

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ARRIVAL IN INDIA OF A LARGE
NUMBER OF 'BEIHARI MUSLIMS' FROM
BANGLA DESH

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the reported arrival in India of a large number of 'Behari Muslims' from Bangla Desh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : Sir, Government have seen press reports that non-Bengali Muslims have been crossing over in increasing numbers from Bangla Desh into West Bengal and parts of Bihar. The reports are not correct. Though there have been stray instances of non-Bengali residents migrating from Bangla Desh, there has been no influx of such persons. The Government of Bangla Desh have taken all possible measures for the safety and protection of the non-Bengali Muslims in that country. Our border authorities are also fully vigilant and have taken adequate steps to prevent unauthorised entry of persons from across the border.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, may I know whether the report, which appeared in one of the national dailies, that 500 'Behari Muslims' have already come and they are staying with their relatives in Bihar and Eastern U. P. is correct or not ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Well, Sir, as I said, these Press reports which speak of a large influx of these Muslims are not correct.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, I said specifically 500 Muslims.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : It is not correct that 500 persons came on any one day recently. Actually,
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, my question was whether the report appearing in another section of the Press that 500 'Behari Muslims' were already in Bihar and

are staying with their relations is correct or not. That was my question. It is a specific question.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As a matter of fact, Sir, since March 1971, just about 2,000 persons have come into the various States of the country including Bihar and West Bengal and all of them have been registered under the Foreigners Act. We know where they are and some of them are detention also and some of them are under living with various persons. How many of them are in which State, it is not possible for me to state at the present moment.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, may I know...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you are putting two questions ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : No, Sir. That was not a question; it was one-fourth of a question only.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, Mr. Misra. It is a wrong precedent. Yes, Mr. Kulkarni... You have no question probably ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) Sir, though the 'Behari Muslims' might not have come in large numbers, is it not a fact that some 'Behari Muslims' have been allowed to stay in India ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHARMATI PURABI MUKHOADHYAY) *in the Chair*

Also, Sir, it is not a fact that though the Prime Minister once said in March or late February that no Bihari Muslims will be allowed to enter India, they were allowed by the External Affairs Ministry to settle with their families ?

Secondly, Sir, may I know whether a seminar was held in Patna where some political parties, particularly, I think, the Jana Sangh and the Congress (O), suggested that the 'Behari Muslims' should be allowed...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Rajasthan) : No, Sir. It was rebutted...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Here is the paper which contains a report from Patna...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR :
Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee has denied this...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : It is for
the Minister, not for Mr. Mathur...

(Interruptions)

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जन-
संघ का बहाना लेकर आप इन लोगों को
बुलाना चाहते हैं ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : I want to
know whether the report is correct that a
seminar was held in Patna where Cong.
(O), Jan Sangh and other parties passed
a resolution that Bihari Muslims should
be allowed to come to India. On the con-
trary, the ruling Congress has stated that
they should not be allowed. I want to
know what is the Government of India's
firm policy; because it has been stated even
by the Secretary-General of the UNO that
Prime Minister Mujib has assured that if
the Bihari Muslims want to go they should
go to Pakistan and not to India. India
cannot afford to keep these Bihari Muslims
who have really been responsible for creat-
ing Pakistan and who have made so much
killing in Bangla Desh. They should not
be allowed to come here on any account.
The Government should take some action
against the political parties which are protect-
ing the influx of these Bihari Muslims in
India.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As I
said, about two thousand persons are known
to have come into India and got themselves
registered under the Foreigners' Act, out of
which six hundred have gone back and 1400
are still in the country. Government has
not permitted anyone of them to live here
indefinitely. They are registered under the
Foreigners' Act and they are under proper
surveillance and a watch is kept over
them ..

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : They should
be expelled.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As
regards the convention which the hon.
Member referred to, a State level 'Bihari
Bachao Convention' was held at Patna on
February 21, in which a number of parties
participated...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal).
Who are the parties ?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The Cong.
(O), the Jan Sangh...

