

RAJYA SABHA

*Saturday, the 23rd May, 1970/the
2nd Jyais ha, 1892 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before we take up the regular business in the agenda, I have to refer with regret to the passing away of Shri Nakuja Behari Maiti, an ex-Member of our House on the 10th May, 1970. Shri Maiti was born in the year 1892 and after education at Gopnathpur, Berhampur and Calcutta, took to the teaching profession. He was greatly interested in the promotion of women's education. He participated in the freedom struggle and underwent privations several times. He helped in the abolition of untouchability and caste distinctions and assisted in the rehabilitation of refugees from East Pakistan in the Andamans and elsewhere. He was a Minister in West Bengal from 1947 to 1952. He was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957 and later to the Rajya Sabha in 1962 from which he retired in April 1966. He was a respected Member of this House. We deeply mourn his passing away.

I would request Members to stand in their seats and observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Maiti.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

Secretary will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of grief and profound sympathy.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED PROPOSAL REGARDING INTRO-
DUCTION OF REGULAR VISA SYSTEM
TO REGULATE TRAVEL BETWEEN
INDIA AND U. K.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the report that the Government of India would request the British Government to introduce regular visa system to regulate travel from either country.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the House is aware we have been concerned about the British policy of discrimination against people of Asian origin who are holders of British Passports. Recently, we have also noted with regret that the British Government are trying to differentiate between Asian holders of British passports born in India and those born in African countries. Essentially, the British Government are shirking their responsibility of providing protection and allowing their citizens to return to the United Kingdom.

Since the passage of the Commonwealth Immigrants Act in July 1962 the British Government have taken progressive steps to restrict the flow of Commonwealth citizens, including Indians, into the U.K. In effect, today all categories of Indians including purely short-term visitors proceeding to the U.K. have to be advised in their interest to obtain an entry permit or endorsement for the U.K. Despite this unilateral introduction of what amounts to a visa system cases have come to our notice of harassing and humiliating treatment being meted out to Indians at entry points in the U. K.

As against this, the Government of India have not imposed any restriction on British passport holders coming to India. Government, nevertheless, are seriously concerned at the treatment meted out to Indians and appreciate the feelings of the House in this matter. They are in touch with the British Government on this question with a view to reaching a satisfactory solution of these problems. Government will, if necessary, consider other measures to ensure that this discrimination against British passport holders of Indian origin is eliminated and also to ensure that Indian visitors and entrants into the U.K. are assured of proper treatment.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : With your permission I would like to ask from the Minister how many persons of Indian origin living in the different African countries are holding British passports, how many of them have been asked to quit the African countries and how many have been allowed to settle in the United Kingdom and how many have refused entry into the U.K. I would

[Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy]

also like to know how many British passport holders or British citizens are living in India at present

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, about the number of persons in Africa holding British passports, I have not got the figure at the moment but I can say that the number of UK citizens in India is approximately 3,000.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : In view of the fact that Indians are not treated properly in the African countries and they are being kicked out of those African countries and in view of the fact that they hold British passports and since the British Government is refusing to honour their responsibility, since the British Government is refusing entry into their country of those persons holding their passports, may I know whether the Government of India has negotiated this question with the concerned authorities in the U.K. and since no fruitful result has so far been achieved will the Government of India take very firm steps in seeing that Asians of Indian origin holding British passports are allowed entry into Britain for settling in the UK?

If the Government of Great Britain fails to accede to this reasonable request, may I know whether the Government of India will think of taking appropriate measures including expropriating the properties of British citizens now in India?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : This is a question which has been discussed here on a number of occasions. We have informed the House that we feel very strongly and are greatly concerned about the attitude of Britain in regard to this whole matter. We also feel that it is the legal and moral responsibility of Britain to give protection to these people who are their citizens and to allow them free entry into their country. This is a fact that a number of impediments are placed in their way. A number of restrictions are there with the result that all of them are not able to get easy entry into the United Kingdom. As the House is already aware, regarding the people from East Africa, they have fixed a ceiling of 1500 heads of families each year for entry and we have been telling them that this quota is inade-

quate to meet the situation and they should increase it. In addition, we also suggested a number of other measures which they could have adopted to alleviate the hardship suffered by these people but the response of the British Government in this regard has not been very encouraging. We are doing our very best to tackle this matter with them time and again and persuade them to change their policy, but so far we have not achieved any great success.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : In view of the unhelpful attitude of the British Government, will the Government of India think of the quitting the Commonwealth as a protest against this ill treatment meted out to Indians?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : This is a much wider and more important question. This question has also been discussed here in the past and we have given the reason why we are continuing our membership. All I can say is that ~~the~~ now we have been feeling that it is to our advantage to remain in the Commonwealth.

