

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):
The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Explosives Act, 1884, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):
Now we shall take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the - Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) :
Clause 4. There is one amendment of Mr. Sahu.

Mr. Sahu, do you want to move it?

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : I had certain doubt, but in view of the clarification given by the Minister, I do not want to move the amendment.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 to 19 were added to the Bill

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1978

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTER-

NAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUN-DU) : Sir,
I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Passports Act, 1967, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Before I speak something on this Bill I must thank the Members of Parliament for the excellent cooperation that we have received from them in verifying the application forms and also helping us as well as the people to see that their desire to have a passport is fulfilled. Perhaps the hon. Members will be pleased to know that during the last few months we introduced various types of liberalisation. The hon. Members have by now verified as many as 1,50,000 passport forms.

Sir, when the Janata Government came into power in March, 1977, we felt there was a great desire among the people to have passports to travel hopefully. We thought that we must give the basic fundamental right to the citizens of India to travel hopefully, to travel as much as they can, because we saw during the emergency that the whole of India was converted into a prison, the mobility of the people was crippled. It was so difficult for a person to get a passport. Many passports were impounded. We took a determined step.

SHRIMATI MARGARET
ALVA (Karnataka) : Like in the case of Dharam Teja

SHRI S.KUNDU : I am happy to say that to a large extent we have been very much successful in fulfilling this wish of the people. About 200 passports which were impounded were released. I will give a short summary of our achievements. In 1975, only 4-25 lakh passports were given. In 1976, the number went up to 5*73 lakhs. In 1977, we issued about 9 lakh passports and this year, from January to June,

[Shri S. Kundu]

1978, about 7 lakh passports have already been issued. By the end of this year, we hope to issue about 18 lakh passports, if not 2 million.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD (Kerala) : Which State had the most applications ?

SHRI S. KUNDU : Of course, Kerala. From 4*5 lakhs, or put it as 4*25 lakhs, to 9 lakhs in 1977 and 18 lakhs, which we are hoping to reach this year, every Member of Parliament will agree, is a very big stride that we have made to provide mobility to the people, to give them back their basic rights which were taken away during the period of emergency.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI (Uttar Pradesh) : Which right ?

SHRI S. KUNDU : The right to travel. Article 19 and many of the Fundamental Rights which were withdrawn.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : What about smugglers ? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. KUNDU : As my hon. friend has said, even M.Ps. were not allowed passports. Many were not allowed.

Sir, this gives an idea of and insight into this problem. The question arose how to meet this challenging task. There were very small offices. The files huddled up and they went up like mountains. People were working in very difficult circumstances. There was no place for the people to work. There was no space for the passport applicants to come and have a respite. Immediately we went into the problem and appointed about 375 clerks and 21 officers and wherever offices were available, we took new offices. If hon. friends from Bombay will go and see the new Passport

office which we have opened in the heart of Bombay, they will feel the difference. I have gone and seen it. People have now a place to sit there and wait hopefully for some information. There is fan, there is cold water. The reception is very cordial. Things are much better than before. Of course, all these have cost us much. I will come to that point. But the fact is that whenever difficulties of the people have come to our notice, we have not for a moment hesitated to redress their difficulties. We have gone into them and tried to solve them. I hope everybody will accept at least these basic achievements.

Sir, the Passport Bill is a very small and innocuous one. The only thing is that the Passport fee which was Rs. 25 for a long time has been increased to Rs. 50. After a lot of thinking we have been forced to increase it from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. People were even telling us to make it Rs. 100 but the passport must be given quickly. We went into the problem. If we want the machinery to be effected and efficient, please do not grudge paying a little more. And that is what actually has happened. We had promised and we are still promising that our intention is to deliver the passport within six weeks or 35 days from the date of application.

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Andhra Pradesh) : At least give replies to our letters within six weeks.

SHRI S. KUNDU : If you write to me I will certainly reply.

SHRI N. G. RANGA : Not you, your office. Your office cannot even give a reply.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Please tell me if you have not received a reply to your letter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) : They have introduced the Bill to improve.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Karnataka) : I am getting replies regularly.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Thank you very much. There is one at least getting replies.

SHRI L. R. NAIK (Karnataka): I have written a letter today to you saying that experts from Sri Lanka are put to inconvenience.

They have cleared a good order. For the last 4-5 months they are trying for passports but they are not able to get it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. RAM KRIPAL SINHA): He has written just today.

SHRI S. KUNDU : I do not dispute what the hon'ble Member says. It is quite possible. Because such cases came to our notice we immediately went into them. We called a conference of all the Regional Passport officers which was chaired by the Foreign Minister where we gave them guidelines and we said that the passport applications should be cleared within six weeks. We have introduced a provision where an M.P. can verify. We also said that there need not be a form for clearance from the police. We now want an affidavit before a magistrate along with the passport application. You need not have to go to the police. I do not deny that there might have been some cases where there might be delay. Cases have come to my notice where it has been delayed for more than a year. But now I can say that such complaints are very few. Hon'ble Members would be happy to know that recently I had gone to Madras and Hyderabad. The R.P.O. told me that they are now able to give a passport even in 25 or 20 days. I was very happy. We will be able to clear all the backlog of applica-

tion, by the end of this year. When I had gone to Cochin a few months back I had promised that by the end of this year all the backlog would be cleared and people in Kerala and near about will get a passport within 35 days, if not less.

SHRI N. G. RANGA : Is there and reason why the Hyderabad Passport office has been closed. ?

SHRI S. KUNDU : No, no. It is very much effective, going strong, delivering passports in a very short space of time now. That is what I said. When we are opening more passport offices, there is no question of closing any.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) : That will come during the discussion.

4 PM.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Therefore, very much being compelled, we have increased the fee. And within this fee we have also included the registration charges for sending the passport, which was not there earlier. The registration charges of Rs. 3.50 are included in this.

AN HON. MEMBER: That was there earlier also.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Since the Bill is a very innocuous one and there are only a few clauses, and we want it quickly passed so that the people are benefitted, I would recommend through you Sir to the House to pass the Bill.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): May I call Shrimati Ratan Kumari ?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, before you call

[Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy] Smt. Ratan Kumari to speak, I am on a point of order. This is a Money Bill. This is a taxation Bill. The Government is enhancing the fee of the passport application from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. They may say that they are enhancing the fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 to meet the expenditure involved, but whatever money is collected is deposited to the account of the Government of India in the Reserve Bank, and this will be a part of the Consolidated Fund of India, and then only will they draw money for spending on behalf of the External Affairs Ministry. This Bill has not been certified to be a Money Bill. I do not know how it was passed by the Lok Sabha. So it cannot be taken into consideration.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN*
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):
For the information of the Members, the Speaker has not certified that it is a Money Bill.

श्रीमती रतन कुमारी (मध्य प्रदेश) :
श्रीमान्, पासपोर्ट बिल पढ़ बोलने के लिए समय देने के लिए धन्यवाद ।

यह संशोधन पासपोर्ट की फीस पच्चीस रुपये से पचास रुपये करने के लिए लाया गया है । सरकार पचास रुपये तो वसूल कर रही है पर पार्लियामेंट में यह बिल अब आ रहा है । जो लोग पासपोर्ट प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं वे पचास रुपये के स्थान पर सौ रुपये भी देने को तैयार हैं यदि सरकार पासपोर्ट जारी करने की प्रणाली में तीव्रता ले आवे ।

इस समय स्थिति यह है कि पासपोर्ट प्राप्त करने में छः-सात माह लग जाते हैं और जो लोग छोटे शहरों में रहते हैं जहाँ रीजनल पासपोर्ट आफिस नहीं हैं उनको तो और भी लम्बा समय इस प्रक्रिया में लगाना पड़ता है । उन्हें केवल जानकारी लेने में पासपोर्ट आफिस के अनेकों चक्कर काटने पड़ते हैं । मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि प्रत्येक प्रदेश में एक और जो बड़े प्रदेश हैं

वहाँ एक से अधिक पासपोर्ट आफिस खोले जायें ताकि गरीब जनता की परेशानी कुछ कम हो । जबलपुर में पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने का विचार शीघ्र ही किया जाए ।

जब से पासपोर्ट कानून को कुछ शिथिल किया गया है और संसद सदस्यों को पासपोर्ट फार्म अटैस्ट करने की सुविधा दी गयी है तब से संसद सदस्यों को कई प्रकार की असुविधाओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है । एक रफ़ एस्टीमेट के अनुसार संसद सदस्यों ने एक लाख पचास हजार पासपोर्ट अटैस्ट किये हैं । मैं जानती हूँ कि इन में से अनेकों को ये संसद सदस्य जानते तक नहीं हैं । संसद सदस्य का एक ऐसा सार्वजनिक सामाजिक तथा राजनीतिक प्राणी होता है कि वह पासपोर्ट लेने वालों को 'ना' नहीं कर सकता ।

इससे तो अच्छा यह हो कि सरकार एम० एल० ए० को पासपोर्ट अटैस्ट करने का अधिकार प्रदान करे क्योंकि संसद सदस्य की अपक्षा विधान सभा सदस्य अपने क्षेत्र के लोगों को अधिक पहचानते हैं और संसद सदस्य की परेशानी इस विषय में कम कर सकते हैं ।

मेरा एक सुझाव और है कि संसद सदस्य जब पासपोर्ट के लिए आवेदन करें तब उन्हें डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट दिया जावे ।

इस समय देश के विभिन्न भागों में बहुत सी अनधिकृत एजेंसियाँ बन गई हैं जो लोगों को सब्ब बाग दिखाकर बाहर भेजने का लालच देकर लूट रही हैं । बेचारे गरीब लोग धनवान होने के लालच में अपना घर द्वार बेच कर सब पैसा इन एजेंटों को दे देते हैं । फिर इनको चोरी छिपे विदेशों में खासकर अरब देशों में भेजने का धन्धा शुरू हो जाता है । ऐसे लोगों को जो परिणाम भुगतने पड़ते हैं वे हमसे छिपे नहीं हैं । ऐसी गलत और समाज विरोधी एजेंसियों पर सरकार को कड़ी नजर रखनी चाहिए ।

बहुत ते एजेंट तो यात्रियों को बम्बई बन्दरगाह में ही निरसहाय छोड़ जाते हैं। इन्हें अपना बोर्ड लगाने को सरकार बाध्य करे और उन्हें ही मान्यता दे जो नियमों के अनुसार ठीक समझे जावें। साथ ही ट्रेवल एजेंट्स की संख्या में वृद्धि करें ताकि विदेश जाने वाले लोगों को शहत हाथों में पड़ जाने की पीड़ा न भुगतनी पड़े।

प्रस्तुत संशोधन बिल जिसके द्वारा पासपोर्ट बनवाने की फीस पच्चीस रुपये से बढ़ा कर पचास रुपये कर दी गई है किसी प्रकार से उचित नहीं प्रतीत होता। विदेश जाने वाले भारतीयों को इससे और परेशानी होगी।

माना कि उक्त विभाग के खर्चों में वृद्धि हुई होगी परन्तु वृद्धि इतनी तो नहीं हुई होगी कि पासपोर्ट की फीस को एकदम दुगुना कर दिया जावे, विशेष कर उस हालत में जब कि पासपोर्ट अधिक बनने से सरकार की आय में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही हो।

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON (Kerala): Sir, this Bill seems to be mainly an amendment of a consequential nature. The one change that is sought to be made through this Bill is regarding the fee for the application. It has now been increased from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. Sir, the Passport Offices are already collecting this enhanced fee and I do not know why the clause 7 should be there at all because there is no question of giving any difference and they are collecting it already.

Sir, regarding passports we are in a strange situation. The Passport Offices in India are functioning under a certain strain. This is not an ordinary situation involving normal travel by the diplomats, the businessmen, the students and others. Because of the oil boom this sudden spurt is there in the demand for the passports, and we are still not

ready to cope up with the situation.

I am glad that the External Affairs Ministry has opened Regional Passport Office and Sub-Regional Passport Offices in Kerala. But what is happening there? We speak of 35 days or less number of days to get a passport, but the situation today is that after 4 lakhs of passports having been issued, in Kerala, the applications from November onwards have not been taken up. Though you have opened new offices, staff is not there, they do not have enough material, enough equipment or enough people to look after these things. I think in the Lok Sabha the Hon. Minister has stated that the increase of the fee to Rs. 50/- is to give more facilities to the applicants. What are the facilities? In many of the Passport Offices, for instance in the Ernakulam office, the people have to stand in a queue under the Sun and rain for one-and-a-half days. The queue is not confined to one road, but extends to parallel roads also. There is no place, there is no shade, no drinking water and there is no fan. To whom are the facilities being given? I do not know. This fact we have to take into account. I

I am very glad that the Hon. Minister has suddenly discovered the fundamental right of a citizen to travel. Well, Sir, I am very glad. Why do you not give the stamp of the right free or at least at the cost price? I think the printing cost of a passport is Rs. 6.50. I do not know, I may be wrong.

SHRI L. R. NAIK: Even that is too much.

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: I am taking it at the highest. Why do you not give that stamp free? If that is a fundamental right, this Government should consider giving it free of

[Shrimati Lela Damodara Menon] cost or at least at the minimum rate, not at Rs. 50/-, for not giving water, fan and other facilities.

Then there is a very very curious explanation that the people are willing to pay Rs. 100. Sir, I would like to ask: At what cost? Who are these people who are willing to pay Rs. 100/-?

Sir, these are people who have sold their valued possessions and have paid Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 to the agencies because they want to leave....

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): Why do they pay?

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON: Because they want to have a job anywhere, if not in this country, anywhere. They are willing to go anywhere to get a job. And when they are held up at the passport office for months, for six months or one year, they are willing to pay any amount so that they can get out of the country and find a job. Shall we want blood-money? Does this Government want blood money from those people? I can understand ordinary, normal people travelling abroad being charged; you charge them anything according to their capacity, but not these people, not these poor workers, these artisans, these carpenters and brick-layers who are going out from here. From them, for heaven's sake—I request you—don't take this money.

Sir, as I was saying, there is a sudden boom in regard to these passports. Now, how do we see to these things? There are applications from everywhere. Now, we wanted a sub-office in Calicut. Somebody wanted a sub-office in Nagpur. All these things are there. Temporarily at least, when there is a large number of applications, I hope

the External Affairs Ministry will find some way by which these applications can be dealt with in a decentralised way. I would even suggest that it may be done at the Collectorate level to some extent, with a little additional staff, if possible, so that you do not increase the staff of the passport office. Only the formalities may be done here and the final formalities may be completed at the head office.