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : There
were representatives of Cong (O), Socialist
Party, Bihar State Awami League, Bihar
State Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu, Bhartiya Jan
Sangh, CPM. A Resolution adopted at the
convention urged upon the Government to
take up responsibility for the protection of
the lives and property of non-Bengali mus-
lims... (Interruptions). It also demanded
their repatriation. Though the representa-
tives of the Bhartiya Jan Sangh were pre-
sent in this convention, the All India Bhar-
tiya Jan Sangh does not share the view
taken at the convention...

(Interruptions)

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi) : He is
misleading the House. No representative
was present...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I would
request him to lay on the Table of the
House the resolution that was passed. It
was an atrocious Resolution.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Madam,
the information given by the Minister is
incomplete. I asked : What is the Gov-
ernment's reaction in this regard ? I asked
this specific question.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Well,
Madam, the people of the country have
certain definite views on this and it is not
for the Government to react to a situation
like this. I think the stand taken by the
Government is completely...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Why don't
you condemn it ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The
Minister said that about two thousand
Bihari Muslims are registered under the
Foreigners' Registration Act. How long
are they permitted in Bihar under that
Act ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : This figure does not pertain to Bihar only. It pertains to Bengal and all other States. As I have said, they have not been permitted to live here indefinitely. The question of their repatriation to Bangla Desh is being considered. We are in constant touch with the Bangla Desh Government. Steps will be taken after the agreement has been reached with them. We are not permitting them to remain here indefinitely.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सकलेचा [मध्य प्रदेश) : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाएंगे कि क्या बिहारी मुसलमानों के यहां आने के समाचार को देखते हुए गृह विभाग ने बी एस एफ और बोर्डर की जो पुलिस फोर्स है उसको एलर्ट करने की कोई वार्निंग भेजी है ? दूसरी बात, क्या आपके नोटिस में यह बात आई है कि बंगला देश की विधान सभा के जो मेम्बर हैं उन्होंने स्वयं स्टेटमेंट दिया है कि काफी बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय मुसलमान पैसा देकर, रिश्वत देकर भारत जा रहे हैं ? क्या यह स्टेटमेंट गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के नोटिस में आया है और अगर आया है तो उस पर आपने कोई कार्यवाही की है या नहीं ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : श्रीमन, बंगला देश में वहां के जन प्रतिनिधियों ने क्या वक्तव्य दिया और उस पर क्या किया जाय यह प्रश्न हमारे सामने नहीं हैं।

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सकलेचा : बंगला देश गवर्नमेंट ने आपको कोई इनफार्मेशन दी है ?

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : इस प्रकार की सूचना बंगला देश की सरकार ने हमें नहीं दी है ?

जहां तक बोर्डर का सवाल है, बी एस एफ ने सारे बोर्डर पर अपनी आउटपोस्ट स्थापित कर ली है और पूरी तरह से वे सजग हैं कि किसी प्रकार से अनधिकृत व्यक्ति बंगला देश से हमारे देश में न आए और सरकार को पूर्ण रूप से संतोष है कि हमारे बोर्डर की अच्छी तरह से हिफाजत की जा रही है ?

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : Do not make any acrimonious statement. You must observe certain rules in the House. Do not hold him responsible.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SAKHA-LECHA : My specific question is whether it is a fact that the Home Ministry has alerted the BSF and the police department in connection with the crossing of the border by Bihari Muslims. Is it a fact or not ?

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : Madam, on a point of order. Is there any such thing like 'Bihari Muslims' ? There are people in Bangla Desh whose first national language was Hindi. After the partition, their national language become Urdu. So, there is no such thing as 'Bihari Muslims'. That is only a wrong interpretation and wrong propaganda.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सकलेचा : क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि जो बंगला देश में...

