

Commission has suggested that some of the proposals, which would be specially intended to benefit the educated unemployed, might be taken up by the State Government expeditiously. The details of these proposals are awaited from the State Government. As the other schemes required considerable preparatory work and scrutiny before they could be accepted it has been suggested to the State Government that they might undertake necessary studies and preparation of detailed project reports in respect of these programmes for which token provision might be included in the State's Annual Plans. These suggestions have been communicated by the Planning Commission to the State Government for further action.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DETENTION AND HARASSMENT OF INDIAN NATIONALS AT THE AIRPORTS IN THE U.K. SRI C. D. PANDE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, [I beg to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the reported detention and harassment of Indian Nationals at the airports in U.K. in spite of the fact that they possessed valid passports and entry permits.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS/
विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): Sir, Government are naturally concerned about any cases of harassment of Indian nationals at British airports and points of entry into Britain. As the House knows, all such instances brought to the Government's notice are taken up immediately with the British High Commission in New Delhi and with the British Government through our High Commissioner in London. The British Government have assured us that instructions have been issued to Immigration Officers to avoid any harassment to Indian visitors. They have also assured us that all complaints of harassment are examined by them with a view to avoiding their recurrence.

Under British regulations, a Commonwealth citizen, including citizens of India, who enter Britain for limited periods, do not require visa or a special entry permit. However, the British High Commission has been advising intending visitors to apply for an entry certificate before leaving India in their own interests.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHRI C. D. PANDE: Sir, I am glad that the Ministry has taken certain steps on the reported cases of harassment. May I know, Sir, whether the persons who hold diplomatic passports also are asked inconvenient questions like "Why are you going?", "Where are you going to stay?" and so on? Sir, we have got no visa system between England and India and so, what is the rationale of having entry permits? Have you also got some entry permit system for the Britishers coming to India? This causes genuine difficulties for our people when they land in London. Therefore, either there should be entry permit system for the British citizens coming to India or there should be none where there is no visa system applicable. This shows that there have been cases of a great deal of harassment. I know of one case where a man had to wait for two or three hours at the airport. If there is a *bona fide* tourist, there should be no harassment.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I agree with the hon. Member when he said that cases of harassment and delays still take place. We have been assured a number of times by the British authorities that they would streamline their procedures in such a way that no delay or harassment would be caused. But in spite of that, delay *do* take place, interrogations *do* take place and our nationals and citizens are subjected to harassment.

As regards entry permits, the situation is amenable. There is no doubt about it. It is neither a visa system nor non-visa system, ordinary visitors from India who want to go there are not required to take

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh]

ou! entry permits. It is only when they go there for immigration purposes, for settling there, that they have to...

SHRI C. D. PANDE: I wanted to go there. I was asked to take permits. But I did not go...

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have already said about the difficulties faced by our citizens. It is a fact that even after their receiving permits, they have been facing difficulties. I am not saying that they are not subjected to these things. But my point is that we tried our very best to impress upon them the desirability of removing these restrictions, but despite their assurance, I am sorry to say, the result has been very disappointing.

As to the question of reciprocity, Sir, before taking a decision we have to take into account a number of factors. Firstly, if we impose tiny reciprocal restrictions they may affect our tourist trade and other things. We have also to take into account the welfare of a large number of Indians living in the UK. And it has also legal implications. Now, all these things are being considered. And I can only assure the House that it is under very active consideration of the Government at the present time. All aspects of this question have to be taken into consideration, and we are doing that. And I think a stage has reached when something of that type will have to be done.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, these are only the pious hopes expressed by the Minister. Is he aware that Members of Parliament are also being harassed when they hold diplomatic passports? Has the Government made any enquiry in this connection? So, Sir, I request the Government that they should be more cautious. Then, Sir, I learnt only yesterday that there was a case where a high officer of the Indian High Commission-

was detained and interrogated at the London airport. What steps has the Government taken to redeem the honour of our country, particularly when our officers are being interrogated at the London airport? This is one thing.