Another factor which is very painful is that we give a person the passport but very often this passport, which I think is a most valued document of an individual, is held back by some people. We send a hundred people, for example, from here for employment. The employment agency holds the passports of these people and they are unable to do anything with these passports. These people are helpless. It becomes something like bonded labour. What is the way in which our Embassies can deal with such cases? If a person, after having gone there, is disgusted with the work and he feels that he cannot continue in that job with dignity and if he wants to come back, how can he come back? (*Time-bell rings.*) I will just conclude. I do not want to take the time of other members of my party. These are the many problems. I do hope that on this occasion of amendment of the Passports Act, you will consider some of the serious problems faced by the people who have the fundamental right of travelling. I hope you will remove those problems so that they really feel that they have the right to travel and they are free.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):
Shri N. P. Shahi. Five minutes.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सब से पहले मैं यह

निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि एक आदमी की पासपोर्ट की दस्तावेज को गोरखपुर से लखनऊ जाने में पूरे पांच महीने लगते हैं। आप कह रहे हैं कि मैं अपना भाषण इस विषय पर पांच मिनट में समाप्त कर दूँ। यह कैसे हो सकता है। आप मझे कुछ बातें श्री वाजपेयी जी को समझाने दीजिए ताकि वे इस प्रकार की कोई व्यवस्था कर सकें जिसमें किसी भी आदमी को अधिक से अधिक एक महीने के अन्दर पासपोर्ट मिल जाये। हमारे देश का गरीब आदमी पासपोर्ट जल्दी प्राप्त करने के लिए पैसा नहीं खर्च कर सकता है। लोग अपनी रोजी रोटी कमाने के लिए दूसरे देशों में जाते हैं। इसलिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि आम आदमी को पासपोर्ट जल्दी से जल्दी प्राप्त होना चाहिए।

मैं वाजपेयी जी को इस बात के लिए बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने संसद-सदस्यों को इस बात का अधिकार दे दिया कि वे पासपोर्ट के लिए दी जाने वाली दस्तावेजों पर दस्तखत कर सकते हैं। अब लोगों को इस बात से बड़ी राहत मिल गई है कि अपने प्रार्थना-पत्रों के लिए एम० पी० को खोजते रहते हैं ताकि वे उनसे अपने प्रार्थना-पत्रों पर साइन करवा लें। उससे उनका काम हो जाता है। एम० पी० इकार नहीं कर सकता। एम० पी० कह नहीं सकता कि दिस इज नाट् माइ ड्यूटी। उसके पहले फर्स्ट क्लस कलेक्टर को ढूँढना पड़ता था। फर्स्ट क्लस कलेक्टर के पास वह जाता है तो उस पर उनके बर्डिम्स होते थे कि आई गड पर्सनली नो हिम। और भइया, मैं पर्सनली इस आदमी को नहीं जानता हूँ फिर कैसे दस्तखत करूँ। उसके बाद वह वकील इंगेज करता है। इस काम के लिये उसको वकील की फीस देनी पड़ती थी और फीस लेने के बाद वकील जाता है डिप्टी साहब के पास। डिप्टी साहब फिर वही बात कहता है कि मैं जानता नहीं। इसमें लिखा है कि

आई पर्सनली नो हिम। तो फिर सिफारिश शुरू हुई और उसके बाद डिप्टी कलेक्टर पेशकार के पास गये। पेशकार को खुश करने के बाद तब जाकर कहीं काम बनता है और उसके बाद दरखास्त गोरखपुर से लखनऊ आती है। लखनऊ का दफ्तर बहुत छोटा है। वाजपेयी जी ने आश्वासन दिया था कि वहाँ बड़ी बिल्डिंग बनवा रहे हैं। उस छोटे भवन में न तो बाबू लोगों को बैठने की जगह है और न ही फाइल रखने की जगह है।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा (गुजरात) :
क्या उनकी आफिस की प्राबल्य को डिसकश करने के लिए यह बिल है ?

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : आप लोग जाकर इंदिरा बचाओ दिवस मनाओ। आज 9 अगस्त है, आप इंदिरा बचाओ दिवस मनाओ। (Interruptions)

श्रीमती सरोज खापर्डे (महाराष्ट्र) :
कल तक तो आप उनकी ही चमचागिरी करते थे।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : आप लोग इंदिरा दिवस मनाओ (Interruptions) श्रीमन्, मैं कह रहा था कि (Interruptions) ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए जिससे कि पासपोर्ट मिलने में सुविधा हो। (Interruptions) और अगर कोशिश करते हैं तो इंदिरा जी को भी पासपोर्ट दीजिये। मैं आपकी सिफारिश कर रहा हूँ।

श्रीमती सरोज खापर्डे : उधर से यह कहा जा रहा है कि जनता पार्टी में कांग्रेस वाले आकर गड़बड़ी कर रहे हैं। (Interruptions)

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : इसीलिये कह रहा हूँ कि इंदिरा जी को पासपोर्ट दिया जायें। मैं आपकी सिफारिश कर रहा हूँ भाई।

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा (बिहार) : सब से बड़ा आरोप यह लगाया जा रहा है कि जो कांग्रेस वाले उधर गये हैं वह सब गड़बड़ी कर रहे हैं। (Interruptions)

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : देखिये, सीताराम केसरी जी कांग्रेस को छोड़कर तुम लोग गये हो और इसलिये तुम्हारी आज यह हालत, यह दुर्गति हो रही है। तुम्हारे पास कोई प्रोग्राम नहीं। इंदिरा बचाओ दिवस मनाओ। (Interruptions)

आज 9 अगस्त है, इंदिरा बचाओ दिवस है।

श्रीमन्, तो मैं कह रहा था कि

श्रीमती माप्रेट आल्वा : इंदिरा जी को लोग बचा रहे हैं। (Interruptions)

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : महोदय, मैं श्रीमती आल्वा और श्रीमती सरोज खापड़े की अपील पर गौर करूँगा। क्योंकि उनकी बात को मैं टाल नहीं सकता। इसलिये जो माननीय सदस्य कह रहे हैं उस पर मैं गौर करूँगा।

श्रीमती सरोज खापड़े : आपने महिलाओं का ध्यान रखा, इसके लिये बहुत बहुत शुक्रिया।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : मैं ही नहीं हमारे विदेश मंत्री भी बड़ा ध्यान रखते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अरविन्द गणेश झलकर्णी) : शाही जी, इसी में आपका दो-तीन मिनट का टाइम निकल गया। आप आगे बोलिये।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पासपोर्ट की व्यवस्था

में कुछ और सुधार किये जायें अभी भी कुछ सुधारों के बावजूद उसमें बहुत देर होती है। आम लोगों के लिए बहुत कठिन बात है। इस समय हजारों लोग मिडिल ईस्ट कंट्रीज में अपनी रोजी के सिलसिले में नौकरी के सिलसिले में जाने के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं और परेशान हैं। उनको अनुविधा होती है। हम लोगों के लिए जो एम०पी० लोग सर्टिफाई करते हैं कि पर्सनली नोलेज है, तो यह बड़ा कठिन है। या तो जान-बूझ कर गलत करें या झूठ कहें। इन्कार करना कम से कम अफसरों के लिए सम्भव है लेकिन एम०पी० के लिए सम्भव नहीं है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूँगा कि वे इस वाक्य के ऊपर फिर से गौर करें और उसके बदले में और कोई वाक्य 'नोलेज एंड बिलीफ' कर दें तो अच्छा होगा। यह 50 रुपये की फीस बढ़ा दी गई है, इसलिए कि कार्यालय का खर्च बढ़ गया है लेकिन कार्यालय का खर्च इस फीस से उगाहना यह कुछ उचित मालूम नहीं देता है। आम तौर पर जो साधारण लोग जाते हैं उनके लिए तो 25 रुपये कठिन बात है और उसका एंसीलेरी खर्च ज्यादा होता है। यह 50 रुपये हो जाने पर और ज्यादा हो जाएगा। इसलिए मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर गौर करें। लखनऊ में जो रीजनल कार्यालय है उसके बारे में विशेष तौर पर मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि उसके लिए कोई और जगह ढूँढ़ें जहाँ पर कठिनाई न हो। वहाँ इतनी कठिनाई है कि बैठने के लिए कोई स्थान नहीं है। इतना बड़ा आफिस है जो जाता है उसको खड़ा रहना पड़ता है, बैठने की जगह उसको नहीं मिलती। इसलिए मंत्री महोदय इस ओर ध्यान दें। आपके जो दूतावास हैं आपके उनको निर्देश है कि अपने देश का जो नागरिक जाए उनकी सहायता की जाए उनके साथ अच्छा व्यवहार किया जाए लेकिन यह हो नहीं पाता है। अनुभव यह बताता है कि दूसरे देशों के दूतावासों के अधिवारी और कर्मचारी ज्यादा पोलाइटी

बिहेब करते हैं और आपके अधिकारी और कर्मचारी उस तरह से व्यवहार नहीं करते हैं। मैं तो यहां तक कह सकता हूं कि आपके विदेश मंत्रालय का एक सर्कुलर है कि जो संसद सदस्य बाहर जाए वह वहां सुचित कर वे तो वहां उनको हर तरह की सुविधा आपका दूतावास प्रदान करेगा, सहयोग करेगा। आपके सर्कुलर के बावजूद अनुभव यह बताता है कि ऐसा नहीं होता है। इस पर कृपया आप ध्यान दें। जब मंत्री महोदय दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों की ओर गये थे उन्होंने वहां देखा कि उन्हीं दूतावासों के भारतीय नागरिक हैं उनको और उनके बच्चों को हिन्दी में शिक्षा देने की व्यवस्था है। इसके लिए दूतावास से कोई फंड नहीं है। वहां के राजदूत कुछ आपस में चन्दा करके व्यवस्था की है। वहां जो भारतीय नागरिक और उनके बच्चे रहते हैं उनको हिन्दी की तालीम दी जाए। मैं विदेश मंत्री जी से निवेदन करूंगा कि वे थोड़ा इन बच्चों के लिए किताब कापियों की भी व्यवस्था करें, दूतावास के फंड से करें तो बड़ी सुविधा होगी। मंत्री महोदय हालांकि इसके लिए धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं कि उन्होंने यू. एन. ओ० में हिन्दी में भाषण दिया मगर आपके जो दूतावास हैं वे भारतीय नागरिकों से भारतीय भाषा में बात नहीं करते हैं। कम से कम आपके मंत्रितंत्र काल में इतनी तबदीली आपके दूतावास के स्टाफ में आनी चाहिए कि अगर भारतीय नागरिक वहां पहुंचते हैं तो उनसे भारतीय भाषा में बात करने की कृपा करें। इतनी मेरी प्रार्थना है। धन्यवाद।

श्री सीताराम केसरी (बिहार) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके द्वारा विदेश मंत्री जी से मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा कि जो मेम्बर आफ पार्लियामेंट विदेश जाते हैं उनका पासपोर्ट डिप्लोमैटिक कर दे। चूंकि

मैं जानता हूं कि ये कुछ दिन तक विदेश मंत्री और इनकी सरकार है इसलिए इनका इतिहास में नाम रहेगा यदि इन्होंने संसद सदस्यों को डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट कर दिया। यही मेरा निवेदन है आपके द्वारा।

श्री महेन्द्र मोहन मिश्र (बिहार) :
इसका उत्तर दे दें अब यह।

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, I fully support the very humble demand of Mr. Sitaram Kesri. Starting with that, I must confess that I cannot match the eloquence of Mr. Kundu. Mine will be a very simple and straight speech.

Sir, I cannot hide the hard facts of life by nice words, because the policy which was being pursued by the previous regime is still being pursued by the present regime. It is the poor workers, it is the trade unionists and it is the political workers and political sufferers today who face difficulties in order to secure a passport. If they know an MP or an influential Minister or an influential officer, then it is possible for them to get a passport, even then, Sir, before they get the passport, they have to face many difficulties and the ordinary workers who want to go abroad either for jobs or for other purposes have to wait for a long time. Of course, we have to consider the six hundred million people of our country, scattered all over the country, and it will be difficult and I understand it. But I hope that the Ministry will try to expedite the issue of passports. But my allegation is not that, My allegation is that the Government is consistently and consciously following a double standard and is following two sets of policies, one set of policy towards the political and the other set of policy towards the worst economic offenders.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Yes.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: It was the policy being pursued by your regime in the past. I would like to cite certain specific cases. But, Sir, before I go to the specific cases, I would like to say that I have been told that you have denied a passport to Shrimati Indira Gandhi. It is very wrong. And, Sir, I have been told also that two Ministers of the West Bengal Government, who have to attend the Havana Youth Festival, have been denied the passports or permission to go a road to attend the festival which was convened for fighting against imperialism and colonialism. It is a very disgraceful thing; it is a disgraceful thing to refuse passports to these people. But the question is this: What is your policy? I want to ask very categorically: What is your policy towards those who are the worst Income-tax evaders, who are being served with "show-cause" notices or charge-sheets by the CBI or by the Enforcement Directorate for foreign exchange racketeering and so on? What is your policy towards those multimillionaires who have been arrested abroad for shop-lifting and who have been forced to come back to India? What is your policy? So far, your policy has been that if you are an economic offender or if the allegation is that you have evaded the payment of tax to the tune of one crore of rupees or if you are involved in a foreign exchange racket to the tune of one million pounds or if you have been consistently evading payment of Income-tax and cases are going on in the Supreme Court or the High Courts or the Appellate Courts, then you would be allowed to go in order to straighten up things abroad. But if you happen to be a trade unionist or a poor worker, then the Government will ring the police and do everything in order to deny you the passport. Now, Sir, I will start with one case. The first case is this: A question was answered on the 20th August, 1976 regarding accusations against Mr. D.P. Goenka, Director, of the ICICI.

The reply was given by Mr. Bipinpal Das and the reply is this:

"Mr. D. P. Goenka had been fined £200 at Marlborough Street in London on the preceding day where he attempted to steal a shirt from an outfitter's shop in West End in London."

The reply was on the 20th August 1976. Mr. D. P. Goenka is a multimillionaire and is connected with M/s. Duncan Brothers. But till today his passport has not been impounded.

My second question is this: - It is about the violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act by the Directors of M/s. Hind Motors.