SHRI KALYAN ROY : On a point of order. I want your ruling on my point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : Though the language is not a very happy one, since the Calling Attention has already been accepted, now I cannot rule it out.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : You should note my point of order that in future no such thing like 'Bihari Muslims' should come in.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : You are quite correct.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : But it is their own creation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : You are quite correct that the name of Bihari Muslims or the Bihar State should not be associated with it. But since it has already been approved and accepted by the House, I cannot overrule it. (Interruptions). Please sit down. I will call you in your turn.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SAKHA-LECHA : I want to know whether any

such warning has been issued by the Home Ministry to the States to remain alert and see that these people do not cross the border.

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा : जैसा मैंने निवेदन किया, इस प्रकार की कोई विशेष बार्निंग देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, उन्हें पहले ही आगाह किया जा चुका है कि ऐसी स्थिति में पूरी तरह सतर्क रहें, सजग रहें और हमें विश्वास है कि कि सारे बोर्डर पर स्थिति सन्तोषप्रद है।

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Madam, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is aware of the fact that some Urdu newspapers, particularly two weekly Urdu newspapers published from Calcutta are publishing fabricated, malicious news about the tortures being experienced by the so-called Bihari Muslims in Bangla Desh and that these newspapers are trying to propagate wrongly about what is happening in Bangla Desh? I would like to know whether the Government is aware of this and, if so, what steps they are going to take to prevent such malicious propaganda.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Firstly, this does not arise out of this because the question is about infiltration or influx of Bihari Muslims into our country. Since, however, you seem to have permitted the question, I may say that there have been reports that some Urdu newspapers in Calcutta and Patna have been publishing very undesirable type of news and views and action has been taken against Patna newspapers...

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : West Bengal What about Calcutta newspapers?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : About Calcutta newspapers, we will see whether they are doing anything against law.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : The Minister told us that those who have come lately from Bangla Desh, their number is not very big but I would ask him whether what happened at the time of the Bangla Desh struggle is not likely to repeat itself, namely, that at that time we did not

expect a regular tide of refugees coming from that side to us but it so happened that as the struggle escalated we were almost submerged under the tide of refugees. On what basis the Government hopes that this time the refugees will not grow in numbers as the days pass by and if they really begin to come in tides in what way do they expect to prevent this happening again?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : What the Member is saying is in the realm of speculation. He wants to know what the Government will do if there is a vastly greater number of people coming.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : He wants you also to speculate.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We do not speculate. We act firmly and that is what we propose to do in the future also.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD (Kerala) : By 'Bihari Muslims' are the Muslims from other parts of India from Kerala, UP and other parts of India, who have gone to Bengal also included in that expression? Since Bangladesh has become a sovereign independent State, will the Government create a cordial atmosphere so that non-Bengalis who live in Bangladesh live as free citizens of that land? For that purpose will our Government create a cordial atmosphere among the Government of Bangladesh and also among the non-Bengalis who live there?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As regards the definition of the term 'Bihari Muslim' as you said, the term has been accepted since it is in currency these days. It is rather an imprecise term but it broadly means all non-Bengali-speaking Muslims living in Bangladesh. As regards cordial atmosphere being created in Bangladesh so that these people can live there in peace and amity as free citizens, the Government of India is fully convinced that the Government of Bangladesh is doing all in their power and has taken all possible steps so that these persons can live as free citizens in a free country. They are being given proper protection and all persons who owe allegiance to Bangladesh and wish to cooperate with that Government should have nothing to fear?

