. This has helped to some*, extent in allaying the apprehension* of the immigrants.

The question of dual citizenship has been raised by individuals and associations from time to time. Government of India's consistent stand has been that dual citizenship cannot be considered for those Indians who voluntarily acquire foreign nationality as this not permissible under the . Indian laws.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH AN AND: Sir, first of all, you should realise the seriousness of the situation. Mr. Enoch Powell started the National Front movement in 1967 and the movement is to keep Britain white by throwing out all coloured immigrants, and the slogan is that the . 15 lakhs of unemployed whites are unemployed because of the presence of the coloured people there. The situation has become so dangerous that there have been riots beginning from June, 1976 onwards. Mr. Gurdip Singh Chaghar was murdered in Southall. This National Front held a demonstration in Manchester and a rally in Birmingham last month, and to control the Birmingham rally, one hundred thousand pounds were spent on police bandobast. Even then five hundred thousand pounds of property was lost in the riots. The National Front wants to come to Southall for a rally, which, everybody knows, has the highest concentration of Indian population. They have declared that they will come. In Hunsloe in London, a few days ago, a Sikh boy of about 10 was attacked and his *pugree* was removed and burnt and there is great anger. So far as the declarations of Mr. Callaghan and the Home Secretary, Mr. Marlene Rees; are concerned—referred to by the ho» Minister of External Affairs—I would like to say that Mr. Marlene Rees himself has gone on record as saying that Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, leader of the Tory Party who is likely to be

the next Prime Minister, according to her, has identified herself with Mr. Powell's National Front to gain tactical advantage for Conservative votes. In view of this very much increasing danger that is there and in view of the fact that Indians in Britain have always stood with us in the 1965 and 1971 wars—I was there in 1967—their situation should be seriously considered. I am also very happy that the foreign exchange position is easy, and it is mainly because of the large remittances from Indians abroad among whom the UK Indians are a large chunk. In view of all these, will the hon. Minister of External Affairs give serious consideration to the demand of the Indians there for dual citizenship? Sir, we know what happened to the Indians in Burma, in Kenya and in Uganda; they were thrown out. The Indians in Britain want dual citizenship because their future is dark. This stand of the External Affairs Minister now is the same which the Government of India has been taking since 1947. With the changed situation and with dark clouds looming large, I would request the Government to reconsider their demands and accede to it, when Pakistan has already done so.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, many things are being said by certain leaders in the United Kingdom with a view to influencing the voters in the forthcoming elections. There is a party which is carrying on open propaganda in favour of racialism. But there is an equally strong—rather stronger—public opinion which is pleading the cause of racial harmony. The stand of the British Government is quite clear. So far as the question of giving dual citizenship is concerned, it has been considered and we came to the conclusion that the problem will not be solved. But if my hon. friend insists, then Government will consider the question again.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: I am very thankful for the last part of the reply. Mr. hon. friend, the

Minister of External Affairs has visited that country. I have also gone there a number of times. We have seen the cultural moorings of the Indians there. They have made sarees so popular that even the British women are taking to it. So far as 'saag' is concerned, Himachal Pradesh exports 'saag' worth Rs. 1 lakh every year. So far as Indian drama is concerned they flock to it, whenever any such team visits that country. Mr. Ajit Roy, their leader and President, the strongest man among Indians in Britain, said that a new fear was haunting them which never haunted them before. Therefore, because of this, may I request the External Affairs Minister to kindly give more serious consideration to this and concede their demand?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, I have before me part of a statement made by the British Prime Minister on 31st January, 1978, and I would like to quote that statement:

"All parties have pledged themselves to admit UK passport holders to this country. All parties have agreed that the wives and children of those who live here should be admitted to this country. Mr. White Lewis, speaking for the Conservative Party, last October has put it well when he said that it would be inhuman to keep the husband and wife and children apart, one in one country and others in another."

So, there is broad agreement between two major political parties. Let us hope that these parties will be able to contain this vicious propaganda which is being carried on by the so-called National Front.

SHRI J AG JIT SINGH ANAND: Sir, Mrs. Thatcher who is the leader, and not the gentleman just mentioned, talked in October and said clearly that no more coloured people should not be allowed in Britain.

SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: Sir, the question of Indian immigrants and

their difficulties has been before the Indian Government since long. And I think the Government is taking all the care and giving it sympathetic consideration. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when the question of dual citizenship was discussed with the UK Government, what was the reaction of that Government. I would also like to know the number of Indian immigrants living in UK.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, this question has not been formally discussed with the Government of UK, because before discussing the question with them we have to make up our own mind. So far the Government have not decided this way or that way. I do not have the exact figures of Indian immigrants.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: The hon. Minister has just now mentioned about the Conservative Party and it is using racial issue in so far as the elections in Britain are concerned. It is not merely the Conservative party, political party, but two Judges have also gone on record and have called the Asians and others as "niggers and coons". When the Judges are also going to that extent, the matter should be taken more seriously by the Government. May I request the hon. Minister to see that something is done with regard to this issue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already stated that he was considering it. He also said that he would take it more seriously. What else can he say? That is all.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, there is the Conservative Party which is the main Opposition party and there are conservative elements. Let not the two be mixed up.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: My question was about the observations made by Judges. Have these two Judges gone on record as calling the Asians as "niggers and coons." Is it a fact or not?