SHRI BALKRISHNA GUPTA (Bihar) : Tell us the advantage.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We should realise that the Commonwealth is no longer dominated by the British, it has no longer a British character. It comprises a large number of countries of Asia and Africa and we feel that it is a very good forum where we can discuss matters of mutual interest. We also have certain economic advantages, and I may assure the House that if the time comes when we feel that it is not to our advantage, that it not in our national interests to continue membership of the Commonwealth, we shall certainly quit, but that time has not come yet.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa) : Sir, I have heard the Minister's reply in regard to this question of quitting the Commonwealth and I think he is still suffering from some misapprehension, because in spite of our relations with the Commonwealth there is not the same freedom as regards Indians going to England and people from England coming to this country. Again the decision of the British Government to enter into the European Common market is also not going to help India so I think the time

has come when there is no justification for India to remain in the Commonwealth. It is high time that the Government of India should clearly tell them that we are not interested in the Commonwealth any longer. I want the Minister categorically to tell us that the Commonwealth has outlived its utility. Before this Immigration Act was passed did the British Government put this question before the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference before they took the decision? Did they take up the question of Rhodesia in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference before they came to any conclusion? At no time have they taken up any matter at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference whenever they took any action about other countries in the Commonwealth, they have always decided these things unilaterally. In view of this I do not think there is any reason to vacillate in this matter, and I want to know categorically the Minister's opinion in regard to this.

Secondly I want to know whether the Minister does not think that as far as racial discrimination is concerned the situation has become aggravated in the last two to three years because now there is discrimination between Indians born in Africa holding British passports and also Indians born in India and holding British passports. So in these two or three years they have gone a step further in discriminating between Indians and Indians holding British passports. This has absolutely aggravated the situation. May I know from the Minister whether they will tell the British Government here and now that if they do not retrace their steps and honour the commitment that they had made to the passport holders India will seriously have to think of quitting the Commonwealth because that is the only reciprocal measure that the Government of India can take in the present circumstances.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I agree with the hon. Member that the U.K. Government's policy is not only discriminatory in this regard but it also does not take into account the realities of the situation. We have said this before on a number of occasions. As regards what we should do in this connection, whether we should quit the Commonwealth or take some other action to bring it home to them that this kind of a policy is not fair and just, is something on which

I cannot make a commitment on behalf of the Government at this stage. It is a much wider and bigger issue. All that I can say is that this is a matter about which we are deeply concerned and action will be taken by the Government of India if and when it becomes necessary.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : When Indians...

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Sir can I ask a small question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. We have some very important business and...

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : This is also important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Therefore I allowed you one more question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : When Indians born in Africa or in India and holding British passport are denied entry into Britain why should we not debar the entry of Englishmen holding British passports into India as a retaliatory measure to put the question on an equal footing? Sir, this question of Commonwealth association has become a disgrace to India. It is a shameful thing and I want to know whether the Government is aware that the large number of democratic masses in India—I can say almost the overwhelming majority in India—is in favour of quitting the Commonwealth. If a referendum is taken on the point whether India should quit the Commonwealth the verdict would be in favour of quitting the Commonwealth because we are suffering from imperialist tutelage. That is the position. Is Burma at any disadvantage because she has become a Republic? Nothing of the sort is there. On the contrary its prestige is high whereas being in the Commonwealth we have become a second grade nation, not on par with other nations. What are those appropriate measures that you are going to take? Define them; we demand that you should debar the entry of British citizens into India to put the issue on an equal footing and sever connections with the British Commonwealth so that India can take its own decisions in all matters without being influenced by the British which is an imperialist power. Everybody knows that.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I share the hon. Member's feelings on this question and I agree with him that