Sir, this is the question, Sir, you took part in this debate-question hour. The house of Birlas, particularly Hirdustan Motors and the Di-

rectors were found guilty. According to the statement which was made on 12-8-76 and 22-1-76, Mr. B. M. Birla and others entered into forward sale of nearly 1 • 5 million pounds, equivalent to Rs. 1.25 crores on the 4th June 1976, the last working day before the devaluation of Indian rupee on June 6, 1976, without complying with the conditions prescribed by the Reserve Bank and without any relevant documents and the documents that were found to be false and fabricated. This was the charge established. Sir, former Minister, Mr. O.M. Mehta, on 22-1-76 stated: "As a result of the investigations completed so far necessary show cause notices have been issued for contravention of the Foreign Exchange (Regulation) Act. Names of persons are given in the annexed statement". And who are the persons? Sir, you must be

[S.hri Kalyan Roy]

familiar, and Mr. Kundu and Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee are familiar. They are : I. P. Goenka, M. R. Ruia, M. P. Birla, A. C. Law, M. L. Tanu-iah, G. D. Kothari, Y. N. Mifatlal, T. S. Raj am, Kasturbhai, R. N. Bangur, M. Nopany, S. T. Sadasivan, R. R. Hathiagadi— this is in relation to United Commercial Bank. And in relation to Hindustan Motors, these are the persons against whom charge-sheets and show cause notices, have been issued : B. M. Birla, Badri Nath G"enka, Kasturbhai Lalbhai, A. Hamaswamv Mudaliar, Dhire^ Nath - Mitra, M. K. Vellodi, R. N. Ma-fatlal, G. D. Kothari, Khan Bahadur C. B. Taraporwala, W. D. Jores, K. P. Sonthalia, S. N. Morar-ka, P. M. Rungta, G.D. Soni, and Sir..

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : Who are these people ?

SHRI KALYAN ROY : These are the people, tycoons, who are ruling the country, who are tough bosses of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, President of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and president of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They are being charge-sheeted, and show cause notices have been issued for gross- violation of the Foreign Exchange (Regulator) Act, for misappropriation and forging of documents(*Tim (Bell rings)*).

SHRI L. R. NAIK : Have they been convicted ?

SHRI KALYAN ROY : That is not the question. What is the policy ? I want to know. If I am convicted, I should be denied. You are asking Mrs. Gandhi to get permission from the court for proceeding abroad. I, as a trade union leader, have not been permitted to go abroad because some of the mine owners fabricated cases against me. I was told : Mr. Kalyan Roy,

we are willing to give you the passport, but these cases are pending against you; unless you are acquitted, you cannot go abroad....

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE) : When was that ?

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Before your regime. But the same thing continues, Mr. Vajpayee.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : No, no.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : My appeal is that if a multi-millionaire, tycoon, or black-marketeer has a case pending against him on the basis of enquiries by the CBI or the Enforcement Department or Income-tax authorities, he should be denied the passport, because his whole ambition, his intention, appears to be to hush up the cases and go abroad to clear the things.

Similarly, I asked a question on 29-11-77 in relation to Shaw Wallace & Co., which involved the Managing-Director, Mr. A. W. Hayward. After giving the allegations, I asked whether, in view of the serious allegations and investigations which are going on against him, would the Government see that his passport is impounded. And on 29-11-77, Mr. Satish Agarwal replied that so far as Mr. Hayward's chairmanship is concerned, "it is not my business". But so far as the impounding of the passport is concerned, I will examine the matter". But within two months of that, Mr. Hayward has gone. Similarly, cases are pending against Mr. Hayward, whereas the Minister, Mr. Agarwal, assured on 29-11-77 that he would see whether his passport could be impounded because of serious violation of the Foreign Exchange regulations. How can he go except with the collusion of the Foreign Ministry?

He was allowed to go because such foreign exchange is involved and \ such black money is involved. Does (it not compel me to think, Mr. Vajpayee—I do not want to make any allegation—that you are also following the same footsteps ? If the tycoons satisfy you or your Government, they are allowed to go. It is the same policy. It is a shame to us that an European who sold Shaw Wallace shares at lesser price—and this has already been replied in this House—has been allowed to go abroad. It was found out that Shaw Wallace shares were sold to Symond Derby at a very lower price resulting in foreign exchange loss to the Government. This was found out. Investigations were going on and even today they are going on. But Mr. A. W. Hayward has been allowed to go abroad. Similarly, Mr. W. D. Jones of Hindustan Motors has been allowed to go abroad. (*Time Bell rings*). Sir, lastly, I would bring another fact to the notice of the Minister of External Affairs. It is about Jiyajee Cotton Mills. It is one of the biggest cotton mills belonging to the Birlas. .

THE VICE - CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) : Now, you will have to wind up.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : The principals are Mahadev Prasad Birla and Sudarshan Kumar Birla. The charge against them is that these people, in the management of the affairs of the company, have been guilty of fraud and other misconduct. Now, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, where do you stand with Birlas and Rungtas, Mafatlals and Haywards ?

In spite of serious economic offences against them, will these people be allowed to go and the political people will not be allowed to go ? (*Time bell*). You made it possible for Dharam Teja to go abroad. How was it possible ? Income-tax arrears amounting to

Rs. 3 crores are pending against him. It was found out. He was tracked at the expense of Rs. one crore. How is it possible that he left ? Who helped him ? How is it possible for him to leave from New Delhi Palam Airport unless the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Revenue Ministry and the Finance Ministry were fully colluding with him ? But for what consideration ? We would like to know about it. Did he pay sufficient amount to Janata fund or to the Jana Sangh fund or to the Socialist fund or to any other fund ? It is a shame. The whole world is asking. I read London Times and New York Times. They are saying that it is easy for anybody with money in India to escape abroad. How do you explain this situation ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) You will have to wind up now.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I am winding up. The country demands an explanation. How is it possible for Dharam Teja to go abroad from Palam Airport unless you are colluding with him ? How is it that Birlas and others against whom serious cases are pending are being issued passports and political people are denied passports ? Both the Ministers are here. No one can match his eloquence. But let him leave his eloquence and state the facts.

श्री कल्याण राय : आदरणीय उपसभा-ध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सर्वप्रथम विदेश मंत्री जी को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने मेम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट को पासपोर्ट इश्यू करने के सिलसिले में कुछ अधिकार प्रदान किए हैं। मगर मैं उनसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि मेम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट को, जिस प्रकार गवर्नमेंट में सेक्रेटरी, डिप्टी सेक्रेटरी को डिप्लोमेटिक पासपोर्ट दिया जाता है, उसी प्रकार मेम्बर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट जो एक बहुत माने हुए स्थान पर

[श्री कल्प नाथ राय]

हैं उनको डिप्लोमेटिक पासपोर्ट क्यों नहीं दिया जाता है ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं विदेश मन्त्री जी से दूसरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज पासपोर्ट को प्राप्त करने में कितनी दिक्कतों का मुकाबला करना पड़ता है। एक आदमी का पासपोर्ट बनना है तो पहले वह पासपोर्ट बनने के बाद लेबर मिनिस्ट्री में जाएगा, उसके बाद वह होम मिनिस्ट्री में जाएगा, फिर होम मिनिस्ट्री से विलयर्स लेगा। तीन मिनिस्ट्रीज में विलयर्स के बाद उसको पासपोर्ट मिलता है।

मेरा कहना है कि आप एक एजेंसी कायम करें ताकि वह लोग पासपोर्ट सुविधाजनक ढंग से प्राप्त कर सकें। तीसरी बात मुझे यह कहनी है कि मार्च, 1967 में हिन्दुस्तान के सुप्रीम कोर्ट के चीफ जस्टिस श्री सुब्बाराव ने कहा था कि पासपोर्ट रखने का अधिकार हर भारतीय का एक मूल अधिकार है। आप को उसके तहत हर व्यक्ति को पासपोर्ट देना चाहिए। हर व्यक्ति को पासपोर्ट रखने का अधिकार मिलना चाहिए और जो उसके रास्ते में दिक्कतें हैं उनको आप को दूर करना चाहिए। एक निवेदन मुझे और यह करना है कि आज बहुत सी एजेंसियां कायम हो गयी हैं जो लोगों को गलत ढंग से पैसा लेकर जाली पासपोर्ट देती हैं। पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में, वहां के रहने वाले जो बहुत से लोग आज दिल्ली आ गये हैं उनसे उन एजेंसियों ने रूपया जमा करा लिया है और उसके बाद वह कंपनियां गायब हो जाती हैं। तो इस तरह से फर्जी कंपनियों के माध्यम से आज पासपोर्ट दिये जा रहे हैं। इस देश में आप जानते हैं कि बेकारी की समस्या है। हमारे रवीन्द्र वर्मा जी ने बतलाया था कि रजिस्टर्ड अनइम्प्लायड लोग आज देश में एक करोड़ हैं और करीब पांच करोड़ लोग अपनी बेकारी को दूर करने के लिये दर दर की ठोकें खाते फिर रहे हैं और विदेश भी जाना चाहते हैं। तो ऐसी स्थिति में वह अपना घर बेच कर, कर्जा लेकर पासपोर्ट

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बनवा लेते हैं। यह जो अनअथाराइज्ड एजेंसियां इस क्षेत्र में काम करने लग गयी हैं वे उन बेकार लोगों से पैसा वसूल करके उन को पासपोर्ट बनवा देने और विदेश भेजने का लालच देती हैं और फिर बाद में उनको बाहर नहीं भिजवाती हैं। दूसरी बात यह है कि जो एजेंसियां उन लोगों को काम के लिये भर्ती करके विदेशों में ले जाती हैं वह उनके साथ अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं करती हैं। अभी कुवैत में एक घटना घटी। यह पूरे देश के सम्मान का प्रश्न है। ऐसी स्थिति में आपने एक बहुत बड़ा काम किया तो आप को उसके रखरखाव को भी ठीक रखना चाहिए ताकि आप के नागरिकों को दिक्कत न हो। उन को यहां दिक्कत न हो और विदेशों में जाने के बाद भी उनको दिक्कत न हो। दूसरी बात मुझे यह कहनी है कि जो एम० पी० विदेशों में जाते हैं उनसे, जैसा शाही जी ने कहा, हमारे देश के राजदूतों को उनसे मातृभाषा में बातचीत करनी चाहिए। आपको मैं इसके लिये तो बधाई देता हूँ कि आप ने यू० एन० ओ० में भारत के प्रतिनिधि की हैसियत से मातृभाषा में भाषण किया था लेकिन जो आपके राजदूत हैं उनको और सारी डिप्लोमेटिक प्लेसेज को आपको हिदायत करनी चाहिए कि हमारे देश के स्कूल, अनस्कूल लेबर और जो दूसरे नागरिक वहां जाते हैं उनको वह जो भी सुविधायें प्रदान कर सकते हैं, करें। अन्तिम निवेदन मुझे यह करना है कि आज देश के अन्दर पासपोर्ट के नाम पर स्मगलर्स, ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स, होर्डर्स आदि को सुविधायें दी जा रही हैं और उनको पासपोर्ट्स इश्यू हो रहे हैं। जो इंपाउन्डेड पासपोर्ट्स थे इकोनॉमिक अफेडर्स के और पोलिटिकल लोगों के वह उनको फिर दिये जा रहे हैं। ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है? मुझे एक घटना इस सम्बन्ध में याद आती है जिसको मैं अपने विदेश मन्त्री जी के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ।

The passport of one Prithi Pal Singh alias Laljee was impounded in 1976 by the Government of

India because of various foreign exchange violations. This passport was released immediately after the Janata Government takeover. Not only the passport was released but the Enforcement Officer was forced by Mr. Kanti Desai to apologise to Mr. Laljee. Mr. Kanti Desai has interest in the play boy club in London and has membership of the club. He stayed in the club a number of times between 1972 and 1977. Mr. Kanti Desai has a very close associate in Mr. Prithi Pal Singh *alias* Laljee. He is known throughout the country and in London particularly by the name of Laljee. Mr. Kanti Desai visits his house every evening for entertainment and Mr. Kanti's affairs are being looked after by Laljee. With Mr. Kanti's support, Laljee purchased a benami flat in London at 9, Wellington Crescent, Wellington Road, London. In fact, the flat belonged to Mr. Kanti Desai. After losing heavily in gambling, Mr. Kanti and Laljee sold this flat to Amir Khairaz of Air India (Interruptions).

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
Sir, allegations are being made against a person who is not present in the House.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI : With Mr. Kanti's assistance, this flat was re-purchased by Laljee after the Janata Government took over.

MR. VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) Mr. Kalp Nath Rai, will you please take your seat. Let me listen to what the hon. Minister is saying.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
Sir, we are discussing the Passport Act and not the conduct of an individual. If allegations are made against a person who is not present in the House, who is not in a position to defend himself, that will not be proper thing.

Sir, I did not have any prior J notice about it from the hon. Member. I seek your guidance.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI)
: Mr. Kalp Nath, you please stick to what you want to say on the Passport Bill.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, it has been the procedure in this House for a long time that such matters are mentioned and no mentioned every day. How can he object, Sir ? (Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Sir, Mr. Kalp Nath never wanted to make any allegations against the person who is not here and able to reply himself ? He simply quoted an instance where a passport was given to an offender who was accused and found guilty of having committed certain offences. Now, to such a person a passport was issued and why was it issued ? It was issued on the intervention of certain persons and he has mentioned those persons. The intention of the hon. Member is just to show how passports are issued.

SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE :
Sir, he is not making any allegations.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Mr. Kalp Nath, please speak on the Passport Bill.

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने यह कहा कि पृथ्वीपाल सिंह उर्फ लालजी जिसका पासपोर्ट इंपाउन्डेड था, जो फारन रेक्रेडियर, स्मगलर है, जो लन्दन में 9 ब्रिडिंगटन क्रिसेंट में रहता है।
(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):
He has taken note of it.