श्रीजगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : उप-सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्रीजी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह सवाल अब छोटा नहीं रहा। भारतवर्ष हमेशा जहाँ जहाँ मानव को सताया जाता रहा है उसके लिए खड़ा हुआ है और बंगला देश में जब पाकिस्तानियों की फौज गयी और वहाँ के लोगों को उसने सताया तो हम उसके आड़े आये। अब एक सवाल बंगला देश में खड़ा किया गया है बिहारी मुस्लिम के नाम से और हमें विश्वास है कि मुजीबुर्रहमान साहब के नेतृत्व में वहाँ पर सभी नागरिकों को एक मानव के अधिकार दिलाने के लिए यहाँ की सरकार प्रयत्न कर रही होगी। लेकिन बिहारी मुस्लिम नाम से जो प्रचार चला है वह बंगला देश को बदनाम करने के लिए और साथ ही साथ अगर बंगला देश बदनाम होता है तो हिन्दुस्तान के भी बदनाम होने की संभावना है। बिहारी मुस्लिम के नाम से ऐसा लगता है कि यह मुसलमान बिहार के रहने वाले हैं, और इसका ज्यादा प्रचार पाकिस्तान द्वारा किया जाता है सारी दुनियाँ में, तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार स्पष्ट करे कि इस बिहारी मुस्लिम की परिभाषा क्या है और उनकी वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है जिस के कारण बंगला देश और हिन्दुस्तान को बदनाम किया जा रहा है।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान इस सवाल को लेकर विदेशों में भी हल्ला करना चाहता है। और एक सवाल सामने आया है कि पाकिस्तान में जो चार-लाख के लगभग बंगाली हैं उन्हें एक प्रिजनर के समान रखा जा रहा है कंसट्रेशन कैम्प में और बंगला देश में अगर बिहारी मुस्लिम के नाम से या नान-बंगाली के नाम से कोई हो तो वह बंगला देश में नहीं रहना चाहता हो, वह वहाँ से पाकिस्तान जाना चाहना हो और बंगाली जो पाकिस्तान में है वह वहाँ से बंगला देश आना चाहते

हों तो यह बात, यह सवाल क्या हिन्दुस्तान सरकार के सामने आया है और अगर आया है तो हिन्दुस्तान सरकार इस पर क्या नीति निर्धारित करती है।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I do not think much information has been sought by the hon-Member. He has given expression to his views and so I have nothing much to say. It is true that some propaganda was made by Pakistan that these Bihari Muslims are being badly treated and are being starved. All these complaints were looked into by the International committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr Winspeare Guicciardi. Both of them found that the charges were baseless.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : एक सवाल और उठाया जा रहा है और हम उसके बीच में हैं। बंगाली और नान-बंगाली का सवाल भी दोनों तरफ उठाया जा रहा है और हिन्दुस्तान के बीच में रहने के कारण यह सवाल है लेकिन एक और सवाल भी है जो कि बंगाली और नान-बंगाली का नहीं है, एक और सवाल भी उत्पन्न होता है, अब एक सिंधी का सवाल भी उठ रहा है, सिंध से भाग कर लोग हिन्दुस्तान आ रहे हैं और हो सकता है कि कल विलोचिस्तान या पाकिस्तान के और जो हिस्से हैं वहाँ से भी लोग जाना चाहें क्योंकि पाकिस्तान में पंजाब डामिनेटेड है और जिसके कारण यह होता जा रहा है, हो सकता है कि वह भी यहाँ पर भाग कर आये। तो सरकार को इसके बारे में कोई निश्चित नीति या पालिसी लोगों के सामने रखनी चाहिये जिससे कि देश और विदेश में हमारी बदनामी न होने पाये।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : You have asked oncle.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu) : May I know from the hon. Minister the number of Bihari Muslims who now reside in Pakistan and whether it is not a fact that by this way or that way, by this term or that term, the Pakistanis have been trying to send people from their country to enter

into India to strangle us economically and to suffocate us?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : This does not arise out of this.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : May I also know what is the practical definition of Bihari Muslims?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Madam, I have said what we mean by Bihari Muslims when we generally use that term and there is no question of these Bihari Muslims coming here in large numbers and, as the hon. Member put it, strangulating us economically. This is not the way we should look at such things.