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh]

Britain is not acting in a fair and just manner in this regard. This racial discrimination and their policy of not allowing their own citizen to enter their country is something which is really reprehensible but what action we should take from our side I am not in a position to say at the moment but I can say this that if this kind of a situation continues for some time we will have to take some action from our side on a reciprocal basis and we may have to impose restriction on the entry of U.K. citizen into our country. That is a matter which we can consider.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : This matter has been pending for a long time before this Parliament and every time we are told by the Government that the Government is thinking but everybody knows that the thinking apparatus of the Ministry of External Affairs has become rusted long back and now it is broken also. Therefore we are not satisfied with this kind of stock answer being given for years now. I should like to know whether the Government considers that it is morally responsible to take some effective steps with a view to either forcing the British Government to change this decision or alternatively the Government itself should take certain measures—You may call them retaliatory or something else; I am not concerned with the expression—and I should also like to know why the Government of India, for example does not make it known to the British Government that the British passport holders would be treated for purposes of entry into this country as passport holders of say Italy or any other country and they would not enjoy any kind of advantage or privilege. I think this can be done.

Secondly, I would also like to say that there should be a concerted move by the Government along with other like-minded members of the so-called Commonwealth to force the issue on the Commonwealth agenda if they at all go to such conferences. I should also like to know whether the Government is aware that this is not merely a question of discrimination against Asian passport holder of Indian origin but this flows from the racial policy of the United Kingdom because there is great pressure

by the racialists in England and the present Government is also in certain respects following racial policies.

Is he aware that Indians are being discriminated on account of their colour and race in many parts of England today? I should like to know how many protests have been launched by the Indian High Commission to the British Government. Therefore nothing is satisfactory at all. This Government is a weak-kneed Government, is a timid Government. Once in Moscow a question was put to Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha when he was leading a Parliamentary Delegation as to why we should not quit the Commonwealth and do you know what Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I think, said? He said "why should we quit the Commonwealth; we shall make the British quit the Commonwealth" It was a wonderful answer, a heroic answer. I told him; Why are you saying such things? After all, the Russian people are intelligent people". If that is so why don't you serve a notice on them? I say this is all bluff and bluster. This Government run by the British-influenced officials would never take any such step. Suddenly Jawaharlal Nehru took the decision in one of his unguarded moments that India should continue in the Commonwealth and we are continuing. Therefore ..

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI (Maharashtra) : Sir, may I know if Mr. Bhupesh Gupta is allowed to make a speech or is he only to put a question?

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not allowed to make a speech.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : We have found in this House invariably Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has got the monopoly of making a speech on any occasion he likes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Monopoly he knows better. With 12 votes he buys 43 votes.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : I understand it thoroughly. You need not teach me and I do not require any lesson from you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I have no doubt about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have got very important items later on and I have got a number of persons here on my list.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Now Sir, since my friend, Mr. Chinai, has interrupted me, this is the mentality. These are the people who are behind the move not to quit the British Commonwealth...

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on a point of order...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : These are the people who are behind the British...

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : On a point of order. You have been very kind enough to say that he is required to ask a question. He is making a speech in spite of your drawing his attention. Your honour has not been able to see that he puts a question. Either you should exercise your power or you should ask him to sit down. This will not do. There cannot be discrimination between Member and Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI A. P. JAIN (Uttar Pradesh) : There is no question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for him to say.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : There is a question.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The hon. Member just said that the British Government are exercising discrimination and their policy has also an element of racism. I agree with him entirely. It is true that they are trying to distinguish between one category of citizens and another category of citizens. British citizens who are of European stock or of British stock have free entry into the UK. There is no difficulty at all. Citizens of Asian origin have all these difficulties, and in that sense there is an element of racialism in their attitude. We have pointed out to them on a number of occasions and we have told them that this should be removed. These people suffer hardships unnecessarily. As regards the Commonwealth I have already replied.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kalyan Roy, a short question