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : इसी तरह से कल्याण राय जी ने कहा कि के०के० बिड़ला साहब चौधरी चरण सिंह जब गृह मन्त्री थे, वह हिन्दुस्तान में मौजूद थे लेकिन कैसे 24 घंटे के अन्दर ऐक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री पर दबाव डाल कर श्री कान्ति देसाई ने उनका पासपोर्ट बनवा कर उन्हें विदेश भगाया था। यह बात सही नहीं है ? तीसरी बात धर्म तेजा को पासपोर्ट कैसे मिला ? यह ऐसे सवाल हैं जिनके बारे में मैं अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ। . . . (Interruptions)

उप-समाध्यक्ष (श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी) : वह तो हो गया, आगे बढ़ो।

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : जनता सरकार जब आई तो ऐसा हुआ। अध्यक्ष महोदय, सिकन्दर और पुरु में लड़ाई हुई। जब पुरु गिरफ्तार किया गया तो सिकन्दर ने पुरु से पूछा कि तुम्हारे साथ कैसा व्यवहार किया जाए तो पुरु ने कहा जैसा एक राजा राजा के प्रति करता है। आज की सरकार क्या है ? इस देश की भूतपूर्व प्रधान मन्त्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी जो हिन्दुस्तान की ही नहीं—आप खुद जानते हैं एशिया और अफ्रीका की एक बहुत बड़ी नेता हैं, अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के शब्दों में एशिया और अफ्रीका की महानतम नेता हैं, उन्हें विदेश से निमन्त्रण मिला, एक नहीं दो बार लैक्चर देने के लिए, सैमिनार में भाग लेने के लिए और अध्यक्ष महोदय सबसे दुख की बात है कि आपकी मिनिस्ट्री ने बयान दिया है—पासपोर्ट बिल बी इश्यूड, छह महीने पहले यह बयान दिया, इससे ज्यादा लज्जा और शर्म की बात आपकी गवर्नमेंट के लिए क्या हो सकती है कि आपने भूतपूर्व प्रधान मन्त्री को पासपोर्ट इश्यू नहीं किया। इससे ज्यादा शर्म की बात और क्या होगी। आप एक महीने में पासपोर्ट देश के नागरिकों को देंगे लेकिन एक पोलिटिकल पर्सनैलिटी, देश की भूतपूर्व प्रधान मन्त्री को आप और आपकी ऐक्सटर्नल

अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री के लोग बयान देते हैं कि हम पासपोर्ट देंगे और पासपोर्ट इश्यू किया जाएगा आपके बयान देने के बाद, श्रीमती गांधी जानती थीं कि आप लोग यह झूठा बयान दे रहे हैं, इसलिए उन्होंने अप्लीकेशन दे दी—लेकिन इसके बाद भी 6 महीने हो गये, बनने के बाद भी आपने पासपोर्ट नहीं दिया। आप क्या समझते हैं कि जिस श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के पीछे हजारों हजार और करोड़ों करोड़ जनता है वह इन्दिरा गांधी विदेश जाने के बाद लौटेंगी नहीं। श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी का हुक्म हो तो दुनिया की बड़ी से बड़ी बात की जा सकती है। लेकिन वह नान-वायलेंस में विश्वास करती हैं। हमारे जैसे लाखों जिसके सिपाही हैं, हमारे जैसे लाखों लोग गांधी के कदमों पर चलने वाले हैं। उनके इशारों पर मरने मिटने वाले हैं।

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON
(Kerala) : She is No. 1 criminal.

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : मैं जानता हूँ तुम्हारी जनघाती और राष्ट्रघाती नीति को और तुम्हारी पार्टी के नम्बूदरीपाद को। उपसमाध्यक्ष जी, इनके अरमान कभी पूरे नहीं हो सकते। इस देश की करोड़ों-करोड़ जनता श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी के पीछे है और दुनिया की कोई ताकत नहीं है कि श्रीमती गांधी की तरफ हाथ उठाये। याद रखना जो उनकी तरफ आंख उठायेगा उसकी आंख फोड़ दी जाएगी, हाथ उठायेगा उसका हाथ तोड़ दिया जाएगा। यह मैं पार्लियामेंट के अन्दर कहना चाहता हूँ। ऐसा न समझें कि श्रीमती गांधी के ऊपर हाथ उठाना आसान है।

THE VICE - CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI):
Please conclude now. I am calling the next speaker.

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : मैं पासपोर्ट के ऊपर ही बोल रहा हूँ लेकिन अगर छेड़छाड़ करने की कोशिश की जाएगी तो मैं आपका प्रोटेक्शन चाहता हूँ। (Interruptions)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी) : आपका टाइम खत्म हो गया है बल्कि दो मिनट ज्यादा ही हो गये हैं।

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : नहीं, साहब मैं सिर्फ 10 मिनट ही बोला हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी) : मेरे हाथ में कागज है उसमें ऐसा ही लिखा है। मैं एक-दो मिनट और देता हूँ उसमें कांक्लूड कीजिए।

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मेरा पहला सवाल यह है कि पृथ्वीपाल सिंह जो 9 क्रिसेंट बिल्डिंग में रहता है, स्मगलर है, रेकेटियर है जिसका पासपोर्ट इम्पाउंड था उसको कान्ति देसाई की मदद से पासपोर्ट इशू किया गया। धर्म तेजा को पासपोर्ट कैसे दिया गया और के० के० बिरला को कैसे विदेश भागने की इजाजत दी गई? मुझे इतना निवेदन करना है आदरणीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी जनता पार्टी के लोकप्रिय मन्त्री हैं। इन्होंने कुछ लोकप्रिय कदम भी उठाये हैं लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ उनके साथ काजल की कोठरी में प्रवेश करके अपने भी दामन में कालिख न पोत लें। मैं मुंह नहीं कहूंगा। इस देश में कुछ नेता तो ऐसे रहने चाहिये जिनके प्रति आदर रहना चाहिये। मेरा निवेदन है कि पासपोर्ट को देने के लिये आप कानून बनायें कि 24 घंटे के अन्दर या एक महीने के अन्दर एक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स मिनिस्ट्री पासपोर्ट की सुविधा दे। वाजपेयी देश के करोड़ों-करोड़ बेकार युवकों की तरफ से मैं बधाई दूंगा कि अगर वह पासपोर्ट की सुविधा को साइंटिफिक ढंग से आर्गेनाइज करके उनको विदेश जाने की सुविधा देते हैं तो उनका बहुत हित हो सकेगा।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI): Mr. Sat Paul Mittal, you have eight minutes only.

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL (Punjab): Sir, I will conclude in seven minutes. Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Amendment to the Passport Act brought about by the Janata Government to say the least, is anti-Janata. All professions, all declarations, all statements made by the Janata Party and Janta Government for giving relief to the poor have-nots in the country have been dashed to the ground. Raising the passport fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 and comforting themselves because of the rise in the number of passports from four and a half lakhs to eighteen lakhs is nothing but an attempt to grab four and a half crores of rupees from those have-nots, from those poor labourers, pe-sants, illiterate, innocent and people who are out of job who are, according to your own Labour Minister's assessment, are registered to the tune of a crore, and four crores of other such unemployed persons who are not on your register of unemployment Exchanges. I will not say Employment Exchanges. To say the least, Mr. Vice-Chairman, this act of the Janata Party is anti-Janata. The argument being advanced by the Ministry is that they have to open new offices. Regional Passport Offices; they have to make more facilities and more equipments available and they have to spend more on the machinery that goes into the whole operation.

This justification given by them is most unjustifiable. I must say that raising the fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, when the number of applications has gone up from 4 lakhs to 18 lakhs, is blatantly unjustifiable. In fact, this should have been reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 15 because the number of applications has gone up to a very large extent. But the Janata Government has done just the reverse of it. They have advanced certain reasons which do not stand the scrutiny of any kind of justification but they have raised the fee, by one hundred per cent.

My second point is this. The Janata Government can rightly claim, and I think, this must be acceded to also, that they have introduced some system of simplification in procedure. I must concede that. But let me urge upon the External Affairs Minister, hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that there is still room for that. You should also allow the State legislators, the Chairmen of the local Municipal Committees, the Chairmen of the Zilla Parishads, the Chairmen of the Panchayat Parishads and so on, to verify and attest the applications, the passport applications. If you do this, I am sure, more people, who fall a prey to the professional racketeers, who are going about in the country, robbing and looting these people of their hard-earned money, will get the much needed relief that is due to them. When you claim that you are simplifying it, I have no reason to doubt your intentions. But I must, in all earnestness, while appreciating your efforts at simplification, urge upon you to delegate the authority to these categories of representations so that more and more people could be benefited. Not only that. I will also urge upon you, request you, to make special facilities available to the people by authorised agencies at fixed

nominal rates so that the poor and illiterate people could go and get their applications duly filled in, formalities completed and all kinds of looting and robbing that is now going on by unscrupulous agencies could be completely eliminated.

Sir, I come from the State of Punjab. You will agree with me that the people of Punjab are not only hard-working, but adventurous as well. The number of applications has since gone up. Your office at Chandigarh, covering Punjab, Haryana, the Union Territory of Chandigarh and other places, is not in a position to cope with the rise in the number of applications, is not in a position to cope with the workload. In reply to an earlier question by me, you were kind enough to inform me that you have opened offices in certain States. I would request you to immediately... *{Time bell rings}* Sir, only 5 minutes have passed. I am keeping an eye on the watch.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) : I would request hon. Members to co-operate with me. We have to conclude this discussion by 5.30 P.M. because the Minister will then get time to reply. There is also a Half-an-hour Discussion at 6 P.M. I have been advised by the Chairman that I must get this discussion concluded at 5.30 P.M. so that the Minister can reply.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA.' (West Bengal): Is it your contention that after 5.30 P.M. he cannot reply ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI) : Not that. He can reply after 5.30 P.M. He can reply at 10 P.M. I do not mind.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He can reply at any time.

SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL : Sir, I was urging upon the hon. Minister to open an office in the State of Punjab at a central place, somewhere at Jullundur or Ludhiana at the earliest so that the workload could be handled there without any difficulty. Sir, I am in personal

5 P.M.

know of certain things. Whenever there is delay, that consequently breeds corruption. Any kind of delay will give rise to corruption, howsoever efficient or howsoever honest you may staff your RPOs with. Now the question is, if the passport seeker is not given a passport, if the *bonafides* of a normal passport seeker are clarified by the district police administration and even then he does not get a passport for six months, he believes that he has no other alternative but to consult some kind of an agency which can arrange a passport for him. I will cite the case of my own son. He is youngest son. He asked me that he must get a passport for himself. I verified his passport papers and photographs, sent it to the RPO Chandigarh. I have received three letters from the RPO saying that his photographs are not available and I have sent the photographs all the three times. If that kind of thing happens to me whom you have delegated the authority of verifying and attesting the passport papers, if that can happen to me and my son, what will be happening to others you can very well imagine. I know, passport applications are not being expeditiously dealt with by the RPOs firstly because of the work load and secondly because of some unscrupulous elements which must be operating at that level, at the lower level probably. Therefore, my

submission to you is to open, as per your own policy statement, offices in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and elsewhere so that the work load could be dealt with by those respective offices.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Shyam Lal Yadav) in the Chair]

Sir, the Minister while speaking on the Bill said that four to five weeks has been the time fixed for the disposal of such applications. My submission to the hon. Minister would be to see that these applications are disposed of within a stipulated period. Why should not the Government come forward by making this period a statutory one? If you stipulate some kind of a period of five weeks or four weeks and make it statutory, I have no doubt that there will be greater efficiency and the Regional Passport Offices will know their time-limit by which they have to dispose of the applications. Even if the Government has to create a special cell for dealing with these applications at the district headquarters, the time limit could be fixed for them also. Unless the time limit has been made statutory in the Act itself, I am afraid these delays will continue and the delays will certainly give rise to and breed corruption, graft at the level of the Regional Passport Officers. Also these unscrupulous professional racketeering agencies will prosper and flourish at the cost of the poor labourer, at the cost of illiterate people who go about for passport from one door to another and eventually fall prey to them. So, I will urge upon the hon. Minister to give his serious thought to these constructive proposals that I have put forth and I have no doubt that they shall receive his utmost consideration.

Thank you.

SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK
(Tamil Nadu) : Sir,
the entire gravamen of the Passports

(Amendment) Bill, 1978, is the enhancement of the fees for passport from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. The reasons for the increase in fees are stated to be the increase in cost of providing passport services in India, the increase in salaries and allowances of the personnel employed, increase in accommodation charges and increase in the cost of equipment. I do not for a moment like to dispute the rise in cost of services. The continuous rise in cost of living has hit every aspect of human activity very hard. There appears to be no respite from this onslaught on our slender resources. But at the same time, we have to bear in mind the conditions which have arisen, resulting in the efflux of a large number of our brothers and sisters, seeking better fortunes abroad. If you analyse a cross section of the people who require passports for going abroad, I am sure a bulk of them will be found hailing from the poor strata of society. They do not require these passports for going for a jaunt abroad. Hard economic conditions in their home country, non-availability of suitable jobs for the majority of the able-bodied and qualified people and desire to avail of every opportunity for making a living that the foreign countries offer ----- these are the basic factors impelling hundreds and thousands to leave their mother country. Is it not our duty to help these poor people by facilitating their journey abroad with all the means in our power? I do not think we are making a good start towards providing assistance to them, which they richly deserve, by increasing the passport fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. I would urge that a system of differential rates should be evolved, whereby the main burden of expenditure on the passport offices will fall on the affluent and the well-to-do who are going abroad. Of these, there are many, and even higher rates for passports can be charged, in such cases. But for those who go

job-seeking abroad for bare living human considerations demand that the rates charged are reasonable and do not add to the host of troubles which this class of people are already facing. We have to bear in mind while deciding about the schedule of fees, that the bulk of our foreign exchange reserves is accounted for by remittances from the humbler sections of people who constitute a majority. I would therefore, urge the hon'ble Minister even now to review the present schedule of fees which falls both on the rich and the poor alike.

It is the height of anomaly that the increased fees are operative even before the introduction of this Bill and parliamentary sanction has been taken for granted. The Bill seeks to give *ex-post-facto* sanction to the levy of increased charges. I do not consider this to be in keeping with the principles of equity. I would even suggest refund of the increased charges which have been levied before Parliament has given the approval.

Sir, the hon'ble Minister must be fully aware of the woes experienced by the passport applicants, especially those coming from the humbler sections of society. I have heard about hundreds of cases where the fate of the applicants is not known for a long long time, taking more than 6 months, why ever a year, for any decision thereon. You can appreciate the sense of gnawing uncertainty which corrodes the sensibilities of these people who are in a hurry to accept the work abroad. In these days of scientific advancement, modern methods of data-processing and improvement of vitality in administration, we are sorry to note the same sickening story of endless delay, added to which are

[Shrimati Noorjehan Razack]

methods, of clever corruption which j favour the applicant who knows how to pull wires and grease palms. Let it be said that these offices are ser-vie oriented in the true sense of the term and that there is not a single palm to be greased in that organisation.

Obviously, due to the growing demand of a vast number of people to go abroad for bare livelihood, the number of passport Offices in India is far too meagre to meet the rush. I would urge the Government to carry out quickly a phased programme of opening more offices throughout India, so that the service is available to all applicants within a convenient distance.

T need not recite in detail the untold hardships experienced by the poor people who fall a victim to unscrupulous travel agents who compel the applicants to pay exorbitantly to go abroad and these travel agents cheat men and women seeking jobs abroad by giving them, bogus travel documents. For example, a big group was arrested on arrr al in Tehran. They were trfed and jailed for entry without proper documents. The hon'ble Minister must be aware of these cases. His Ministry should not content itself with merely issuing passports. It should look at the human need behind 'every application.

By going deeper into the cases, it cm be found out whether the victims are being duped by the unscrupulous operators and manipulators.

" It can find out whether there are instances of collusion between unscrupulous persons in the office and the sharks outside. I have no doubt that if a team of motivated offi-

cers applies its nvnc to help the poor and devises a crash remedyj thousands of the poor, hungry aspirants for jobs overseas can be saved in time from the rapacity of the swindlers. The greatest help the passport office can give is to issue the passport within a specified time limit or to inform the applicant clearly and unambiguously what is wrong with his application.