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: It is a fact.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: We have seen some of the portions of the judgements delivered by the two judges. But we have also seen editorial comments criticising those judgements.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Apart from what the hon'ble Minister has said—that he has read some of the statements of the politicians of that country—I would like to know whether any report about these matters has been received from our own High Commission. I would also like to know, apart from the immigrants, what difficulties are being faced by the students in that country, also for the same reason, and whether these matters have been brought to the notice of the hon'ble Minister and whether he has taken any action, through our High Commission, about the students.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, we are receiving periodical reports from our High Commission in London. Recently, our High Commissioner had talked with some of the prominent Members of Parliament in the United Kingdom. The talks were quite satisfactory. The students are there. They have gone there for higher studies and some times they do experience difficulties.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Not some times, but regularly.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: In that case, they should not go to the United Kingdom. . . (Interruptions) . . . No, I do not accept that.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: How can you say that?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am sorry, I do not agree with you.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Then you call back all the immigrants also.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Who am I to call anybody back?

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Because they are facing difficulties.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: They are not.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: That is what you say.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: If they are staying in spite of these difficulties... (Interruptions) . May I complete? Obviously, the situation...

श्री सीताराम केसरी : मेरा वाईट आफ़
ऑर्डर है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No point of order during Question Hour.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : सभापति जी

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't take down.

श्री सीताराम केसरी :

.... (Continued speaking)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The situation is difficult, but the situation is not so bad as it is being made out. The British Government is taking every step to maintain racial harmony. But the students have gone of their own accord... (Interruptions). May I complete? How can I go on like this? I am in possession of the floor. I am prepared to sit down.

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: You first cool down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you will have to cool down—not the Minister alone. Yes, put your supplementary.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Fanatics are everywhere in every country. Powell movement is a fanatic movement, confined to only a few Conservatives and die-hards.

SHRI J AG JIT SINGH ANAND: No, there are four hundred.. (Interruptions) .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why should you discuss it across the table?

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: That is a different matter. We are concerned with public opinion. The British Government have made its position clear. As the Minister has pointed out, let us not have dual citizenship because dual citizenship for a person means he is neither here nor there. Those who have migrated, let them...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your supplementary?

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: I would request the Government—I would urge upon the Government—not to think of this dual citizenship not only for Indians in the United Kingdom but for all Indians living abroad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a suggestion for acceptance.

SHRI L. R. NAIK: I have lived in England for over a decade from 1959 to 1970. I had the occasion to watch the development of racism in that country very intimately. All that I can say is that at the beginning, racism was not very rampant. But by the time I left England in 1970, I could see that it was extremely rampant and the Indians were in serious trouble. Even now my son is living there and he writes to me....

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the supplementary?

SHRI L. R. NAIK: What I want to say is

SHRI J AG JIT SINGH ANAND: It is very relevant, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Every thing is relevant, but during Questioning. You cannot make speeches.

SHRI L. R. NAIK: I am coming to that. What I want to ask the hon.*

ble Minister is this. Has he studied this problem from the point of view of the Indians in this sense that it is the labour class in England which is up against the foreigners and not the people who belong to the higher strata of society? So an effective remedy should be found out and I think it is dual citizenship alone that can help these Indians to live safely in that country. Will the hon'ble Minister now give a reply to me whether what I have asked for is reasonable or not?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, the hon'ble Member has suggested that I should study the situation afresh and I promise to do so.

SHRI ABU ABRAHAM: The hon'ble Minister has mentioned that there is propaganda by the National Front against the Indian immigrants. Would the Minister inform the House what steps are being taken by our High Commission to counter this propaganda? Is the Minister satisfied with the work that is done in this regard by our High Commission staff, whether they are keeping close touch with our immigrants? My impression is that they are not sufficiently in touch with our immigrants? and their problems there. The immigrants are regarded as a nuisance. I do not think there is enough touch with them or with the main political parties.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The situation has changed. The new High Commissioner is in touch with the main political parties as well as Indians residing there. In fact, the complaint is that he is more in touch with the Indians than with the Government leaders in the United Kingdom. But even that complaint is not justified...