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal) : Who is the Minister of External Affairs in the United Kingdom? Is it Mr. Enoch Powell who is deciding the policy in the United Kingdom? Is the Minister aware that hundreds of Indians are today stranded in the Rome airport, in the Paris airport and the Frankfurt airport spending months in the aerodrome lounge? What is he going to do about it? Last question, as a self-respecting measure, would he take over the British plantations, the British mines and the British factories? Lastly, is it not true that because of this cowardly, submissive attitude of this Ministry, the United Kingdom can treat Indians holding UK. passports as pariahs and untouchables?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The Foreign Secretary is Mr. Michael Stewart and not Mr. Enoch Powell. Mr. Enoch Powell may have a different attitude and we are aware of it, but all I can say is that the British Government do not follow him. They do not subscribe to his views. I am aware of the difficulties suffered by people of Indian origin who are holding British passports and are not able to get entry into UK. You are quite correct that they are stranded in Frankfurt and other places. They have difficulties. Sometimes they have to go back to the places where they came from. This kind of thing has been going on for some time now. That is why we are greatly concerned about it and we are thinking whether we can take certain measures from our side to prevent it.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY (Tamil Nadu) : I do not like to inflict questions on the hon. Minister and I only put this question. Recently it has been brought to my notice that many of the Indians who go to the UK are subjected to a lot of harassment, inconvenience and detention at the customs point. We, on the other hand, do not do such things at our customs point here. I do not want that we should take any severe measures here, but at least we should have an attitude of a tooth for a tooth and a nail for a nail. As long as one member of the Commonwealth is behaving like this towards another member of the Commonwealth, in this country we must be very sharp in bringing them to their senses and show them that we can also do the same thing. I want an assurance that we will also do the same thing in case they do not behave well.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I have already given an assurance that if our efforts fail, it is quite likely that we will have to take similar measures, impose certain restrictions on British citizens.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : The position is very amazing. There are various restrictions against Indians entering the UK, but citizens of the UK have free access to any part of India. I am sorry the calling attention notice has not been properly worded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put the question.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I will be briefer than all the others. There is no question of our requesting the British to introduce the visa system. They have introduced the visa system and many worse things already for Indians. The simple question is whether we, as a self-respecting country, will introduce the visa system for the Britishers who want to come to India. May I know if the Government realise the gravity of the situation and will it now introduce a visa system for the Britishers trying to come to India? Secondly, the Minister said that the Commonwealth is a very good club because we can go to London and discuss questions of mutual interest.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : We can go and get photographed with Queen Elizabeth II.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : That may be of importance to you, not to you. There you and I will not go. May I know what questions of Indian interest have ever been discussed at the meeting of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers? And what has been the outcome of the British hostility to India is well known when Pakistan attacked India...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please close.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : I am just closing. When Pakistan attacked India, Mr. Wilson, like a schoolmaster, tried to rebuke the school boy that was India. In the United Nations the British representative never, never voted for anything which India wanted even for the smaller post which India contests in the United Nations, Britain's vote is against us. What Indian interest is served through this well-known forum where problems of mutual interest and admiration are discussed?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Subservience to their interest.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As regards making a request to the U. K. Government to introduce the visa system I may inform the hon. Member that the question does not arise. It lies within our sovereign right, and it is for us to decide what action we should take in this connection. We do not have to make a request. We have to assess the situation and analyse it from our point of view and we will take whatever action is considered necessary from the point of view of our own national interest. Now, Sir, as regards the question of the Commonwealth, it is open to the hon. Member to say that no useful purpose is being served by our continued membership of the Commonwealth, but so far as the decision of the Government is concerned, we feel it is in our interests to continue our membership. This is a forum where a large number of Afro-Asian countries are represented. Britain is no longer dominating it and there is no kind of imperialist policy which is being imposed on us through the Commonwealth. It is a forum or a club of nations with equal status and where important subjects are discussed. It has served a useful purpose up till now and we feel that.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra) : Where is the useful purpose?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not called you.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not a question of calling me. It is a question of getting a proper reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am getting a reply. Let him finish. He has not yet finished.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir may I pose a question to you?