Moreover, the Government must be aware of hundreds of cases where poor people ha^e been lured abroad where they find to their discomfiture and dismay that there are no jobs at all or they have to do menial work of a low character. Government must have made an anatomy anatomy study of such cases.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): [Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK :
Just two minutes, Sir, It is not high time for Government to come out with positive measures to prevent swindle of honest and poor citizens. I was also told that wo nen who are going ab-
I road for jobs are being sold in open market abroad and they are forced
I to live like slaves .In the light of widespread malpractices, the Central Government must cut out much of the red tape so as to save job-
I seekers from falling victims to
unscrupulous agents and at the same time encourage the extensive growth of responsible agencies to handle the mass of those wishing to go abroad in search of better prospects the Government must safeguard the interest of the citizens, both in the process of migration and also in ensuring that they get a fair deal when working abroad.

Sir, if I have been a bit emotional in what I have stated, it is because of

the moving accounts I have heard about the plight of passport applicants. Of course, there has been a great deal of improvement in the working of passport offices, but the improvement falls short of the dimensions and magnitude required to make these offices function with streamlined efficiency. Thank you.

SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE (West Bengal) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is a very simple Bill and there is very little scope for a long discussion. There is no sense in introducing this Bill in this House because this is a farce and a mockery of democracy.

Sir, the main thing of this Bill is to increase the passport fee from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50. But they have already started charging, long before, the enhanced fee. I myself had to pay Rs. 50 the other day. So what is the sense of introducing this Bill? Are you going to put this Bill into action with retrospective effect? Therefore, I do not understand the meaning of this Bill. Again, suppose this House does not O.K. this Bill, are you going to refund this balance of the money to the millions of applicants? Certainly not. What is the use of seeking the opinion of this House, I do not understand.

Sir, obviously, I am against increasing the fee for the passport. Let us see what it was earlier. From 1961 to 1971 it was only Rs. 15 and the passport was valid for three years. Since 1971 it was Rs. 25 and the passport was for five years. Now we are making it Rs. 50. Certainly, we are not going to make it valid for ten years. The period

remains the same. The hon'ble Minister has stated that there is a lot of increase in administrative cost. He says that they had to appoint 375 clerks and some officers for the administration. So the cost has increased. It is true. But from his own statement, I see that in 1975 there were 4.5 lakh passports. In 1976 their number was 5.70 lakhs. In 1976 it was 9 lakhs. From January to June 1978 it was 7 lakhs. By the end of the year they expect it to go up to 18 lakhs, if not 2 million. And 2.5 lakhs applications are still pending. So their income has increased more than four times. And what are you going to do with this extra income? I do not understand. They say the cost has increased. But the applicants have increased from 4 lakhs to 18 lakhs. This is very funny. So income is more than expenditure.

And who are the people who are going abroad? They are not the people of well-to-do classes. They are not going for sight seeing or visiting. Most of them, or a majority of them, are going out for seeking jobs. Many people of the minority communities are going there to the Middle Eastern or Arabian Countries to seek jobs. Many of them are poor people. As many of the speakers have already mentioned, they are poor people, artisans, workers and many ordinary middle class people going for seeking jobs. This is because of the deficiency of our own country. The unemployment problem is there. It cannot be solved because the fundamental principles of this Government are not far from those of the previous Government. So they are following the same policy. That is why millions of people who are not getting jobs here are trying to seek jobs anywhere. Why tax these poor people? My point is that if we increase the fee, it will only be taxing the poor people and the middle class people, those who are going abroad to seek jobs.

[Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee]

Now, regarding the administrative efficiency, as the hon. Minister has said, they are going to increase it. But how much of harassment is there to millions of people, we know. As many of my friends have already mentioned, the photos get lost, the affidavits are not traceable, the signatures do not tally—go back and come again. All these things are there. My own photos got lost in the Regional Passport Office. This is a copy of the letter that I have sent in protest. I gave Rs. 50 and sent the application on 21st July. Yesterday they said that my photos were lost and I should get 2 more photos. If this can happen to MPs, we can imagine what is happening to millions of people. This is the type of efficiency. This is one example of what is happening in the capital. One can well imagine what happens in other Regional Passport Offices. Many times it so happens that two photos are lost and people are required to get more photos of the same type. Many people made or buy four copies of a photo. Again they will have to go back. So much harassment is there. Similarly, for signatures, for affidavits, for other things. So the question of raising the standard of efficiency, is there. Merely by enhancing the fee the problem will not be solved. Neglect is there; inefficiency is there; corruption is there. Some of the travel agents and the passport agents are the centres of corruption and bribery. It is true that corruption has gone into the very roots of our society, from top to bottom, during the last three decades. It has increased so much that it is very difficult to catch it. You catch it here and there it goes. The Government has to do something to control these things and to check corruption. That is the main point.

There is one more point. Even if the signatures of a Member of Parliament are there, police verification is there and there is harass-

ment. This must be stopped. Again, as others have mentioned, MLAs should also be authorised to sign the passport application forms. I think this should be done because they know the people and they are very close to the people. If MPs can sign, why can't MLAs do so?

These are the main points on which I wanted to invite the Minister's attention.

I do oppose the imposition of enhanced fee, which is already in existence.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Mr. Kesava Rao, would you like to speak on your amendment or _____?

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh) : On amendment also I will speak. On that, I will speak at that stage.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): You speak this time on the amendment also.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : I do not understand why I get the last chance and why I get only two or three minutes. I do not understand this policy. Everybody is getting 10 minutes. The last time also I was not given full time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : You will get full time. What I request is that you speak at your amendment stage, not this time.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : This is not good, I should say. This is really partial. You were in the chair. I cut my time. You went on ringing the bell.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Why should we not extend the time allotted for this Bill?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : All Members will be accommodated.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY :
Why should the time not be extended? Instead of two hours, let us have two more hours for this important Bill. Half an hour is more. How can you accommodate all the Members ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : We can extend the time a little. The Business Advisory Committee, in its wisdom, has allotted two hours. All the parties were represented. They knew the importance of the Bill. We have by and large to abide by the decision of the Business Advisory Committee. You may take some more time, but not two hours. All the speakers will be covered. Kindly co-operate.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: Sir, I would like to point out that the figures given by the Hon. Deputy Minister, are correct. The Minister for External Affairs deserves congratulations because the number of passports issued has increased from 4.5 lakhs in 1975 to 18 lakhs. It is really a good number. For the procedure he has adopted, for regularising the procedure, he really deserves congratulations.

As regards issue of the passports in 35 days he was telling, I think that this is a long period.

Sir, in one case which I came across, I know, two friends of mine had sent two applications on the same day. They got receipts for the applications and also for their money they sent. I actually went there after 15 days. One application was missing from the Department. Then they searched it for two days but they could

not find it out. One was there. The same day the two applications were sent, the receipts were there and one was missing. So, something is going wrong in the Regional Passport Office in Delhi. That has to be checked up.

Another thing is, Sir, that especially in the States it is very difficult to get a passport within three or four months. It is not so easy to get it within 35 days. The application has to go to the Collector and from there to the Passport Office, and unless somebody goes to the Passport Office, it will not be sent. They take lot of time there. So, this time should be cut. I request the Minister to see that this time between the date of application and the date of receiving the passport should not be more than a fortnight. In any case, they can issue within a fortnight. They would not take more than half an hour or an hour to write down the passport, and an officer will take only three minutes to sign it. So, 15 days are enough; 35 days are not necessary.

Another thing is, Sir, that in almost all the States there are no Passport Offices. Even now the people from Andhra Pradesh, I think, have to go to Madras for the passports. So, the delay is there. That delay should be curtailed. Every State capital should have a Passport Office so that the people can be issued passports early.

Regarding the increase in the application fee, I would like to say that from India generally unemployed people and labourers are going to foreign countries so that they can earn some money. A fee of fifty rupees is too much for them. "Mostly labourers are retarded and they do not have money even for eating two times a day. For such people, a fee of fifty rupees is too much. I do not understand

JXShri V.C. Kesava-Rao]

ft. Th? hon. Minister has said that they would be issuing about 18 lakh passports this year. So the income will be about Rs. 9 crores. So from Rs. 1 crore the income has gone up to Rs. 9 crores. I do not know whether the Government is so poor that money should be taken from the poor people. The poor people who go out a? labourers cannot afford to pay Rs. 50. Of course, the rich people, the smugglers or the business people can pay Rs. 50, but the labourer who goes there to do some labour work will not be able to pay fifty rupees. So, that is why...

SHRI PREM M\NOHAR (Uttar Pradesh): If they can pay the air fare, can't they pay fifty rupees?

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: The contractors will pay it and the people after earning...

"SHRI PREM M\NOHAR: True airfare is in thousands of rupees.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : Another thing is, issuing of passports has been liberalised. But it has come to my notice that there is restriction on giving "no objection" certificates for certain people to go to certain countries. I do not understand this. We are sending these people only to the friendly countries. Then why are "no objection" certificates not issued in the case of some people going to Iraq? Very recently a case came to my notice. A doctor got a job in Iraq and he wanted to go there. But I found out from the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms that the "no objection" certificate would not be issued to him. I do not understand. I found out from the Iraqi Embassy here that many people are going from India to Iraq. I think there is something wrong going on in the department. They are allowing certain people and they are not allowing certain other people. I do not know why

you are stopping those people who try and get some jobs there. You are not able to give them jobs here. A doctor whom (I know, a postgraduate in medicine, was there without any job for eight years. He might have spent a lakh or two lakhs of rupees to study medicine. Such a man who has no job for eight years, somehow or other gets a job in some other country and I do not know why you are stopping him. I do not know why you are not going to issue a "no objection" certificate. I request the hon. Minister to examine this matter, particularly in regard to those countries where people are willing to go, and especially Iraq!

Sir, another point that I want to raise here is about the signing of the passport applications. Now, Members of Parliament can sign the application. But it is not possible for ordinary people to get a Member of Parliament to sign. That is why I want that all MLAs, Panchayat Samiti Presidents and Municipal Council Chairmen should be allowed to sign the passport applications because they are also elected members and they are within the reach of ordinary people. So it will be very easy for them to take their signatures. Otherwise most of the Members of Parliament are here for three or four months in a year and they will not be able to sign. So we must liberalise this also. Also those people, especially the unemployed people, will not be able to spend money and go to distant places to take the signatures of Members of Parliament.

Sir, as regards the passport fee, I would once again request the hon. Minister to see that the fee is reduced to a certain extent at least. If they are in need of money, they may reduce it to, say, Rs. 30 or Rs. 40, but it should not be fifty rupees. Fifty rupees is too much. So I would request the Minister to consider a reduction in the application fee. Thank you.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जनता सरकार ने पासपोर्ट देने के लिए नियमों को लिबरलाइज किया है, यह काबिले धन्यवाद है। इन्होंने एम० पी० को भी अधिकार दे दिया है कि वे सर्टिफाई करें, अटैस्ट करें। लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि एम० पी० जब कर सकते हैं तो एक्स एम० पी० क्यों नहीं कर सकते हैं। आप उदार होते हैं तो एक्स एम० पी० को भी क्यों नहीं दस्तखत करने का अधिकार दें। क्या एक्स एम० पी० दस्तखत करना नहीं जानता? एम० पी० दिल्ली में रहता है, उसको पकड़ने में आसानी होगी तो एक्स एम० पी० को पकड़ने में दिक्कत होगी? हम लोगों का तमाम हुलिया सरकार के पास रहता है। अगर आप उदार बनते हैं तो एक्स एम० पी० को भी अलाऊ करें। एम० एल० ए० को अधिकार देने का जो सुझाव आया है उसका मैं समर्थन करता हूँ।

आप उदार होते हैं तो जब विदेशों के साथ, अपने पड़ोसियों के साथ, हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के बीच में पासपोर्ट के लिए लिबरलाइजेशन की बात रखें, उसको आप बिल्कुल आसान ही कर दें या पासपोर्ट ही नहीं रखें तो ज्यादा आप अपने सम्बन्धों को नार्मलाइज करेंगे। जो नोटिड सबये हैं, जो श्रीलंका और पाकिस्तान जाते हैं या बर्मा जाते हैं, हमारा जो सम्बन्ध रहा है उसको देखते हुए यदि उसके लिए भी आप पासपोर्ट की छूट दें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

तीसरी बात इस बिल में रीजनल आफिस जहां नहीं है वहां आफिसेज बनाने की है। आप रीजनल आफिस खोलने जा रहे हैं। जैसे बिहार कलकत्ता से कण्ट्रोल होता है तो फिर सब रीजनल आफिस खोलने जा रहे हैं तो क्यों नहीं आप उसको स्टेटवाइज करते हैं। बिहार फिर बंगाल या उड़ीसा के साथ रहेगा। क्यों नहीं स्टेटवाइज करके ज्यादा डिसेंट्रलाइज कर देते? मेरा सुझाव है कि आप स्टेटवाइज इनको बनाइये।

चौथी बात फीस के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। आपने 25 से 50 रु० फीस कर दी। जो राज्य मंत्री ने तर्क दिया है उसको बढ़ाने का वह बहुत ही बचकाना जवाब है। उन्होंने कहा है कि इसमें रजिस्ट्रेशन फीस जो पासपोर्ट भेजने में लगती है वह भी इनक्लूडेड है इस 50 रुपये में। पहले जो पासपोर्ट मिलता था वह रजिस्ट्रेशन से भेजा जाता था और फीस में उसको अलग से नहीं देना पड़ता था। 1946 में मैंने पहली दफा पासपोर्ट लिया अंग्रेजों के जमाने में। रजिस्ट्री से पासपोर्ट भेजा गया था, मुझे कुछ नहीं देना पड़ा। यह आपकी कार्यवाही में इनक्लूडेड है जो किसी को भेजते हैं तो यह दलील देना कि रजिस्ट्रेशन भी उसमें इनक्लूडेड है, यह कहना ठीक नहीं है।

दूसरी बात इसमें कम्यूटेशन की है। पहले 3 साल का होता था और 15 रुपया लिया जाता था, तब फिर 5 साल का 25 रुपया हुआ। हम अब 10 रुपये साल के हिसाब से 50 रुपया ले रहे हैं। ऐसा ऐक्स-प्लेनशन यह है कि यदि मैं 500 रुपये दे दूँ तो क्या 50 साल के लिए पासपोर्ट दूँगे? 10 रुपया प्रति साल के हिसाब से 500 रुपया हुआ। तो कहने का मतलब यह है कि फीस को ऐक्सटेंड किया जाता है वह कह कर कि रजिस्ट्रेशन का फीस इसमें इनक्लूडेड है और कम्यूटेशन जो रखा है वह 10 रुपये प्रति साल के हिसाब से था यह बचकाना दलील मालूम होती है।

पाँचवीं बात पासपोर्ट होल्डर्स जो जाते हैं वह लेबरर्स और वर्कर्स जाते हैं, यह सही नहीं है। विद्यार्थी भी जाते हैं। आपकी नीति है घर से वे पैसा मंगायें। आप विद्यार्थी जो पासपोर्ट होल्डर्स होते हैं, जिनकी आर्थिक दिक्कत होती है उनके लिए फण्ड तैयार करें। उनको तरीके से आप समझायें। आप उनको जबर्दस्ती रिपट्रियेशन करते हैं। आपकी ड्यूटी हो जाती है। लेकिन आपके पास फण्ड नहीं है। इसलिए सरकार को मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि उनके लिए एक फण्ड क्रियेट

[श्री शिव चन्द्र झा]

करे। मैं अमेरिका सरकार से भी लड़ा। मैं गिरफ्तार भी किया गया फिर मैं कैसे लड़ा अमेरिकी सरकार से। आखिर मुझ को पैसे का इन्तजाम करना पड़ा। यह सन 55 की बात है। मेरे पास फण्ड नहीं था। लन्दन हाई कमिश्नर से भी बातचीत की और भारत सरकार से भी बातचीत की लेकिन फण्ड नहीं मिला। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से कहूंगा कि आप जनता के आदमी हैं। आप एक ऐसा फण्ड तैयार करे कि जो विद्यार्थी पासपोर्ट होल्डर्स हैं और आर्थिक दिक्कतों में पड़ जाते हैं उनकी मदद आप उस फण्ड से करें। ऐसी व्यवस्था आप पासपोर्ट विधेयक में करें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

आखिरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सही है कि श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी को पासपोर्ट देने के लिये सब क्लीयरेंस हो गया है और आप उनको पासपोर्ट देने जा रहे हैं? इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूँ।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Minister of State for External Affairs should have brought in a comprehensive Bill in regard to passports. He referred to the 1922 Emigration Act which was passed by the Britishers when we were not independent. It was a retrograde Act. The Minister should have brought forward a more comprehensive Bill with regard to passports.