Now, the convenient position taken by the Government with regard to reciprocity is that it cannot immediately be taken into consideration because of various factors. Whether it is our tourist business or any other business, I say, Sir, that the prestige and honour of our country is of vital concern, and more important than any other matter. In this connection, the U.K. Government or the Commonwealth Office, by delaying the whole process, has connived at causing insult to the Indians or Members of Parliament or to officers of the Government. In this connection, it is high time that the Government should not only give up such pious hopes but take very strong action. I reliably learnt that during the last two or three months such a case has happened to an officer of the Indian High Commission. In this connection, I draw the Minister's attention to this very serious problem: this should not be taken down lying, but it should be retaliated, and retaliated in an effective manner.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, may I assure the hon. Member that we are not taking this matter very lightly? We are greatly concerned about this. I think what is happening is really very improper and is insulting to our citizens. It is something about which we feel very concerned and we are doing our best to do something about it. No specific incidents have been brought to our notice of late.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I referred to Members of Parliament.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I admit it happened in the past and we informed the House. I think last year, certain incidents did take place in the year 1970 and one hon. Member of this House

was also involved and he was subjected to some harassment, to some interrogation, to delays, etc. It was something about which we felt very unhappy.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: That is why we demand reciprocity.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: We took up these cases with the U.K. Government and they assured us that they would do everything possible to look into them and find out as to why this treatment was meted out to them by the Immigration authorities, and that corrective measures would be taken. I said that no specific incident has been brought to our notice of harassment of such an extreme nature. But it is a fact that even now, when our people go to the U.K., even though they may be holding diplomatic passports or official passports or ordinary passports, they are invariably subjected to unnecessary interrogation and delays take place which, from our point of view, are unnecessary irritants. As I said earlier, I admit that we have not succeeded very much in changing the attitude of the British authorities. Now, Sir, as to the question of reciprocity, I did not in my reply say that we are unwilling or hesitant to take any steps. I only said that it is a very important question and all its implications have got to be examined carefully before we take any action. We are thinking on these lines and I have already said that a stage has now been reached when we cannot avoid this question. Something will have to be done in retaliation or whatever you call it.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA (Rajasthan) May I ask the hon. Minister how many cases of harassment of Indian nationals have been brought to the notice of the Government and what is the explanation of the British Government regarding this harassment? What exactly is the reason given by the British Government as to why Indian nationals are singled out for this kind of harsh treatment and delays and irritations at the entry airports in the U.K.? Secondly, Sir, although I ap-

predate the hon. Minister's stand that two wrongs do not make a right, and any retaliatory measure on our part may hurt us more than it might hurt the U.K., still something will have to be done to uphold our national honour and prestige. Therefore I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether at least the entry permit system on the lines of the entry permit system introduced by the British High Commission in India would also be introduced immediately without waiting for the introduction of any other retaliatory measures.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, as I said earlier on, no specific cases of harassment, etc., have been reported very recently though last year five important cases were reported in which one hon. Member of this House was also involved. These cases were taken up with the British authorities and, as I said earlier on, they assured us that they will look into these cases and will see that cases of this nature do not occur in future, and recently no complaint has come to us, no case has been reported to us.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: That is only an assurance for the first instance. What is the reason given out by them as to why these people were interrogated or detained or harassed?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, the reason generally given out by them is that the Immigration authorities in the U.K. always suspect every Indian who goes to the U.K. they feel that they are coming there not as ordinary tourists or casual visitors but they are coming to settle down there. They look upon every intending visitor as a person who is coming there to reside permanently, and from that viewpoint they, ask all kinds of questions. I do not say that this is something which can be condoned or with which we agree. It is something we would not like to happen. But it is happening, and the authorities round and say that the Immigration authorities in the U.K. are the sole authority in the country to decide whether a person should be allowed to

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh] enter the U.K. or not and that there is very little that the others can do about this. But they are doing their best through their Home Office, etc., to modify their procedure and to impress upon them that in future they should be a little more careful and more courteous to our people who are not going there to settle down permanently.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (*West Bengal*): May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that this harassment to and detention of Indian nationals in the United Kingdom is the outcome of the increasing discriminatory racial feelings now being indulged in by the United Kingdom Government and, if so, whether the Government of India would consider that point of view and take appropriate action? I would also like to know the number of cases of this kind of harassment and detention or otherwise, which have so far been referred to the United Kingdom Government through the Indian High Commission in the U.K. What kind of relief have we obtained after referring all those cases to them save and except assurances as has been pointed out by the hon. Minister? Has any kind of relief been obtained by any of our Indian nationals after being harassed or detained in that way, other than, what is called, assurance, which have been given to our Government by the United Kingdom Government? Does not the Government of India consider this kind of a behaviour towards our Indian nationals as an affront to our national honour, prestige and respect and, if so, would the Government, having this view of the thing, take retaliatory measures so that this thing is not further encouraged by them in the United Kingdom?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This much is a fact that there is a certain amount of racial tension in the U.K. There are a large number of people within that country—Britishers—who do not like the idea of a large number of coloured people coming to their country and taking up employment; this generates a lot of com-