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can you? I am not a Minister.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is not for me to stand up here on behalf of the Government and say we are quitting the Commonwealth. I am merely stating a fact of policy of the Government of India as it is at the present moment. It is open to hon. Members to raise this

question in this forum at some other time and try to change the policy of the Government in this regard. We will certainly welcome a discussion of this.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, none of the two question which I put has been replied to. I asked him what are the subjects of Indian interest which have been discussed in the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meetings during the last twenty years. Secondly, I asked him . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you expect a ready answer to a question as to what are the subjects which have been on the Agenda of the Commonwealth Conference? Please let us be reasonable.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He should know where our interests lie.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us see. We have got a very important item later. Can you give the subjects on the Agenda of the Commonwealth Conferences?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I cannot say precisely.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS (Uttar Pradesh) : Certainly, a Minister cannot be expected to be ready with an answer to every questions. Instead of giving an evasive reply he can frankly say he cannot give a reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have put this question to him

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA (Bihar) : Is it necessary that every answer should be satisfactory?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I could not catch this point. You said that the Minister is not expected to know what happened in the Commonwealth Conference.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members will know that today there are a large number of Members who want to mention matters. Then we have got a very important item. We should think of that item also.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I have not tried to give any evasive reply at all. The only reason why I have not been able to give him proper reply is

that this calling attention does not relate to the Commonwealth at all. But I can say this much that the normal practice is that any issues or matters which concern two countries in the Commonwealth, such matters are not taken up in the Commonwealth meeting itself. They are taken up on a bilateral basis.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन् आपने मेरा नाम लिया और उसके बाद छः आदमी बोलने के लिए खड़े हो गये। हम तो केवल इशारे में इस संबंध में आपका ध्यान आकर्षित कर सकते हैं।

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ कर बात कहें।

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हम थोड़ा थोड़ा करके खड़ा होना सीख रहे हैं। श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे कुल कितने लोग हमारे पड़े हुए हैं, जिनके पास पासपोर्ट मौजूद हैं, मगर वे ब्रिटेन में प्रवेश नहीं पा सक रहे हैं। ऐसे कितने लोग हैं जो बन्दरगाहों में पड़े हुए हैं, क्या सरकार के पास इस सम्बन्ध में कोई आंकड़े हैं। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे कितने अफ्रीकन और इंडियन ओरीजिन के लोग हैं, जिनके पास पासपोर्ट है, लेकिन वे अभी तक प्रवेश नहीं पा सके हैं और उनके लिए भारत सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है। यह तो एक ही मसले का सवाल है।

इसके बाद दूसरा सवाल उठ खड़ा होता है कि इस सरकार के पास यह जानकारी कब से हुई कि इंग्लैंड की सरकार रंगभेद की नीति अख्तियार कर रही है और इंग्लैंड की सरकार जो यह कदम उठा रही है रोकथाम की वह न्यायपूर्ण नहीं है, अनुचित है और भारतीय सम्मान के विरुद्ध है। अब मैं इस सदन के सम्मानित सदस्यों से कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह सरकार कह रही है कि ब्रिटिश सरकार हमारे साथ अन्याय कर रही है, यह सरकार कह रही है कि ब्रिटिश सरकार ने रंगभेद की नीति अख्तियार की है। यह सरकार कह रही है कि ब्रिटिश सरकार हमारे साथ जो व्यवहार कर रही है, उसके विरुद्ध हम आवाज उठा रहे हैं और सूटे-

[श्री राजन रयण]