Secondly, he did not make out a case for increasing the fee of Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/-. According to the Ministry's report for 1977-78, their income from passport offices during 1976 was Rs. 213 lakhs and expenditure Rs. 61 lakhs resulting in a saving of Rs. 152 lakhs. In 1977 the income was Rs. 346.79 lakhs, expenditure Rs. 104.20 and the saving was Rs. 242.59 lakhs. There-

fore, the Minister did not make out a case for increasing the fee to Rs. 50/-. Of course, he said that the accommodation in the offices has been increased and more offices are being opened. It is all true. It is also true that they have simplified the procedure. More passports have been issued than before and now passport application forms are available in post offices and Members of Parliament are allowed to verify the passport applications. Many hon. Members have said that MLAs and MLCs and other elected representatives of the people should also be allowed to verify passport applications. This will further simplify the procedure. I hope the Minister will agree to that.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, in U.K. passports are issued for ten years at a time. If we copy that system, much of the processing work can be reduced and the cost of issuing passports will also be diminished. I would urge the Government to increase the period to ten years.

There is more room for decentralisation in the matter of issuing passports. Now passport offices are being opened and there is a demand that every State capital should have a passport office. I welcome that suggestion. I have been pressing the Ministry for that. I want to make a suggestion in this connection. For issuing Indo-Bangladesh passports, the Central Government have authorised the State Governments and Chief Secretaries to issue these passports. Similarly, it should not be necessary that the passports should be issued only by the regional passport offices of the Government of India. The Chief Secretaries or the District Magistrates or the District Collectors in the districts can be authorised by the various State Governments who in turn can be authorised by the Government of India to issue passports. That is

what is being done in the case of Indo-Bangladesh passports.

Sir, there is another point which I would like to state and it is this that the fees for passports to Bangladesh, though the visit to Bangladesh may be for a limited purpose, are less. Similarly, for passports to Pakistan also, the fees that are to be charged should be less and the visa system that is now prevalent between India and Pakistan and between India and Bangladesh should be done away with. Formerly, we were all in one country and there should, therefore, be more free movement of the people of these three countries and now that we have very friendly relations with Pakistan and Bangladesh, whatever irritants are there should be removed.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : The people who came from Bangladesh without passports have been pushed back by the BSF.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: And, Sir, this visa system should be abolished and there should be free movement of the people of these three countries. I would also like to point out another thing. When an Indian goes out of India, particularly to West Germany for three months, he need not have a visa to go to West Germany. But in the case of the Commonwealth countries, with whom we have very friendly relations and very good links, they are insisting on visas. If you want to go to London, you must have an entry permit. Our former Minister, Mr. D. P. Chattopadhyaya, had to face a very awkward situation at the London airport. A Minister of that time, a Minister of the Government of India, was not allowed to land at the London airport and he was not allowed to go to London. Later on, Sir, somebody prevailed upon the authorities there and then only he was allowed to proceed. I would

like to ask why this system should be there when we are in the Commonwealth. This system of entry permit to go to London should be done away with and the Commonwealth citizens should be able to go to any other Commonwealth country without any visa.

Then, Sir, about our Consular Departments in our Mission abroad there are many complaints and one is that whenever Indians go there for extension or renewal of their passports, it is not done easily. In fact, Sir, I came to know the other day of a case of this nature. I came to know that Mr. Bala Pazhanoor, a leader of the AIADMK in the Lok Sabha, was refused the renewal of his passport in Singapore. I really cannot understand how an Indian Mission in Singapore can refuse to renew the passport of an MP and I understand he had to come back to India to get his passport renewed. This should not happen. I am sure the External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State will pull up our Missions abroad so that they will be more considerate and more helpful to those Indians who want to come back to India or who want to have their passports extended.

Sir, whenever a foreigner wants to visit India, there are always some hurdles or some difficulties which are created by our Missions while issuing the visas and they issue visas only for a very limited period. And, Sir, when a person from a friendly country wants to come to India for the purpose of his children's education, the extension of the visa of such persons has become very difficult. The Home Ministry in New Delhi is in charge of extension of visas or issue of visas. That should be done away with. The External Affairs Ministry should be in charge of the new work of extension or issue of visas normally because they

[Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy]

know the persons and they know the countries and not the Home Ministry people. It is the External Affairs Ministry which is in charge of external affairs, and therefore, it is the Ministry Which should be rightly in charge of issuing the visas or extension of visas. It has come to my knowledge that in a particular case, where an Indian got married to a lalien, his wife got an Indian passport. Later on, a daughter was born in another country, in Kenya, and she came to India with her parents as an infant. Now, that girl has grown up and she is 18 years old and when she applies for passport, it is not allowed and it has been denied to her in Bombay.

Parents are Indians. It is a fact that she was born in a foreign country. But she has been living in India for the last 18 years. The request for a passport has been refused. This should be rectified. These are cases which should be expeditiously dealt with.

Another point I would like to place before you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, is a one connected with a case where a girl wants to change the status of the passport. When she got the passport, she was a maiden, and when she gets married, this marital status should be mentioned in the passport. Why should there be so much time required for making this small variation in the passport ? An officer in Ahmedabad Passport Office said that it would require at least six weeks for a variation of this kind in the passport. These are small things which should be looked into.

Mr. Kundu has done very well in this Department after he took over. He was telling us that within 35 days an application is made, the passport will be made. It is too long a period.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: Yes.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY)

When people want to go abroad to get jobs, not in thousands but in lakhs for seeking jobs which are nowadays easily available for engineers, for doctors, for technicians, for skilled and unskilled workers, particularly in Gulf countries and other West Asian countries, the period tha*- is taken for issuing the passport should be reduced. You must have modern gadgets. In America, I understand, one can get a passport within a day or two. Why should we take 35 days to issue a passport here ? Many Members have already complained that this is only a pious wish of the Minister. The period that is usually taken is four or five or six months. We have brought such instances to your notice. We have a Regional Passport Office in Madras ; Mr. Das is there. He has replied promptly to my letters and attended to matters. I am glad there is a Passport Office in Bangalore which the Foreign Minister visited during his last visit there. It is a very good place, and the Passport Officer is seeing to it that passports are issued within ten days. In Assam, I understand, the position is very bad. There they take a very long time. Why should that happen ? If it is decentralised, if the State Government officers are authorised to issue passports, this complaint will not be there and within a week or ten days a passport can be issued.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, in 1967 when the Passport Act was passed, an Ordinance was issued. If the same procedure had taken place in this case, much of the criticism would not have been made. If the Ordinance was issued, there would not have been criticism at all. I do not know why the legal department in his Ministry or the Law

Ministry did not advise them to issue an Ordinance in order that such criticism would have been avoided ----- (Time Bell).

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am finishing. Sir, the Passport Act rules are framed for implementing the purposes of this Act. This Passport Act, which is being amended now, was passed in 1967. Since then, the rules framed under this Act in 1967 have been amended 24 times. I do not know why these rules have not been consolidated and issued as one rule under the Passport Act. After this Bill is passed, I think they will have to issue fresh notification regarding rules. I believe that they will issue consolidated rules under the Act that is going to be passed. Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Kundu have done their best to simplify the procedures, to reduce the time required for the issue of passports and I am sure that they will take further steps to decentralise the whole procedure and to have modern gadgets so that a passport is issued within a week and, if possible, within a day or two as is done in America.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very glad to say that the procedure for getting a passport is being liberalised after Mr. Vajpayee's becoming the Foreign Minister and there is a general approval from this House, even, from the Congress (I) Member, Mr. Kalp Nath Rai. He also complimented Mr. Vajpayee. I am glad to note that. The passport fee has been raised to Rs. 50. Some Members of this House op-nosed that. I feel that the fee of Rs. 50;- for getting a passport is not much. It does not affect the common man as is being made off*. My State is Kerala State from where not only thousands but lakhs of people apply for passports and they are

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getting them in due course of time. It may be that it is too much for some people. But by and large, people accept it. At the same time they want to see that they get the passport as quicker as possible. They do not grudge these Rs. 50/-. But when they go to the Passport Office from morning till evening they do not get any facilities there. There are no facilities to sit. There is no drinking water also, as was stated by Mrs. Leela Damodara Menon. These facilities should be provided. I know it may not be possible to do these things immediately because some of the offices have been opened recently. Mr. Kundu came to Calicut and he inaugurated an office there. We are thankful to both the Ministers of Foreign Affairs for establishing an additional office in Kerala State. Apart from having one in Ernakulam, we have one in Calicut now in order to speed up the work of issuing passports. I hope further facilities will be provided....

Mr. KALYAN ROY : More office in Kerala.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : It is because more people from Kerala are going abroad. The Members of Parliament have been given the right to sign the verification certificate. But there is one clause saying 'he is financially sound to the best of my knowledge'. Well, if people are financially sound, why should thousands of people go abroad ? I feel that that clause is unnecessary.

We are asked to sign whether we know the man is financially sound or not. How could you find that a man is financially sound or not. If he is financially sound, why should he go abroad, whether he is a teacher or a carpenter or a driver or a fitter ? You cannot say whether he is financially sound or not. This clause is unnecessary and this may be

[Shri Hamid Schamnad]

deleted. As far as I am concerned, I have signed thousands of applications from Calicut, Cochin, Mala-puram and from different parts of Kerala. And I can only say, to *he best of mv ability, because it is not possible for a Member of Parliament to know all the people who come to him. Sometimes you might have seen the person somewhere or some-bo iy may bring him to you. Here, the power is given to the Members of Parliament. This power should be given to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, at least to sign the verification certificates in their respective States. I don't say the MLA could sign for the whole of India. At least, he should be able to sign for his constituency. To that extent, they will lessen the work of the Member of Parliament, and the possibility of omissions will be less. That asoect should be considered by the Ministry.

With feqrard to immigration. Sir, a lot of difficulties are being faced, specially by the workers of Kerala. They get the passports to TO either to Muscat or Bahrain or Dubai or Abu Dhabi. They get the visas also. Even though they get the visas from the proper authorities, very often they are held up at the Bombay airport by the Immigration authorities on the ground that there is some flaw somewhere or that the passport is not genuine or that the person must get a letter from the spoasor. In many cases, these people are harassed. I know that Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 or Rs. TOOO are given to the Immigration officers and all these things are overlooked and they are sent abroad. This sort of difficulty is being faced at the Tri-vandrum airport and also at the Bombay airoort. This asoect mav please be looked into. I know that the Minister is good enough to libra-Use many of the immigration rules. This sort of experience is still there. I know that some people

who went to Muscat some time back had to be repatriated because of some difficulties there. But that does not mean, all the people who are going abroad are of the same type. Recently, there was a trouble in Kuwait. The trouble was not because of the Kuwait Government but it was because of our Indians only. In Kuwait an unskilled worker, a coolie gets 5 and a half dinars, that is Rs. 150/- whereas the workers of an Indian construction, company sponsored by the Government of India, get only one and a half dinars, that is just Rs. 40. The Kuwait Government givesfthe construction company Rs. 150 a day for an unskilled worker. But these people pocket it and give only Rs. 40 to an unskilled worker. Therefore, we must tackle that problem in India only. You should not give licences to such construction companies to take up construction work there.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Rs. 40 should be increased to Rs. 51.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Sir, what I say i s that the middlemen should be 6 PM eliminated. With regard to other matters, I say that immigration difficulties are there and those should be liberalised. I once again congratulate *he Minister of External Affairs for having liberalised the procedure for issuing of passports.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : So that income-tax evaders can go abroad.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Of course, income-tax evaders, smugglers and such other offenders should not be allowed to go. I am one with you in all that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Sir, it is already 6 o'clock and we have got some other business.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : If the House agrees, we can sit a little longer and take up that business after passing this Bill.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उपसभापति जी, मैं अधिक समय नहीं लूंगा। मैं माननीय सदस्यों के इस सुझाव का स्वागत करता हूँ...

श्री अरविन्द गणेश कुलकर्णी : हमें भी डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट दे दीजिये।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : ... कि बरिफाई करने का अधिकार जो अभी तक पार्लियामेंट के मम्बरों को है वह अधिकार एम० एल० ए०, एम० एल० सीज० और मेट्रोपोलिटन कौन्सिलर जो दिल्ली में विधान सभा की जगह काम कर रही है, उसके सदस्यों को भी दे दिया जाए। अभी हम दूसरा कदम उठा रहे हैं। यह देखते हैं कि किस तरह से व्यवहार में आता है। आवश्यकता होगी तो तीसरा कदम भी उठाया जा सकता है।

उपसभापति जी, यह भी सुझाव आया है कि पार्लियामेंट के सभी मम्बरों को डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट दे दिया जाए। यह सुझाव नया सुझाव है। नई सरकार के सामने आया है? मैं पार्लियामेंट में पिछले बीस सालों से हूँ, मगर मुझे कभी डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट नहीं मिला सिवा इसके कि जब मैं किसी पार्लियामेन्ट्री डेलीगेशन में गया।

डा० रफीक जकारिया (महाराष्ट्र) : मेरा प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है। यह नया सुझाव अभी नहीं आया है। दो महीने हुए जब प्रश्न पूछा गया था, कई किस्म के सर्जेशन्स रखे गये थे। आपने हाँ या न कुछ नहीं कहा जब मैंने डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट के बारे में कहा था।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : You have already given an assurance.