SHRI ABU ABRAHAM: The system has to be changed _____

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him complete. He has a right to reply.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: There is always room for improve-

ment. If any concrete suggestions are made they will certainly be accepted.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : सभापति जी, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि सभी दलों के लोगों का एक मत है कि इमिग्रेशन की सक्ति का प्रश्न इंग्लैण्ड में बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। आप तो इतिहास के मर्मज्ञ हैं, विद्वान हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि श्वेत जातियों के अन्दर रंग भेद की भावना कोई नहीं है और खासकर इंग्लैण्ड में यह भावना प्रबल रूप में है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस चीज को रोकने के लिए क्या आप टिट फार टैट की नीति अपनायेंगे और यह निर्णय करेंगे कि उनके जो लोग यहां पर आते हैं उन पर भी इस प्रकार का प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाय ताकि इंग्लैण्ड की सरकार पर इस बारे में कोई दबाव पड़ सके? यह स्पष्ट बात है कि श्वेत लोगों में रंग भेद की भावना बहुत अधिक होती है और वे इस भावना से ओतप्रोत होते हैं, लेकिन वे दावा करते हैं कि वे संसार की सभी जातियों में से हैं। अमेरिका के अन्दर भी नीग्रो लोगों के साथ रंग भेद की नीति अपनाई जाती है। आप जानते हैं कि 40 प्रतिशत इमिग्रेंट्स इंग्लैण्ड में जन्मे हुए हैं, लेकिन फिर भी 2 लाख 86 हजार दूसरे देशों में बसते हैं। 1 लाख 73 हजार उनके देश में जन्मे होने के बावजूद 40 प्रतिशत लोग हिन्दुस्तान में आते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पृष्ठभूमि में क्या आप कोई ऐसा तरीका अपनाइएगा जिससे यह चीज इंग्लैण्ड के अन्दर न होने पाये?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति जी, यह कहना ठीक नहीं होगा कि सभी गोरों में रंगभेद की भावना होती है।

श्री सीताराम केसरी : मैंने यह नहीं कहा है कि सभी गोरों में रंगभेद की भावना होती है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can he reply if you go on interrupting at every sentence?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अच्छे और बुरे लोग सभी जगह हैं। हम बुरे लोगों की संख्या घटाना चाहते हैं और जो रंग सामंजस्य में विश्वास करते हैं उनको प्रोत्साहन देना चाहते हैं। लेकिन अगर जैसे को तैसा की भाषा केसरी जी बोलेंगे और 11 महीने में उन्होंने यह भाषा सीख ली है . . .

श्री सीताराम केसरी : जो आपने सीख ली है, वही मैं सीख रहा हूँ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : सभापति महोदय, मुझे सीखने में 20 साल लगे।

श्रीमन्, यह मामला जैसे को तैसा की नीति से हल नहीं होगा। इसे एक अलग घरातल पर सोचने और हल करने की आवश्यकता है।

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE: To bring in racialism in this matter would be provoking the situation. We must not do that. That is number one. Number two is, the problem has arisen due to cheap labour that goes from Pakistan and India as against the very dear labour or very expensive labour that the British citizens are accustomed to. This is absolutely an economic conflict. But there are racists everywhere in the world; racists are there even in our country. Therefore, the question of racialism should not be brought into world citizenship. It will be a wrong process and must not be copied like Pakistan. I do hope that the Minister will give full consideration to it before going into the consideration of world citizenship.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I thank the hon. Member for making this suggestion.

श्री विश्वम्भर नाथ पांडे : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी ने श्वेत भावना को ध्यान में रखकर वहां काले को नहीं, गोरे को भेजा है?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : वे नाम के गोरे हैं, चाम के गोरे नहीं हैं।

*242. [The questioners (Shri Bhupesh Gupta, Shri S. Kumaran and Dr. Z. A. Ahmad were absent. For answer vide Col. . . in fra.]

राजस्थान नहर परियोजना के लिए ईरान द्वारा ऋण देने का प्रस्ताव

† 243. **श्री कल्पनाथ राय :***

श्री रामानन्द यादव :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ईरान की सरकार ने राजस्थान नहर के द्वितीय चरण को पूरा करने के लिए इस शर्त पर दीर्घकालीन ऋण देने का प्रस्ताव किया है कि नहर के पूरा होने के पश्चात् ऋण की अदायगी गेहूं के रूप में की जाये;

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार ने इस प्रस्ताव के निर्बन्धनों तथा शर्तों को स्वीकार कर लिया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो नहर को पूरा करने के लिए अनुमानतः कितनी धनराशि की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी और इसके कब तक पूरा हो जाने की संभावना है?

Iran's offer of loan for Rajasthan Canai Project

*243. **SHRI KALP NATH RAI**

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Iran have offered a long-term loan for the completion of

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kalp Nath Rai.

f] English translation.