बल ऐक्शन ले रहे हैं। लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सदन में यह प्रश्न पहली बार नहीं आ रहा है और पासपोर्ट सिस्टम का प्रश्न पहली बार सदन में नहीं उठ रहा है। इस प्रश्न को उठे हुए कई महीने व्यतीत हो चुके हैं और इस संबंध में सदन में कई बार चर्चा हो चुकी है और फिर भी सरकार उत्तर दे रही है कि गवर्नमेंट मूटेबल ऐक्शन ले रही है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह मूटेबल ऐक्शन क्या है और वह क्या ऐक्शन लेगी। क्या माननीय विदेश मंत्री को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जो उग्र और प्रथम श्रेणी के आजादी के स्वतंत्र संग्राम के सेनानी हैं, उनमें से अधिकांश लोगों ने जब मुक्त आजाद हुआ था, उसी दिन से ब्रिटिश कामनवेल्थ से अपना नाता रिश्ता तोड़ने की सलाह दी थी और तब से लेकर अब तक एक न एक बहाना लेकर यह सरकार कामनवेल्थ में पड़ी हुई है। यह कहती है कि कामनवेल्थ हमारे लिए बहुत ही उपयुक्त स्थान है। हमारे साथ रंगभेद की नीति अख्तियार हो, हमारे साथ अन्याय की नीति अख्तियार हो, फिर भी यह सरकार कहे कि कामनवेल्थ का प्लेटफार्म हमारे लिए बहुत उपयुक्त है। सरकार ने कामनवेल्थ में रहने की जो नीति अख्तियार की हुई है, उसके बारे में पुनः विचार करेगी और हम लोगों की राय जानकर अविलम्ब, फौरन और अगर हो सके तो अभी यहाँ पर बैठ कर उससे अपना संबंध विच्छेद कर दें, तो क्या इस संबंध में सरकार विचार करेगी। यह तो एक बात हुई।

श्रीमन्, दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह लिखा पढ़ी तो हो रही है, मगर जो सरकार नित्य प्रति साम्प्रदायिकता के विरुद्ध अभियान चलाने की कसम खाती है, वह सरकार रंगभेद की नीति के सामने घुटना टेक बन जाय, यह सरकार के लिए कितनी निन्दा और शर्म की बात है। यह राष्ट्रीय शर्म की बात है कि ब्रिटिश सरकार इस ढंग का घृणित व्यवहार

करे और भारत सरकार हिजड़ी बन कर चुपचाप देखनी रह जाय। तो इसके आगे हम कहते हैं कि इस सरकार को क्या दिक्कत है कि वह क्यों न अंग्रेजों के यहाँ आने पर रोक लगा दे। जो ब्रिटिशर्स यहाँ आ रहे ह, उनसे कहें कि जब तक हमारे साथ अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं किया जाता है, सामान्य स्थिति पैदा नहीं होती, तब तक हम किसी को अपने मुक्त में नहीं आने देंगे। जो उनके कंसर्न हैं, जो उनकी फैक्टरीज हैं, जैसा कि अभी हमारे मित्रों ने बतलाया, उन फैक्टरीयों को ले लिया जाना चाहिये और इस संबंध में यह सरकार कोई पोजिटिव स्टेप ले, जिससे भारत का जो क्षोभ है, भारत का जो गुस्सा है, भारत का जो क्रोध है और भारत की जनता अंग्रेजों की इस नीति को बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकती है, वह प्रकट हो सके। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए भारत सरकार कौन सा कदम उठाने जा रही है।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा कि कितने ऐसे आदमी हैं, जो ब्रिटिश पासपोर्ट होल्ड किये हुए बन्दरगाहों और पोर्ट्स में पड़े हुए हैं और उन्हें दाखिला नहीं मिल सका है। मेरे पास इस संबंध आंकड़े नहीं हैं और यह कहना मुश्किल होगा कि कितने लोग ऐसे होंगे। वक़्तन फ़वक़्तन लोग आते रहते हैं, कभी नहीं पहुंचते हैं और इसके बारे में कहना मुश्किल है कि इस तरह के कितने लोग हैं।

यह बात सही है कि उन्हें वहाँ जाने में दिक्कत होती है और बावजूद इसके कि हमने इस बारे में उनसे कहा है, ब्रिटिश सरकार से कहा है कि इस तरह के लोगों के लिए दिक्कत पैदा न की जाय, लेकिन फिर भी इस तरह की दिक्कत मौजूद है। जितने आदमी ईस्ट अफ्रीका से वहाँ जाना चाहते हैं, वे वहाँ नहीं जा पा रहे हैं; क्योंकि उन्होंने एक कोटा, सीलिंग रखा है कि एक साल में सिर्फ 1,500 आदमी जा सकेंगे। लेकिन मैं यह जानता हूँ कि जैसी स्थिति ईस्ट

अफ्रीका की बनती जा रही है, वहां पर बहुत काफी आदमी, इंडियन ओरीजन के हैं, जो वह जाना चाहते हैं, लेकिन नहीं जा पा रहे हैं।