श्री उपसभापति : आपका प्रश्न स्पष्ट है। कोई प्वाइन्ट आफ आर्डर नहीं था। (व्यवधान) ...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उपसभापति जी, इस सुझाव पर हम विचार करने के लिये तैयार हैं। वैसे हमने अभी यह फैसला कर लिया है कि जो पार्लियामेंट के मम्बर एक्सटर्नल एफेअर्ज मिनिस्ट्री से जुड़ी हुई कन्सल्टेटिव कमेटी के मम्बर होंगे, उन्हें डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट दिया जायगा। (व्यवधान)

SHRI KALYAN ROY : No, no.

SOME HON. MEMBER : No, not at all.

SHRIMATI NOORJEHAN RAZACK : No, we do not agree with that.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : How do you consider other Ministries subordinate to the Foreign Ministry ?

डा० रफीक जकारिया : इस किस्म का डिस्टिक्शन आप मम्बरों में नहीं कर सकते।

श्री नत्थी सिंह : (राजस्थान) इस तरह का डिस्टिक्शन वाजपेयी जी को कभी नहीं करना चाहिये।

SHRI N. G. RANGA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my hon. friend, Mr. Vajpayee, is noted for his resilience and his readiness to respond to public opinion and public opinion, especially in Parliament, is a damsel, which he should court with great care and assiduity. He can see now how the House has reacted to his suggestion. It was a very unwise suggestion. Do not give any passports to any Members of Parliament as such, if you do not want to give them the special privilege. But if you wish to give diplomatic people

[Shri N. G. Ranga] only to those Members of Parliament who belong to your Ministry's Consultative Committee, please for God's sake, drop the idea; otherwise all Members of Parliament should be entitled to the diplomatic passport.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैं सदन की भावनाओं की कद्र करता हूँ। पार्लियामेंट के सभी मम्बरों को डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट देने का हम फैसला करेंगे। मैं इस ब्यौरे में नहीं जाना चाहता कि पासपोर्ट देने की फीस को बढ़ाने का फैसला क्यों किया गया है? हमने हिस्सा लगा कर देखा है कि 45 रु० के करीब हमारा खर्चा पड़ता है। अभी तक डाक से पासपोर्ट भेजने के लिये साढ़े तीन रु० ऊपर से लिए जाते हैं। 50 रु० फीस होने के बाद डाक खर्च नहीं लिया जाएगा। हम अपने खर्च से पासपोर्ट, जहाँ जिस पते पर आवश्यक होगा, भेजेंगे। पासपोर्ट की बढ़ाने का फैसला कोई पहली बार नहीं किया गया है...

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा (बिहार): नहीं, नहीं, आगे भी हुआ है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मुझे कुछ माननीय सदस्यों के भाषण सुनकर बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ है... (Interruptions)
पहले पासपोर्ट की 15 रु० थी...

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : That was for three years, and now Rs. 25 are for five years.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : फिर 1971 में फीस बढ़ायी गयी, 15 रु० से 25 रु० की गई और उसको 5 साल के लिए किया गया। अगर सदन के सदस्यों का सुझाव हो तो हम 10 साल के लिए पासपोर्ट करने के लिए तैयार हैं। लेकिन यह कहना कि यह जनता-विरोधी कदम है, यह जरा अतिशयोक्ति है।

श्री अरविन्द गजेश कुलकर्णी (महाराष्ट्र): अरे भाई, पोलिटिकल है। उसमें क्या है?

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON : In case of those who have already been given the passport for 5 years, will they again have to pay Rs. 50 ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
That will be without any extra fee.

डा० रफीक जकरीया : आज आप बहुत जेनरस मूड में हैं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : आज 9 अगस्त है।

श्री रबी राय (उड़ीसा) : आज क्रान्ति दिवस है...

श्री भीष्म नारायण सिंह (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हम लोगों की मांग का प्रभाव है—सेव्ह इण्डिया डे का प्रभाव लग रहा है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उनसे कहिए, राजनैतिक विवाद की बात न करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, एक सुझाव आया है कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को अभी जो वैरिफिकेशन... (Interruptions)
...सर्टिफिकेट देना पड़ता है उसमें लिखना पड़ता है :

I hereby certify that I have known
Shri/Shrimati/Kumari
...son/wife/daughter of... for more than 2
years.

अब, कुछ मेम्बरों को इसमें शिकायत है। वह शिकायत उचित है कि जो जानते नहीं हैं या जिन्हें अभी चुने हुए 2 साल नहीं हुए वे किस तरह से 2 साल के लिए प्रमाण-पत्र दे सकते हैं। तो हम इसमें भी संशोधन करने के बारे में विचार कर रहे हैं और एक सुझाव हमारे विचाराधीन है। उसकी शब्दावली इस प्रकार है, उसका अन्तिम रूप हम बाद में देंगे :

I hereby certify that I have satisfied myself that the particulars in the above application for a passport furnished by _____ are correct.

I regard the applicant to be a suitable person to be consider for issue of a passport. I have satisfied myself that the applicant is a citizen of India.

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक बात है फाइनेनशियल गारण्टी के सम्बन्ध में...

श्री भुरेन्द्र मोहन (उत्तर प्रदेश) : इससे पहले मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ, इसके बावजूद कि हम लोग यह टेस्टिफाई करते रहे हैं, पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर के तौर पर, इंटेलिजेंस की इक्वायरी भी चलती है, तो क्या यह चलता रहेगा ?

श्री मनुमाई पटेल (गुजरात) : यही नहीं बोधारा हमारे पास भेजते हैं, हमारे पोस्टल एक्सप्रेसेज बड़ जाते हैं, दुबारा भेजते हैं फिर हम सर्टिफाई करते हैं हाँ, हमने इस पर सिग्नेचर किया था। अब पासपोर्ट दोजिए।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी जब हमने माननीय संसद सदस्यों को अधिकार दिया वेरीफाई करने का तो हमें इस बात की आशंका थी कि कुछ लोग संसद सदस्यों के जाली हस्ताक्षर बनाना न शुरू कर दें और इस तरह की कुछ घटनाएँ हमारे ध्यान में आयी हैं और इसलिये हमने यह सावधानी बरती थी। लेकिन अब आम तौर पर अगर पासपोर्ट के लिये दिये गये फार्म को देख कर कोई शक नहीं होता और हमने सब के स्पेसिमेन सिग्नेचर्स पासपोर्ट आफिसों में दे रखे हैं, उसका प्रबन्ध किया है तो उसको मिला कर वे देख सकते हैं, तो उसमें आगे की कार्यवाही की जाती है। लेकिन अगर अभी भी सन्देह हो तो एक आध मामले में पूछताछ की जा सकती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि उसमें किसी को शिकायत नहीं होनी चाहिए।

जहाँ तक पुलिस वेरीफिकेशन का सवाल है, वह इसलिये किया जाता है कि पासपोर्ट माँगने वाला व्यक्ति भारत का नागरिक है या नहीं है। और दूसरे यह कि उसके खिलाफ

कोई क्रिमिनल केस है या नहीं। अभी हमारे कल्याण राय जी शिकायत कर रहे थे। मैं एक एक मामले में तो नहीं जा सकता, लेकिन मैं उन्हें बताना चाहता हूँ कि बम्बई के सेक्टर को छोड़ कर अभी तक हमने 138 लोगों के पासपोर्ट इम्पाउन्ड किये हैं और उनमें राजनीतिक लोग नहीं हैं।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI : Including those big houses or what ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उसमें अधिकांश लोग ऐसे हैं कि जिनके खिलाफ अदालतों में मामले चल रहे हैं। लेकिन अब मूल अधिकारों की वापसी के बाद ऐसे लोग भी अदालतों में जाकर एक निश्चित अवधि के लिये पासपोर्ट प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। सरकार उसमें रुकावट नहीं डाल सकती। अदालत के फैसले के सामने सिर झुकाना हमारा कर्तव्य है। लेकिन जहाँ अदालतों में क्रिमिनल केसेज हैं वहाँ हम पासपोर्ट रोकने की कोशिश करते हैं। उसमें अधिकतर स्मलगर्स हैं जिन्होंने टेक्सों की चोरी की है और जिनके खिलाफ अदालतों में मामले चल रहे हैं। लेकिन खाली जांच पड़ताल काफी नहीं है।

SHRI KALYAN ROY : Mr. Vajpayee, I have mentioned the names of persons belonging to big houses in regard to whom show-cause notices have been issued and charge-sheets have been framed. Why have they been allowed to go at road in order to clean up their things ? They have been charged for violation of foreign exchange regulations. Why should they be allowed to go abroad ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I have to go according to the provisions of the Passports Act of 1967, which clearly lays down, I would like to quote.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : How have you permitted them to go abroad ? There is the case of Mr. Goenka. I have mentioned the names.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If there are any criminal cases pending in the courts, the Government is authorised to withhold the passport, otherwise, not. There are cases in which the courts have allowed passports for a limited period even though there are cases pending in the courts. Therefore, we have to be careful. I entirely agree that this liberalisation should not come in handy for those who have indulged in anti-social activities. But there are limitations and we have to function within this framework.

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, श्री कल्याण राय ने पश्चिम बंगाल के मंत्री और त्रिपुरा के मंत्री का हवाला दिया कि जो हवाना के यूथ फेस्टिवल में जाना चाहते थे। हमने किसी को पासपोर्ट देने से मना नहीं किया। पुरानी सरकार एक फारेन कंट्रीव्यूशन रेगुलेशन ऐक्ट बना गयी है

श्री कल्याण राय : मेरा उसमें नोट आफ डिसेंट है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मेरा भी है। मगर तब मैं उधर था, अब इधर हूँ। अब जब तक वह ऐक्ट रद्द नहीं कर दिया जाता उसकी धाराओं के अनुसार तो चलना पड़ेगा। अगर हम किसी विदेश के आतिथ्य स्वीकार करते हैं तो फिर गृह मंत्रालय की अनुमति जरूरी है। लेकिन प्रधान मंत्री जी की राय यह है कि हमारे मंत्री अगर विदेशों में जायें तो उनको अपने खर्च से जाना चाहिए, किसी दूसरे देश के आतिथ्य को स्वीकार करके न जायें। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह फैसला देश की मर्यादा के अनुकूल है ।

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : लेकिन हास्पिटैलिटी एक्सचेंज होती है। आप दूसरे को देते हैं और वह आपको देते हैं किसी आर्गनाइजेशन के तौर पर, तो उसमें क्या होगा ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : वह तो हर मामले के गुण व दोष के आधार पर देखना पड़ेगा। संसद सदस्यों में यह आतिथ्य स्वतन्त्र रूप से चलता है। लेकिन मंत्री के बारे में अगर हम इस तरह की कोई मर्यादा कायम कर सकें कि हमारा मंत्री जाएगा तो हमारे खर्च से जाएगा। मंत्री जा रहे हैं, तो हमारे मंत्री किसी दूसरे के खर्च पर क्यों जाएं। यह किसी दल का प्रश्न नहीं है, यह देश के लिए ठीक है। इसलिए पश्चिमी बंगाल और त्रिपुरा के मंत्रियों के मामलों पर केन्द्र में विचार किया गया, तो वह पासपोर्ट को लेकर नहीं किया गया। मैं तो चाहता हूँ कि सचमुच में फारेन कंट्रीव्यूशन रेगुलेशन जो ऐक्ट है उस पर भी फिर से विचार किया जाना चाहिए। हम तो चाहते हैं कि भारतीय बड़ी संख्या में विदेशों में जायें। हम तो चाहते हैं कि हमारे नौजवान खाड़ी के देशों में फैलें, रोजगार के अवसर उपलब्ध करें। हम सबको यहाँ खपा नहीं सकते हैं। विदेशों में जाकर पसीना बहा कर अगर वह अपना पेट भर सकते हैं और थोड़ी-सी पूंजी स्वदेश को भेज सकते हैं तो इसको हम प्रोत्साहन देना चाहते हैं और इसीलिए हमने नियमों को नरम किया है। हम और भी नरम करने के पक्ष में हैं। मैं जानता हूँ कि कुछ फर्मों, कुछ एजेंट्स इस सुविधा का दुरुपयोग कर रहे हैं, लोगों को बहका कर रुपया ले लेते हैं, हवाई जहाज में भर कर भेज देते हैं। लोग सड़कों पर मारे मारे फिरते हैं। ऐसे सैकड़ों लोगों को हम अपने खर्च से हिन्दुस्तान में ला चुके हैं। अभी आपने दो दिन पहले पालम हवाई अड्डे की घटना पढ़ी होगी। काबुल लोग जा रहे हैं, ट्रिस्ट बीसा लेकर जा रहे हैं

लेकिन हमारे इमीग्रेशन आफिसर ने जाकर पूछा तो उनमें कोई ट्रस्टिस्ट नहीं है, गरीब लोग हैं, रोजगार का लालच देकर काबुल भेजे जा रहे हैं। उनको हवाई जहाज से उतार लिया गया। उन्होंने मेरे घर पर प्रदर्शन किया। आजकल मेरा घर भी प्रदर्शन का केन्द्र बन गया है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : दर्शन का था प्रदर्शन का ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : उन्हें जो ठेकेदार भेज रहे थे वह आये और कहा कि कबुल जाने का हमारे पास पासपोर्ट है, रिजर्व बैंक ने अनुमति दी है, आप कैसे रोक सकते हैं। मैं घर से बाहर निकल कर आया, उनमें दो लोग बिल्कुल गरीब थे, पहनने के लिए पुरे कपड़े नहीं थे। मैंने उनसे पूछा—क्या काबुल सैर के लिए जा रहे हैं ? तो उन्होंने कहा कि नहीं हम तो काम के लिए जा रहे हैं। अब काम के लिए वहां कोई प्रबंध नहीं है। हम चाहते हैं कि हमारे नौजवान हमारे कारीगर, हमारे बढ़ई, हमारे राज, हमारे इंजीनियर विदेशों में जायें और बड़ी संख्या में जायें, मगर एक निश्चय कर लें कि वहां उनके लिए काम है या नहीं, रहने का ठिकाना है या नहीं। मारे मारे न फिरे। जो एजेंसियां उनके पासपोर्ट कब्जे में ले लेती हैं उन एजेंसीस के खिलाफ हम कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं। हम तो चाहते हैं कि विदेशों में भेजने का काम जसे केरल ने एक कारपोरेशन बना कर किया है, उसी तरह का अन्य प्रदेश सरकारें भी करें, केन्द्र सरकार भी कर सकती है। उसमें जो गड़बड़ियां हो रही हैं, वह बन्द होनी चाहिए। इस बारे में हम कड़ी कार्यवाही करने के लिए तैयार हैं। मैं मानता हूं कि पासपोर्ट आफिस हमने नये खोले हैं, बंगलोर में आफिस खोल दिया, भोपाल में खोलने जा रहे हैं, जयपुर में खोलने जा रहे हैं, मिर्जापुर साहू चल गये, हमने लुधियाना और जालंधर में नये पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने का फैसला किया है।

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : बनारस में खोलिये।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : लखनऊ की भीड़ कम हो जाएगी भोपाल में आफिस खुलने पर। मुझे पता चला है कि लखनऊ में दूसरी मंजिल पर दफ्तर है। उसमें लोगों को तकलीफ है। हम बड़ा दफ्तर लेना चाहते हैं। हम सुविधायें बढ़ाना चाहते हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य : जम्मू-कश्मीर में क्या हुआ ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : जम्मू-काश्मीर में भी, उड़ीसा में भी, आसाम में भी, हर प्रदेश में पासपोर्ट आफिस खोलने का हमारा फैसला है। इस फैसले को हम जल्दी से जल्दी कार्यान्वित करना चाहते हैं। प्रारम्भिक तैयारियां जहां पूरी हो जाती हैं, वहां पासपोर्ट आफिस खुल जाता है।

श्रीमती मेनन ने मामला उठाया भीड़ है, क्यू लगानी पड़ती है। पीने के पानी का इंतजाम नहीं है। हम इन कठिनाइयों से अवगत हैं, इन कठिनाइयों को दूर करना चाहते हैं और मुझे विश्वास है सरकार इस दिशा में आगे बढ़ेगी।

पासपोर्ट के लिए जो आता है वह ऐसा न समझे कि सरकार उसके प्रति अहसान कर रही है पासपोर्ट देकर, सचमुच वह भारत का सम्मानित नागरिक है, उसके साथ अच्छा व्यवहार हो और 6 सप्ताह के भीतर उसको पासपोर्ट मिले, यह हम रा लक्ष्य है और हम इस लक्ष्य को पूरा करके दिखाना चाहते हैं। इस संबंध में थोड़ा-सा सुधार हुआ है और मैं मानता हूं कि और सुधार की गुंजाइश है और वह सुधार हम करेंगे।

और भी बहुत से प्रश्न उठाये गये हैं, मगर समय नहीं है, इसलिये उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं अपील करूंगा कि इस विधेयक को स्वीकार किया जाए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : The question is :

"That the Bill to amend the Passport Act, 1967 as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration." £s

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2—Amendment of section 5

We shall take up clause 2. There is one amendment by Shri Kesava Rao, Do you move it ?] gffgj

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO I No, Sir.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill. Clauses \$ to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to ikz Bill.

SHRI S. KUMDU : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill be passed." *The*

question was proposed.

श्री कल्प नाथ राय : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मुझे यह कहना है कि मैंने अपने भाषण में यह पूछा था कि विदेश मंत्री जी, भारत को भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री को पासपोर्ट क्यों नहीं दिया गया, जब कि आपने इसकी घोषणा की थी। मैं इस बारे में आपसे उत्तर चाहता हूँ।

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I just want to ask one or two things. One is that at the moment when you go for a passport application, you are supposed to pay the fee of Rs. 50 when you get the application. I think this is not fair. I would suggest that you change the procedure so that you have to pay Rs. 50 when you submit your application. Now you cannot get a form from the Passport Office unless you

pay the fee in advance and if you lose that form, or something goes wrong, you have to pay Rs. 50 again. I would request that you amend this procedure so that you pay Rs. 50 at the time of submission of form. I think when your fees have been increased, it is the right of every citizen of India to get at least an application form free, or by paying ten paise or whatever it is. This is a very difficult question because we pay Rs. 53 and if something goes wrong, we have to pay again to get the form. This is one thing.

The second thing I am requesting is that there be co-ordination between the Labour Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry, which we have been asking for, especially, from the Labour Ministry. Many of our people are going abroad on these job vouchers. Unless these job vouchers are verified by our Embassies abroad and you are satisfied that these job vouchers are genuine and valid, you should not get the passport. These people get some bogus racketeers to give them job vouchers they go there and are stranded. This is the second thing that I want to ask the Minister to consider.

And the third thing which I want to ask is, whether in view of what has been said by the Janata Government repeatedly about the improved relations with our immediate neighbours, would be consider the abolition of visas for visits to our immediately neighbouring countries on a reciprocal basis, to make it easier for people to visit each other.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : Sir, the policy of the Ministry is to liberalise the going of citizens outside India. Coming from Nagpur where we have been demanding a sub-regional office but the Minister has not been able to concede our demand. It is an area far away five hundred miles away from Bombay. This office can cover Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh area. May I know from the Minister whether he will

also make any arrangement for making passport application forms available through the Indian Airlines offices^v wherever they are located. Presently it takes a long time even to get a passport application form. Is it not possible for the hon'ble Minister to arrange for it with the postal authorities or from the Indian Airlines offices?

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : श्रीमन् मैं सिर्फ एक मुझाव मंत्री महोदय के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। सरकार ने पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों को यह अधिकार दिया है कि उनकी सिफारिश पर पासपोर्ट जारी हो सकता है। ऐसी स्थिति में जब किसी व्यक्ति का पासपोर्ट खो जाता है, खासतौर पर मैं पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों की बात करना चाहता हूँ, जब उनका पासपोर्ट खो जाता है तो अभी कायदा यह है कि पहले इस संबंध में पुलिस में एफ० आई० आर० दर्ज करानी पड़ती है और उस एफ० आई० आर० की कापी पासपोर्ट आफिस में देनी पड़ती है। उसके बाद नया पासपोर्ट इश्यू किया जाता है। मेरा कहना यह है कि जब आपने संसद-सदस्यों को इतना बड़ा अधिकार दे रखा है तो आप उनके इस डिक्लेरेशन को कि उनका पासपोर्ट खो गया है, मान लें और पासपोर्ट आफिस की तरफ से आप खुद ही नोटिफाई कर दें कि अमुक संसद सदस्य का पासपोर्ट खो गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस प्रकार की हालत में दूसरा पासपोर्ट इश्यू करने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं हो सकती है।

SHRI N. G. RANGA : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am glad my hon'ble friend, Mr. Vajpayee, has advisedly said that when anybody seeks to apply for a passport it should not be thought that this Government would be conferring a favour on him. I do not know why Mrs. Gandhi has cared to apply for a passport. I was wondering myself where was the need for her to apply for it because most

of the Ambassadors who are stationed here have given proof of the fact that they are keen on meeting her. Many of them think it an honour to have an opportunity of meeting her and discussing with her. Many journalists from all over the world, even from that part of the world where many of the newspapers have tried to state her as a *Bete de noir*, so many people are coming down here to this country including prominent journalists in order to ascertain her views and know her attitude towards this Government as well as the conditions of politics in this country. Therefore, there is no particular need why she should be asking for a passport, if it is only to expound her attitude, to express her views, in regard the Indian conditions as well as world conditions as they are today. Yet she has cared to ask for it. I do not know how my hon'ble friends had come to be so ill-advised as to deny her this privilege. It is a very unwise thing to have done that. The only explanation they seem to have given is that there are some cases pending against her. And, therefore, it could not be given. What are those cases? Not that she has stolen anybody's money, crores worth or lakhs worth or thousands of rupees worth. Not that she has committed any kind of murder or any such thing. Not that she has been condemned as a criminal. Of course, she has been summoned before some Commissions appointed by this Government for political purposes-

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
(SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : Please be brief.

SHRI N. G. RANGA : for whatever she is supposed to have done in their view during that particular period. Possibly some of them are very angry and unhappy because they were put into jail for 18 months by the Government over which she presided at that time.

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

There was a Government in England which put us in jail for years and years and years. But when the whole thing was over and we took over the Government we did not exhibit this spirit of vindictiveness.

And yet I do not know how my hon. friend could have agreed to the decision that she should not be given a passport. I cannot congratulate my hon. friend; nor can I congratulate this Government. I only bemoan the manner in which they have behaved. I wanted to say this thing because this is very relevant. I deemed relevant to discuss it by lodging this protest against the manner in which our friends have thought it fit to behave towards a person whom the country has held for n years as the Prime Minister—against whom I had also the honour along with my friend to fight while we were arraigned in the Opposition—and whose services to this country cannot be denied, cannot be blinded by any historian for years to come, for decades to come, and for centuries to come.

SHRI A M A R P R O S A D CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): One point. We are thankful to the hon. Minister for his announcement that in the application form that the MPs will certify there will be a change in the term to the effect that he is a citizen of India. This will be done when the person applies for a passport. But, under the Citizenship Act and Rules, there are some provisions, where power has been conferred on the officers of the Government to give the citizenship certificate. How can MPs certify that? Suppose a person is coming from Bangladesh suppose a person is coming from East Pakistan and supposing it is to be certified that he is a citizen of India, would this power be con-

ferred on an MP, giving a declaration to anybody that he is a citizen of India?

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether there is any restriction on Indians going to Iraq. Why is the Government not giving 'No Objection Certificates' to the people who get employment vouchers ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, at the moment, I am dealing with the question of passports and not with the question of 'No Objection Certificates' I will have to find out from the Department of Personnel why in any particular case the 'No Objection Certificate' has been refused. I cannot give a reply off-hand here. But our general policy is to encourage people to go abroad if they are not needed here.

AN HON. MEMBER : Is it not brain-drain ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Yes, to some extent. Shri Sharmaji suggested that if a Member of Parliament loses his passport, it should not be incumbent upon him to report the matter to the police. I entirely agree with him.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : And what about his spouse?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : That will always be included. Necessary changes will be made in the rules. He will inform the Passport Office.

SHRI ERA SEZHYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Lest somebody should misuse it, a notification has to be issued.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : The police is informed in order to take steps to recover the passport. There is nothing derogatory.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA :
The point is that you have to go and file an FIR. It is not that you can just inform the police. You have to go and file an FIR, bring a copy and submit it to the Passport Office.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : But now under the procedure you will be getting diplomatic passports.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : I am talking of the Members of Parliament and their spouses.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: So they will have to be more careful. *(Interrupti.ms).*

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : I am not pleading that people should be losing passports. But sometimes it is quite possible.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Are spouses also getting diplomatic passports ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : In case of loss, you report it.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA : Report is already made.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Even in the case of identity cards, a report is made.

SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH (Uttar Pradesh) : Are the wives of the MPs also getting diplomatic passports ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mrs. Alva made a very good suggestion, but the only lacuna is that the people might come and take away the forms in large numbers.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : What would they do ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You impose a fee for the forms.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : You have increased it to Rs. 50. Why can you not include that also in it ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : All right, I will consider that suggestion, and if there are no administrative difficulties

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : You are talking of administrative difficulties. You are capable of sorting them out. You are the Minister.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The suggestion will be considered.

AN HON. MEMBER : Even for money orders, five paise are charged.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : A Member said that the people have to go to Bombay from far off places. If they like, they can ask for the forms.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : The forms can be made available at the Indian Airlines offices.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am sorry, I cannot accept the suggestion.

SHRI S. W. DHABE : At the Post Offices ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : पोस्ट ऑफिस से भी हो रहा है। आप फार्म मंगा सकते हैं। मनी ऑर्डर से आपके पासपोर्ट पोस्ट ऑफिस द्वारा आ सकते हैं। इसलिए साढ़े तीन रुपए पहले सरकार लेती थी, अब हमने बंद कर दिया है।

SHRI S- W. DHABE : I am not saying about the passports. I am saying that the application forms should be made available through the Post Offices.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : बलेक फार्म, आप मनी आर्डर कर दें तो आप के पास आ जाएंगे ।

SHRI S. W. DHABE : Rs. 50, we have to send. (Interruptions).

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्योंकि पोस्ट आफिस में फार्म देने का प्रबंध कर दिया गया है । सारे पोस्ट आफिसों में है (Interruptions).

एक माननीय सदस्य : जिला स्तर पर कर दीजिए ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : जिला स्तर पर किया जा सकता है । मगर पोस्टल विभाग का कहना यह है कि अगर यह सेवा हम देंगे तो उसके बदले में कुछ मुद्रा चाहेंगे ।

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : वह तो आपको देना पड़ेगा ।

श्रीमती सरोज खापड़ें : आपने पचास रुपया रखा है वह ठीक नहीं है ।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : हां, यह प्रबंध किया जा सकता है दो रुपए दो और पोस्ट आफिस से फार्म प्राप्त कर लें । श्री कल्प नाथ राय और आचार्य रंगा ने एक मामला उठाया है । वह श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी के पासपोर्ट के बारे में है । श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी अगर विदेश जाना चाहती हैं, सरकार को इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं हो सकती । जैसे आचार्य रंगा ने कहा कि विदेशी संवाद-दाता उनसे यहां मिल रहे हैं, उनके वक्तव्य विदेशों में छप रहे हैं लेकिन हमारे सामने एक ही कठिनाई है । कुछ मामले अदालतों में पड़े हुए हैं और अदालत को यह देखना है कि किन तारीखों पर उनकी उपस्थिति आवश्यक है । उन पर वे उपस्थित हो सकती हैं या नहीं हो सकतीं । अगर अदालत इस संबंध में कोई फैसला कर दे तो हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION ON POINTS ARISING OUT OF REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION 335 GIVEN ON 1ST AUGUST, 1978, REGARDING PERMISSION TO FOREIGN BANKS TO OPEN BRANCHES IN INDIA

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA
(Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to make it clear that I hold no brief for foreign banks, nor am I advocating that foreign banks should be allowed to open their branches in India irrespective of their character or the danger they might pose to our national interest. I, therefore, Sir, agree with the Finance Minister when in answer to one of my questions, in fact, in answer to my Unstarred Question, he declared that the Government policy continues to be what it has been in the past, that each such case shall be decided on merit. In this respect, he also spoke of what he called the rule of reciprocity, allowing those foreign banks to open their branches in India whose countries allow Indian banks to open their branches. But, as the Finance Minister will agree with me, unfortunately we have inherited banking institutions which date from the days of the British, with the result that we have in India many of the British, French and American banks which for decades, in some cases, for more than a century, have been taking advantage of doing uninterrupted