petition and they do not like it very much. Because of the racial tension and because of particular feeling amongst a large number of people in that country, all these measures are coming in force.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think the Government is also indulging in that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr Chitta Basu, do not interrupt him please.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This is a fact, and I might as well add that whereas we cannot dispute the right of any sovereign country to make laws, etc., to restrict entry of foreigners into their country, all we feel concerned about is that there should be no element of discrimination in that. If the restrictions are there, it should be for everybody, all countries; not that there should be discrimination against one set of countries and no discrimination against another set of countries. That is the only thing we have to ensure against. Otherwise, the British authorities have a right to enact any kind of law in that connection regarding relief, etc. for those people who had to undergo harassment. Instead that we look up these things strongly with the British authorities and the British authorities have expressed their sorrow for what had happened and they promised that they will take it up with the authorities concerned in the U.K. and will ensure that this kind of things did not happen again. I think this harassment is something against which we expressed our feelings wrongly and as I have said earlier on, after these four or five months nothing of that nature has come to our notice, about. I think, reciprocating the restrictions: I have already replied to that.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश):

क्या श्रीमान यह बताएंगे कि क्या आपके ध्यान में कुछ ऐसी घटनाएँ भी आई हैं कि भारत को छोड़ कर कामनवेल्थ

कन्द्रीज के दूसरे देशों, जैसे आस्ट्रेलिया, कनेडा या और दूसरे देशों में, ब्रिटेन में जब कोई व्यक्ति जाता है तो उसको भी इन्ट्री फार्म के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है और अगर आपके पास ऐसी घटनाएं नहीं आईं तो क्या—क्योंकि इन देशों में तो श्वेत आदमी रहते हैं जो वहां जाते हैं लेकिन क्या कभी अफ्रीका के जो राष्ट्र-मण्डल के देश हैं वे वहां पर जाते हैं तो उनके साथ भी ऐसी घटनाएं होना आपकी नालेज में आयी या नहीं, और अगर उनके साथ भी ऐसी घटनाएं हुई हैं तो राष्ट्र-मण्डल के जितने ऐसे देश हैं जिनके निवासियों के साथ इस प्रकार की कार्य-वाहियां की गईं, वह सब इकट्ठे मिलकर ब्रिटिश शासन के ऊपर यह दबाव क्यों नहीं डाल सकते?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : किस बात का दबाव?

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : ऐसा है कि कुछ राष्ट्र मंडल के सदस्य सफेद देश हैं और कुछ कलर्ड हैं। जिस तरह से ब्रिटेन सफेद देशों के नागरिकों के साथ व्यवहार करता है क्या उसी तरह से हिन्दुस्तान के नागरिकों के साथ व्यवहार करता है? अगर नहीं करता है तो क्या जिस तरह से कलर्ड देशों के नागरिकों के साथ, अफ्रीका के राष्ट्र मंडल देशों के नागरिकों के साथ व्यवहार करता है क्या उसी तरह से भारत के साथ भी व्यवहार करता है? क्या आपकी नालेज में इस तरह की बात आई है कि ब्रिटेन वाले अफ्रीका के लोगों के साथ भारत की तरह व्यवहार करते हैं। जिन राष्ट्र मंडल देशों के साथ इस तरह का व्यवहार होता है, भेद भाव किया जाता है, वे इकट्ठे होकर ब्रिटेन के सामने प्रोटेस्ट क्यों नहीं

करते क्योंकि अकेले प्रोटेस्ट करने से उतना असर नहीं होगा जितना कि मिलकर करने से होता है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह का प्रोटेस्ट किया गया है या नहीं, अगर नहीं किया गया है तो क्या भविष्य में सरकार करेगी?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : सम्भाषित जी, जहां तक इस कानून का सवाल है, यह कानून सभी पर लागू होता है। इस किस्म की शिकायतें आती हैं कि जो इमीग्रेंट्स कलर्ड लोग होते हैं, जैसे हिन्दुस्तान, पाकिस्तान और अफ्रीका के लोग हैं, उनके साथ रेस्ट्रिक्शन ज्यादा होते हैं, देखभाल और जांच पड़ताल ज्यादा होती है। जो लोग ऐसे मुल्कों से आते हैं जहां सफेद लोग रहते हैं उनके साथ इस तरह का व्यवहार कम होता है। यह सही बात है कि इन सब बातों के बारे में इन मुल्कों के साथ बातचीत होती है और सोचते हैं कि किस तरह से ब्रिटेन के ऊपर इस सम्बंध में असर डालें।

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I would like to know whether this matter was raised at any of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conferences which were held and whether it was not made dear to the British Government that if such restrictions are imposed on citizens of the Commonwealth countries, then there is no point in calling it a Commonwealth. Sir, we cannot understand that although we are Member of the Commonwealth, yet citizens of the Commonwealth are not even permitted to go freely around any of the Member countries. Therefore, I would like to know whether this question was raised in the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I cannot say categorically, but I presume this question may have been discussed at the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime-Ministers' Conference.

With regard to imposition of restrictions, these restrictions have been imposed on immigrants to the U.K. who want to settle there on a permanent basis. Restriction, are not imposed on casual visitors or those who want to visit the country for a short period. In actual practice I do admit that certain difficulties are faced but these matters have been taken up with that Government.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: The main question is about the coloured people. Not on the people coming from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, but they are imposing restrictions on those who are coloured people.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Under the Immigrants Act recently passed by the British Government, all those who are migrating to that country are covered.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, प्वाइन्ट आफ़ ऑर्डर । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री जी का इस तरह से उत्तर देना कि मैं प्रिज्यूम करता हूँ, उचित है? प्रिज्यूम का आधार क्या है?

श्री उपसभापति : वे केटेगरी नहीं कह सकते हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : अगर पार्लियामेन्टरी प्रोसेस ठीक तरह से चलानी है, तो फिर मंत्री को काल्पनिक उत्तर नहीं देना चाहिये। मंत्री को ठीक और सही उत्तर देना चाहिये। जो उन्होंने उत्तर दिया उसका कोई आधार है भी या

नहीं? तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री जी का उत्तर क्या है और इस चीज का उत्तर आना चाहिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी, मैंने इसलिए यह कहा क्योंकि यह बात महत्वपूर्ण है। यह बात नामुमकिन है कि इसका जिक्र न किया गया हो या यह बात न आई हो लेकिन यह जरूरी नहीं है कि यह चीज एजेन्डा में हो और बाकायदा तौर पर मीटिंग में डिसकस हो। जब कभी भी कामनवेल्थ कंट्रीज के हैड्स की मीटिंग होती है, तो यह कैसे मुमकिन बात है कि इस बारे में डिसकशन न हुआ हो।

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : यह कहना कि यह काल्पनिक नहीं है, यह ठीक नहीं है। कई बार ऐसा होता है कि जो बात उठनी चाहिये वह नहीं उठती है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह बात उठी थी या नहीं? इसका स्पष्ट उत्तर दिया जाना चाहिये।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : मेरा जवाब साफ़ है और मैं यह नहीं कह सकता कि यह बाकायदा तौर पर एजेन्डा में थी या नहीं।

SHRI VITHAL GADGIL (Maharashtra): Sir, the British Government has decided to join the European Common Market. This will affect our economic relations and interests with that country. Politically also they have hardly been with us. We all know about the treatment that they give to the Indian nationals and now we find that they are harassing those Indians who want to visit the U.K. In view of this with the Government consider as one of the steps

whether we should remain in the Commonwealth at all and whether we should continue in the Commonwealth.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, does this arise out of this question at all?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very broad question.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This is a much bigger issue which has been discussed here on a number of occasions and the Government stand thereon has been explained.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY (Tamil Nadu): Is not this system of entry permits, interrogation and detention at the airports due to the fact that England has a racial legislation whereas India has no such racial legislation? And in implementing this racial legislation they have to resort to all these things. Is that not due to that? Is not that the fundamental cause of such treatment?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The reason, as I said earlier on, is because they want to keep a check on the number of people who are coming there to settle permanently.

SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Coloureds.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: According to their law and regulations there are no restrictions on those who go there casually for a short period. It is only in the case of those who are going there to settle permanently that they impose these restrictions and they carry out an interrogation just to find out whether they are *bona fide* travellers or whether they are going to settle there permanently.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I have been told by persons who have come from England that it is most humiliating for an Indian to go to England in the present circumstances because many of these persons are harassed by the immigration authorities. May I ask the Minister in view of the complaints made by a large

number of Indians who have gone there including a Member of Parliament who was shabbily treated whether he would ask one or two officials of the Indian High Commission to be on duty at the airport whenever flights from India come there so that they may assist the *bona fide* passengers and the High Commission is already overstaffed and two persons can be put on duty there. Why can't we do this? This is a very important matter and the Minister should give his earnest attention to this.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This is a suggestion for action and we have taken note of it.

SHRI V. B. RAJU (Andhra Pradesh): The new Immigration law has received the Royal assent and now there is provision for voluntary repatriation. Now actually there is a lot of pressure on Indian citizens, that is, people holding Indian passports living there and it amounts almost to forcible repatriation. Sir, the United Kingdom is entering the EEC. After it enters EEC these who are called aliens now, that is, the nationals of the member-countries will have freedom to enter the U.K. without any restrictions and can get employed there whereas the Commonwealth citizens must now have entry permits with all the difficulties and there is also the danger of actual forcible repatriation. Let the Minister clarify the position. Now the former colonial people of the French colonies are having certain privileges in the common market areas. They are getting entry there, they are getting employment and actually they are enjoying almost as free citizens. Will the Government of India raise this question in the Commonwealth Conference that India was also formerly a Dominion and is a member of the Commonwealth and that Indians must also have the same privileges as the erstwhile colonial people of the French colonies in the matter of free movement in the EEC countries? Is it not possible for the Government of India to take up this stand and negotiate from now on?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: It is true that as a result of Britain joining the EEC she will have to throw open her doors to citizens of other member-States also and a large number of people will come into Britain from other countries seeking labour and employment. She cannot impose any restrictions on them according to the Treaty of Rome. That is a fact, yet people coming from India and other Commonwealth countries will be led to a large number of restrictions. In this position we are not at all happy about; we do not accept that it is proper and correct but as I said earlier on even though this anomaly has been pointed out to her there does not seem any way out of it. All that I can say is that it clearly indicates that Britain is gradually moving more and more away from the Commonwealth concept and she is learning more and more towards Europe.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: My main point is that the French Government is permitting the people of her former colonies who are coloured people and we should ask Britain that Indian citizens should also have the same facilities as the people of the erstwhile colonies of the French.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Up to this time Britain is not prepared to do this.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

RADIATION PROTECTION RULES, 1971

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS/ « **संत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री** (SHRI K. C. PANT):

Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (4) of section 30 of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, a copy of the Department of Atomic Energy Notification G.S.R. No. 1601, dated the 13th September, 1971 (in English and Hindi), publishing the Radiation Protection Rules, 1971. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1090/71.]

REPORT (PART II) OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY (COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND

संसदीय कार्य विभाग तथा नौवहन और परिवहन संत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री

OM MEHTA: Sir, on behalf of Shri C. Subramanian, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the report (Part II) of the Committee of Enquiry (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research). [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1093/71.]

NOTIFICATIONS OF THE MINISTRY OF COM- MUNICATIONS (POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS BOARD)

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS/ **संचार विभाग** (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, a copy each of the following Notifications (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Communications (Posts and Telegraphs Board):—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 1419, dated the 22nd September, 1971, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 1971. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1096/71.]

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 1405, dated the 25th September, 1971, publishing the Indian Telegraph (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 1971. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1210/71.]

NOTIFICATION OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL TRADE) CIVIL SUPPLIES ORGANISATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/ **औद्योगिक विकास संत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री** (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA): Sir, I beg