अब रहा सवाल कि भारत सरकार को कब मालूम हुआ कि ब्रिटिश सरकार ने रंगभेद की नीति को अख्तियार कर लिया है। यह तो अध्यक्ष महोदय, 1962 के बाद बहुत से ऐसे कानून बने, खासतौर पर 1968 के बाद जिसमें उन्होंने ले डाउन कर दिया है कि कामनवैलथ या ब्रिटिश सिटिजन्स जो हैं, उसमें यूरोपीयन और ब्रिटिशर्स जो हैं, वे तो आसानी के साथ आ सकते हैं, लेकिन जो एशियन ओरीजन के हैं वे नहीं आ सकते हैं आसानी के साथ और यह बात जाहिर करती है कि यह रंगभेद की नीति है। हम इस नीति की निन्दा करते हैं और हम यह पालिसी कतई पसन्द नहीं करते हैं। इसके बारे में हमने अपनी राय उन्हें बतला दी है।

आखिरी सवाल कामनवैलथ का रहा और अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसके बारे में मैं जवाब दे चुका हूं। मैं इस संबंध में इतना ही कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर हम कामनवैलथ छोड़ दें तो माननीय सदस्य बतलायें कि हमें किस तरह से इमदाद मिलेगी और किस तरह से ब्रिटेन वालों की पालिसी बदलेगी।

श्री राजनारायण : कामनवैलथ तो छोड़ना ही पड़ेगा और इसके लिए सरकार की जितनी निन्दा की जाय, उतना कम है।

(Interruptions)

श्री सभापति : आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : यह बात मैं मानता हूं कि अगर इस तरह की पालिसी चलती रही तो यह ठीक बात नहीं होगी। इसके बारे में हमें बड़ी फिक्र है कि इसके बारे में कुछ किया जाय। क्या किया जाय, यह कहना मेरे लिए मुश्किल है।

श्री राजनारायण : सरकार ने जो जवाब दिया है, उसमें कहा कि हम सूटबल ऐक्शन ले

रहे हैं, तो उस सूटबल ऐक्शन के क्या-क्या प्रकार हो सकते हैं।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : इसी बात को कहने की तो मैं कोशिश कर रहा हूं और इसको डिफाइन करना मुश्किल है कि सूटबल ऐक्शन क्या होगा। हो सकता है कि किसी रेसिप्रोकल बेसिस पर इस तरह के रेसट्रिक्शन पेश कर दें या इससे कुछ ज्यादा कर पायें, लेकिन यह इतना डेलीकेट मामला है, जिसके बारे में कहना बड़ा मुश्किल है। इसमें बहुत सी बातों का खयाल रखना पड़ता है; क्योंकि यू० के० के साथ ही हमारे संबंधों की बात नहीं है, बल्कि यह भी खयाल करना पड़ता है कि तीन लाख भारतीय जो वहां पर रह रहे हैं, उनका इन्स्टेस्ट भी हमें देखना पड़ता है। इसके साथ ही साथ इसमें बहुत सी गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया की मिनिस्ट्रियों का संबंध शामिल है और उनकी राय भी इस मामले में लेनी पड़ती है और जब तक सबसे इस बारे में मशविरा न कर लिया जाय तब तक मेरे लिए कुछ कहना मुश्किल है कि हम क्या करेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Alva.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA (Nominated) : I find that most of the questions have been put, Sir.

डा० भाई महाविर (दिल्ली) : श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि आज जो ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव है वह बीजा की रोक-थाम या उसके ऊपर लगे हुए बन्धनों से संबंधित है। तो क्या सरकार इस बारे में भी कोई अनुमान लगाती है कि इंग्लैंड में जो भारतीय बसे हुए हैं, उनके साथ यू० के० की सरकार का, वहां के लोगों का किस प्रकार का व्यवहार है? क्या उनको यह लगता है कि उनके साथ सम्मान का और बराबरी का बर्ताव किया जाता है? या कि उनको वहां पर अपमान के घूट पीने पड़ते हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि अगर यह सच है कि वहां के लोगों को कई बार अपमानित होना पड़ता है, तो उसके बाद भी यहां से जो लोग