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : यह जो नान-बंगाली मुस्लिमस आये हैं अगर यह प्रोपोगेंडा की बात है और यह बात गलत है, वह नहीं आये हैं, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने उसका खंडन करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं और अगर वह आये हैं, अगर यह सही है, वह थोड़ी भी तादाद में आये हैं, तो भी चूँकि वह बंगला देश के नागरिक हैं तो क्या भारतीय सरकार उन लोगों को, जो बिहारी मुस्लिम हिन्दुस्तान में आ गये हैं एक अनअथोराइज्ड वे में उनको, फिर से बंगला देश को वापस करने की कोई बात सोच रही है।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I denied that people are coming in a big way in an unauthorised manner. I have given the figures. Hardly there are 1400 such persons in our country at present and all of them are being kept under watch.

As I informed the House earlier, their ultimate disposition is being negotiated with the Government of Bangladesh.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : श्रीमन्, इसमें कहाँ तक सत्यता है कि माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी के स्पष्ट वक्तव्य के पश्चात् भी, जब उन्होंने यह कह दिया था कि हम नान-बंगालीज को यहां

पर किसी प्रकार भी बर्दाश्त करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं, इसके बाद भी वहाँ की सरकार, मुसलिम वोट हमारे साथ बना रहे इस कारण से, चुपके चुपके वहाँ से आने की इजाजत दे रही है और यह कहाँ तक सत्य है कि इसी कारण से वहाँ इतना इनफ्लक्स हुआ है ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Madam, this is not correct, what the hon. Member has said. As a matter of fact, some of these 'Bihari Bachao Conventions' and things of this sort, which have been indulged in by various parties, including the party of the hon. Member, tried to capitalise on this very human situation for their own political ends, which is very undesirable.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The hon. Minister has repeated the charge. Let me also repeat the clarification that no representative of the Jana Sangh was present at the Convention which he has been referring to.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : Dr. Mahavir, just now Mr. Man Singh Varma made that insinuation, and whatever the Minister said was in reply to that.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : It is perfectly all right for him to say that insinuation is wrong, but he should not say that any one of us was present at the convention when he was not.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a systematic propaganda in certain sections of the American and Western Press that the non-Bengali-speaking Muslims in Bangladesh are not being given protection or being otherwise looked after and they are subjected to all kinds of oppression and injustices? May I know in this connection whether he has noted, if he has the resolution of the so-called Bihari Muslim Convention held in Patna in January, that the resolution of the convention in its opening paragraph made very scurrilous remarks or observations about the Government headed by Sheikh Mujibur Rehman in Bangladesh and that such scurrilous statements were made on the soil of India against a friendly Government and people who are friendly to our country? May

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

I know, Sir, in view of this fact whether the Government has considered it necessary to find out as to who were the inspiration behind this so-called Bihari Muslim Convention, which was attended not only by communal parties but, I regret to say, by the Socialist Party and the Marxist Communist Party also? May I know, Sir, in this connection whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to the fact that the Government of Bangladesh and particularly Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, are doing every thing in their power to give protection to the non-Bengali-speaking minorities and that, by and large, the entire people of Bangladesh have been mobilised to undertake this sacred task and that all that is said outside, much of it, is propaganda to malign and slander the Government? In view of that I should like to know what the Government on its part can do to counter this kind of scurrilous propaganda in our country and other countries by certain interested parties who want to take advantage of such things for winning elections or for other political purposes.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Well Sir, Government has seen Press reports in the foreign press that the Government of Bangladesh is not treating these persons properly and that they are being put to great difficulty. But, Sir, as I said in my earlier statement, the Government of India is fully convinced that the Government of Bangladesh have taken all possible measures for the safety and protection of the non-Bengali Muslims in that country, and their future is safe in the hands of the Bangladesh Government, which is very solicitous of the welfare of all its citizens.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Have you got the Convention resolution? I wanted to know about that.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : As regards the resolution passed by the 'Bihari Bachao Convention', and other conventions in Patna, Well, Sir. I do not have the text of the resolution before me, but we will examine them and see if any action could be taken against the guilty.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : At that convention the slogan was "Mujibur Rehman Murdabad", and most scandalous slogans

were uttered. By going to Patna I found it out myself. It was a scandalous thing, an inspired thing, and it was all to gain Muslim votes; I know that. But I am surprised the hon. Minister has not collected that document. I collected two copies of that document. The hon. Minister should have in his possession that document, the resolution adopted by that convention which begins with the most scurrilous reflections and utterances against the Bangladesh Government, where it is said that the non-Bengali-speaking Muslims are subjected to all kinds of oppression and atrocities and so on. I think that should be in your possession.

Madam, I may tell you and the hon. Minister also knows that many of our friends have gone to Bangladesh, have come back and reported. I have no doubt in my mind about the sincerity of the Government of Bangla Desh in extending every possible protection. I know that some mills are working where non-Bengali Muslims are working along with Bengali Muslims near about Dacca. This information is being withheld by certain sections of the people...

SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA (Kerala) : In spite of it many Muslims have suffered. That also you must know.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Some have suffered, but let us not go into individual cases. By and large the community of non-Bengali Muslims are being looked after. Having regard to all that happened during the liberation struggle, one should be surprised, pleasantly surprised that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his Government and his party are trying to look after them. We should encourage them. We should acclaim such a thing, instead of trying to denounce them as some people have done before the elections with a view to getting Muslim votes. This is what I want to say. Madam, I checked it up with the Mission here. I was shown an official document issued by the Bangla Desh Government in which the protection of these minorities has been placed at the centre of things. Even today you have seen in the papers that the Constituent Assembly is meeting where Fundamental Rights are guaranteed to all sections of the community. If individual instances have taken place well, that is for the Government to look after. That will take place in any country!

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी दो बातें सामने आई हैं। आपने जो वक्तव्य दिया उस पटना वाले कन्वेंशन के बारे में, क्या आपके पास यह इन्फार्मेशन है कि उस सम्मेलन में जनसंघ का कोई प्रतिनिधि नहीं था? जनसंघ का कोई आदमी हो सकता है परन्तु वैधानिक तौर पर जनसंघ को कोई प्रतिनिधि उस सम्मेलन में नहीं भेजा था। क्या आपको इसके बारे में जानकारी है?

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में, बिहारी बोलने वाला कोई हो, उर्दू स्पीकिंग वाला कोई हो या और भी कोई हो, बंगला देश से कोई भी व्यक्ति भारतवर्ष के परमिशन के बगैर यहाँ नहीं आ सकेगा। इस बात की सुरक्षा करने के लिए क्या आप इस प्रकार की कोई घोषणा करेंगे कोई भी व्यक्ति ऐसे व्यक्ति को जो वगैर परमिशन इस देश में आता है, उसके साथ कोलोबरेट करेगा, उसको अपने यहां ठहरायेगा, शरण देगा, तो उसको भी दंड दिया जायेगा, वह भी दंडनीय माना जायेगा तथा उसके विरुद्ध चार्ज लगाया जायेगा। क्या आप इस तरह की घोषणा करने के लिए तैयार है।

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : We decided long back that anyone who harbours these persons in contravention of the Foreigners Act would be taken note of and punished. It is not a question of our making any declaration at this stage. We did it long back and warned everyone that anyone who enters the country in contravention of our laws would be punished and anyone giving shelter to such unauthorised persons and infiltrators would be punished. We have been saying it openly through legal notifications and otherwise. It is not now. We have been doing it for quite some time now. We have taken action against persons who have not reported the presence of these foreigners in their homes and we mean to be very vigilant so far as these persons are concerned.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Madam...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY): Four Members from your party have already asked.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : There is something which has not been asked.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY): You put it next time. All right.

डा० भाई महावीर : मैं आज की इस रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में दो तीन बातों की तरफ माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि मेरी समझ में यह बात नहीं आई है और न ही इस पर प्रकाश ही पड़ा है। महोदया, टाइम्स आफ इंडिया में यह रिपोर्ट है :—

“According to an official estimate at least fifty Bihari families cross over daily with valid travel documents.”

जो ट्रेवल डाक्यूमेंट लेकर आ रहे हैं, ऐसे 50 परिवार प्रतिदिन आ रहे हैं और इसी के साथ-साथ वगैर ट्रेवल डाक्यूमेंट के लोग आ रहे हैं।

“A Bihari family can leave only if a Member of the Constituent Assembly of Bangle Desh certifies that he did not collaborate with the Pakistani Martial Law Administration.”

महोदया, वेलिड ट्रेवल डाक्यूमेंट्स के साथ 50 परिवार रोज आ रहे हैं और साथ में कहते हैं कि बिना डाक्यूमेंट्स के कितने आ रहे हैं उनका अनुमान नहीं, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये सर्टिफिकेट कहां से लेते हैं? इस रिपोर्ट में है कि बंगला देश की कांस्टीटुएण्ट असेम्बली का कोई सदस्य यदि यह कह देता है कि इन्होंने पाकिस्तान की सेना से कोलेबोरेशन नहीं किया तो उनको वह सर्टिफिकेट मिल जाता है। यदि यह बात है और इस तरह के इन्फ्लक्स को हम रोकना चाहते हैं तो क्या आप बंगला देश की सरकार से इस बारे में बातचीत करेंगे कि यह

सर्टिफिकेट इशू करने की पद्धति क्या है क्योंकि जो आज की खबर हमारे सामने है अगर वह सही है तो इसको जो वेलिड ट्रेवल डॉक्यूमेंट कहा जाता है रोके बिना जिसके आधार पर 50 परिवार आ रहे हैं उनको कैसे रोकेंगे? दूसरी बात, कहा जाता है कि 20 लाख बिहारी मुसलमान बंगला देश में हैं। अगर यह चीज रोकी न जा सकी तो कितना बड़ा इनफ्लक्स होने की सम्भावना है इसका कोई आकलन आपने किया है या नहीं ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY) : You can answer about the valid document question; I over-rule the other one.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Why?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI MATI MUKHOPADHYAY) : Because that has been sufficiently discussed.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : The arrangements of travel between India and Bangla Desh and for checking the unauthorised movements across the border are as follows :—

Indian nationals can go to Bangla Desh only after getting the necessary endorsement on their passports or after securing "certificate for travel between India and Bangla Desh", a document prescribed under the Passport Rules. They do not require any visa from the Bangla Desh authorities. Similarly, the Bangla Desh nationals are permitted to enter India only if they possess a duly endorsed passport or other travel documents proscribed by the Government of Bangla Desh. They also do not require any visa from the Indian authorities. This arrangement has been made pending the finalisation of a permanent arrangement between the two countries and for the present it will remain in force till the 30th June, 1972.

Well, Madam, Government is not aware of any unduly large number of persons coming under the present restriction. But we are keeping a watch over this and, as I said, this arrangement is going to be enforced till the 30th June, 1972. After that, we will try to make other arrangements.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Is it not necessary for a Constituent Assembly member to sign it?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Madam, Government is not aware of that. So far as we are concerned, we have stated the position.

SHRI A. K. A. ABDUL SAMAD (Tamil Nadu) : Madam, I want to know whether the Government would take proper care to see that on the pretext of sending back the so-called Bihari Muslims who came from Bangla Desh, no Muslim citizen of India would be harassed and sent out of India.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I have no hesitation in giving this assurance.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NAVAL CEREMONIAL CONDITIONS OF SERVICE AND MISCELLANEOUS (SECOND AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 1972

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 135 of the Navy Act, 1957, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Defence Notification S. R. O. No. 98, dated the 18th March, 1972, publishing the Naval Ceremonial, Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous (Second Amendment) Regulations, 1972. [Placed in Library. See LT—1719/72]

NEWSPRINT ALLOCATION POLICY FOR 1972-73

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH) : Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Public Notice dated the 11th April, 1972, containing the newspaper allocation policy for the year 1972-73. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—1703/72]

THE COST ACCOUNTING RECORDS (ALUMINIUM) RULES, 1972

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA) : Madam I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section,