[डा० भाई महावीर]

वहां जाते हैं; उनको केवल इसलिये ब्रिटेन में प्रवेश मिलता है, क्योंकि उनको कुछ मीनियल, कुछ ऐसे क्लास के लोगों का काम करने के वास्ते सस्ते मजदूर इंग्लैंड में भारत से जाने वाले उपलब्ध हो जाते हैं। तो इस तरह के लोगों के जाने के ऊपर सरकार कोई नियंत्रण रखेगी और कैसे लोगों का वहां जाना उचित है और कैसे लोगों का नहीं, इसके बारे में कोई विचार करती है कि नहीं ?

और क्या इसी सिलसिले में यह सच है कि नहीं कि हमारे लोगों का वहां पर अपमान होने का एक बड़ा कारण यह है कि हम यहां पर बोगस पासपोर्ट वगैरह के रोकने की रोकथाम ठीक नहीं कर पाये और ऐसे लोग यहां हैं जो पैसे ले कर और किसी भी शर्त को पूरा न करने वाले लोगों को वहां पहुंचा देते हैं फिर वहां उन का जो कुछ भी होता रहे। तो इन तीनों बातों के बारे में सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है तथा इस प्रकार जो पैसे ले कर गलत पासपोर्ट दिये जाते हैं, उस की रोकथाम का सरकार ने क्या प्रबन्ध किया है ?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : यह सही है कि यहां से बहुत से भारतीय बोगस पासपोर्ट पर जाते हैं और क्लैस्टेडइन मीन्स से दाखिल होने की कोशिश करते हैं। यह सब बातें वहां की सरकार को मालूम हैं, इसलिये उन्होंने स्क्रीनिंग के—चैक करने के तरीके सख्त कर दिये हैं, जिस से कि लोगों को परेशानी होती है।

रहा सवाल यह कि जो वहां हिन्दुस्तान के नागरिक यू० के० में पहुंच गये हैं, उन के साथ कैसा बर्ताव होगा ?

डा० भाई महावीर : जो जाते हैं उनकी वहां स्क्रीनिंग करके चैक कर सकें इस की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है ?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : जो यहां से जाते हैं ब्रिटिश परमिट्स लेने के बाद भी उनकी वहां स्क्रीनिंग होती है। ब्रिटिश हाई कमिशन से परमिट लेने से पहले भी स्क्रीनिंग होती है।

इसके पहले भी हमने शिकायत की है कि जब स्क्रीनिंग यहां हो चुकी है, तो वहां जाने के बाद उनके सामने कोई दिक्कत नहीं आनी चाहिये। लेकिन होता यह है कि परमिट लेने के बाद जब कुछ केसेज ऐसे हैं कि वहां पर पहुंचने पर इमीग्रेशन अथोरिटीज फिर भी उनको शुबहे की निगाह से देखती हैं, उनको क्वेश्चन करती हैं, इंटरव्यू करती हैं, स्क्रीनिंग करती हैं जिस से लोगो को तकलीफ होती है। हम इसी चीज को रोकने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि जब परमिट दे दिया तो उसको और कर के दाखिला देना चाहिये। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होता है।

रहा सवाल यह कि उन लोगों के साथ बर्ताव कैसा है, तो मैं यह कह सकता हूं कि यह सही है कि वहां कुछ ऐलीमेंट पोपुलेशन का ऐसा है, जिसका एट्रिब्यूट रेशियल है। लेकिन जहां तक गवर्नमेंट की नीति का सवाल है, वहां कोई भेदभाव नहीं है, उनको बराबरी का दर्जा मिलता है और वहां एक रेस रिलेशन्स बोर्ड भी कायम हो गया है, जो इन सब मामलो को देखता है और जो शिकायतें आती हैं उनको दूर करने की कोशिश करते हैं।

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS (1968-69) OF THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED AND RELATED PAPERS

II. NOTIFICATION UNDER THE FORWARD CONTRACTS (REGULATIONS) ACT, 1952

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each of the following papers (in English and Hindi):—

(i) Fourteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited for the year 1968-69, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation.