

RAJYA SABHA

Saturday, the 17th May, 1969 [the 27th
Vaisakha, 1891 (Saka)]

The House met at eleven of the clock, IHE
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****CURRENT RACIAL VIOLENCE IN
MALAYSIA AND ITS IMPACT ON INDIAN
NATIONALS AND PEOPLE OF INDIAN
ORIGIN THERE.**

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal):
Madam, I beg to call the attention of the
Minister of External Affairs to the current
racial violence in Malaysia and its impact on
Indian nationals and people of Indian origin
there.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): Madam,
the Government of India are closely watching
the current developments in Malaysia.

According to official reports 75 persons
have been killed and 277 injured in the
disturbances that are taking place. We are
sorry that such racial tension should build up
in a friendly country which has endeavoured
to establish a multi-racial society. Our High
Commission in Kuala Lumpur has been in
touch with the Malaysian Foreign office and
understands that no Indian nationals have
been involved in the recent disturbances.

The situation continues to be tense. A
National Operations Council has been formed
to deal with the situation.

We have every sympathy with the
Government and people of Malaysia and are
confident that they will be able to resolve
their present difficulties and restore racial
harmony.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Madam, may I
know from the hon. Minister whether it is a
fact that Indians have become special targets
for violence in Kuala Lumpur and other
places because the Victory Parade which
was held there was led, among

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others, by one Mr. V. David, who is also of
Indian origin and who won the Parliamentary
election there.

Number two, may I know from the hon.
Minister whether it is a fact that there is a
heavy rush for exodus of the people of Indian
origin and Indian nationals there and whether
any announcement has been made by the
Government of India for their quick and safe
transit?

Number three, I should like to know
whether the Indian High Commissioner there
has so far sent any report to the Government
of India particularly in relation to the political
situation prevailing there and other allied
matters.

Lastly, may I know from the hon. Minister
whether his attention has been drawn to a
statement made by the Home Minister there to
the effect that democracy is dead there? What
is the reaction of this Government of ours to
that particular opinion given by the Home
Minister of Malaysia? Does it signify that the
Malaysian Parliament will be dissolved soon
and, if so, whether our Government visualise
any change in our attitude towards the
Government of Malaysia in that particular
event?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam,
the first question asked by the hon. Member is
whether the Indian community in Malaysia
are a target of attack. This is not correct,
Madam. The people of Indian origin living in
Malaysia are not a target of attack though it is
reported— the reports have not been
confirmed yet—that some Malaysians of Indian
origin have been involved in rioting and some
of them have been killed. It is very difficult to
say whether these people, actually took part in
the rioting itself or they were just victims of
cross-fire and got hurt and killed.

As regards the second question, namely
whether any special arrangements for their
transport or bringing them to India have been
made, this question does not arise because the
people of Indian origin in Malaysia,
irrespective of whether they are nationals of
that country or they are the citizens of India,
have the best of relations with the local
people because they are

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living a happy, contented and satisfied life. Just because an upheaval has taken place, it does not necessarily mean that we are thinking of getting them back to India. As soon as the troubles are over there they will be quite safe and secure and they will live happily there.

As for the third supplementary, whether we have received any report from the High Commissioner, we have received a number of reports though at times the reports are incomplete and sketchy. That is understandable because of the disrupted conditions prevailing in the country at the present moment.

As regards somebody making a remark whether democracy is dead there, Madam, I have no information about that.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): Arising from this notice, may I ask the Minister whether it is not a fact that a large number of resident Indians who applied for the citizenship of Malaysia, their applications have been kept pending for a long time and that there is a good deal of uncertainty about their future? May I ask him how many persons have applied for local citizenship so far and have been refused permission by the Malaysian Government?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, there are about 8,10,000 people of Indian origin in Malaysia. I have got a break-up here of their categories citizenship-wise. Out of 8,10,000, there are 1,60,000 Indian nationals and approximately 6 lakhs of people who have already acquired Malaysian citizenship. As I pointed out, about 40,000 people are holding British and other passports. And approximately 25,000 people can be classed as stateless. Madam, I have not got figures of how many of them have applied for local citizenship, how many applications are pending, etc. If the hon. Member will give a fresh notice, we will try to make the information available.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): The hon. Minister has just now said that as far as Malaysia is concerned, it is trying to build up a multi-racial society. I know that the Indian Government landed

on Malaysia as friends, particularly on Mr. Tunku Abdul Rahman, during the conflict between China and India in 1962. In view of the fact that the riots seem to have been instigated by Mr. Tunku Abdul Rahman when he found that his Triple Alliance Party could not win three of the nine States in Malaysia, and in view of the further fact that he wanted to nullify the results of the elections by obviously instigating racial violence therein by inciting one community against another, and in view of the further fact that it has already been brought to the attention of the Minister that Mr. Tunku Abdul Rahman or the people there at his instigation are saying that democracy is dead and the Parliament there is nearly dead, will the hon. Minister say whether the Government is thinking of determining their attitude afresh in regard to Malaysia which became a friend by accident with us due to the Chinese conflict with us in 1962 knowing very fully well that Mr. Tunku was more of a British stooge than a democrat of that area?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, the question of reviewing our policy and attitude towards Malaysia does not arise at all. Our relations with that country and with the Government there are very cordial and very friendly. We greatly appreciate and commend the multiracial policy which the Tunku has propagated there and is trying to establish; he is working very hard to bring about racial harmony in that country, a country which has so many ethnical groups. He has build up an edifice brick by brick and has taken great pains in doing so. It is true that he is meeting with certain difficulties at the present juncture for which we sympathise with him. We are hopeful that with his wise, political acumen and statesmanship, he will be able to solve the problem satisfactorily.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) :

माननीय सदस्य श्री चटर्जी ने इस सवाल को जो झोड़ दिया है, उसमें से इस बात के संकेत लगते हैं कि मलेशिया में आज जो चीनी समर्थक तत्व वहां पर पृथक्तावादी अलग संस्कृति और अलग परम्पराओं का आधार लेकर जो साम्प्रदायिक दंगे खड़े कर रहे हैं और जिस

के समर्थन में आज भारत में भी चीनी तत्व जिस प्रकार गड़बड़ी कर रहे हैं, उससे ऐसा लगता है कि यह प्रश्न काफी गम्भीर है और एक बड़े पड़यंत्र का हिस्सा है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं कि संयुक्त मोर्चा इस समय वहाँ पर इतना बहुमत में नहीं है जितनी पिछली बार था। वहाँ पर जो मलय चीनी एसोसिएशन है, उन्हें वहाँ की सरकार ने सरकार में शामिल होने के लिए निमंत्रण दिया था, पर उन्होंने शामिल होने से इनकार कर दिया था। आज वे ही लोग मलेशिया की अखंडता को तोड़ने में लगे हुए हैं और वहाँ पर इस तरह के साम्प्रदायिक दंगे करवा रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अभी उन्होंने जो मृतकों की 75 की संख्या दी है क्या वह सही है। क्योंकि आज आल इंडिया रेडियो ने यह समाचार प्रसारित किया कि वहाँ पर मरने वालों की संख्या करीब 95 तक पहुँच गई है। तो मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि इस संख्या को जरा चेक कर लिया जाय।

इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह बात सच है कि जो भारतीय मूल के लोग हैं, वे वहाँ की परिस्थिति से भयभीत होकर, अपने घरों को छोड़कर ऐसी जगह पर एकत्रित हुए हैं, जहाँ पर उनके जान व माल की रक्षा हो सके। अगर इस बात की जानकारी सरकार को है, तो क्या सरकार मलेशिया की सरकार से इस संबंध में जानकारी हासिल करेगी और उन लोगों की सुरक्षा की पूर्ण व्यवस्था करेगी? दूसरे वहाँ की सरकार को इन पृथक्तावादी चीनी तत्वों से सुरक्षित रखने के लिये मलेशिया सरकार को अपना सब प्रकार का सहयोग और नैतिक समर्थन यह सरकार प्रदान करेगी, जिससे कि मलेशिया की अखंडता सुरक्षित रह सके?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, first of all, as far as casualty is concerned, it is true that I have mentioned 75 casualties. But this is on the basis of confirmed reports from there and on the basis of the official news that we have received from the Malaysian High Commission. We have also received news and also heard on the radio that the casualties are much higher than 75. But, unless and until they are confirmed, it is very difficult to give you any exact figure.

As regards the question of giving protection to people of Indian origin in Malaysia who are passing through this very difficult lime there—as far as the Indian nationals, are concerned, it is our responsibility to give them all possible protection and aid in the present difficulties. That is being done by the High Commissioner in Singapore.

As regards the Malaysians of Indian origin, Madam, it is the responsibility of the Malaysian Government to provide adequate protection to them and we have no reason to believe that this protection is not being given to them.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Malaysia is a friendly country and we have friendly relations with Malaysia. We must be grateful to Malaysia for its support during our conflict with Pakistan in the U.N. Security Council.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister—it is reported in the Press that properties of Indian nationals as well as of persons of Indian origin have been ransacked though they have not been involved and though there is no loss of life—whether properties have been looted by some of the hooligans. These racial riots appeared to have been started by the Islamic Party which is a fascist, racialist party in Malaysia. I would like to know whether Malaysia has asked for any support from the Government of India, since both the countries are Members of the Commonwealth, to give protection or to help the Government there to restore normalcy.

Regarding the Air-India flights and the Indian ships touching the ports in Malaysia, may I know whether they have suspended their flights and whether the ships that are

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touching the Malaysian ports have suspended their voyage to Malaysia and what protection are they giving to the Indian nationals as well as persons of Indian origin whenever such things occur there?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, as regards the question of looting of properties and damaging of properties of Indians in Malaysia, we took up this matter with the Foreign Ministry of Malaysia and our acting High Commissioner spoke to his counterpart in the Foreign Ministry there and we were informed by them that as far as they knew, no damage was done to the property of Indian nationals nor any Indian national has been involved in the looting or anybody killed.

As regards the properties of Malaysians of Indian origin, it is very difficult to say at this juncture as to the extent of the damage or whether damage has not been done at all because the conditions there are very disturbed and the situation is fluid and the reports we get from there is very sketchy and not complete. We cannot say therefore say definitely about that. As regards Malaysia's asking for any help from a third country, Madam, we are not aware of any help being asked by Malaysia either from us or from any other country. We hope that the Malaysian Government will be able to solve this problem on their own and there is no need to ask help from outside.

As regards Air-India flights, it is true that Air India's normal flight has been suspended for the time being because the conditions are abnormal and they are disturbed in Kuala Lumpur. The same applies to ships. I think the shipping lines have also suspended their services. But, we hope that very soon they will be restored as soon as conditions return to normal.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) Madam, may I know if Government is aware of the fact that the riot started soon after a widespread allegation that the CIA of the United States was playing a big part in the political life of Malaysia; and that some of the leaders of Malaysia were accused of having accepted C.I.A. money? So much so that because of this allegation, these leaders went to a Masjid and swore that they had not accepted

C.I.A. money. Has the Government tried to find out from its High Commissioner if the C.I.A. is responsible for these riots?

Secondly, in relation to the question of Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy I want to know whether the Government of Malaysia has asked for any help. This is an internal affair of that country. It is good that the Government of Malaysia has not asked for any help. But the correct answer for the Minister to give is this.

AN HON. MEMBER: Don't correct him.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know whether even if the Government of Malaysia or any foreign Government asks for Government of India's help for a solution of its own internal affairs this sort of help will be given or not?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, as regards the involvement of the C.I.A. in the whole affair, it is very difficult for me to say anything about that because, firstly, we have not got any information and in the absence of that, I cannot say anything about it. But, to establish the cause of the trouble is also very difficult because the news that is coming from Malaysia, as I said earlier, is incomplete and very sketchy. Unless and until the things have really settled down and conditions returned to normal, it is very difficult to find out as to what exactly has triggered off the whole trouble and what is the provocation for it. We have been receiving news by which we cannot make any decision. The reports are not complete. But it has been made known that the trouble started because the supporters of the two political parties staged a certain demonstration in Kuala Lumpur soon after the election was over. During their demonstrations certain things were done or said against each other. The tension was there and some unruly and antisocial elements took advantage of the situation. That started the trouble.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: What about internal affairs?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: This is an internal matter. So the question of their asking our help does not arise.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : फिर कोई न उठ जाय। हम तो बहुत अनुशासित आदमी हैं। क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जो अभी चुनाव हुआ, उसमें युनाइटेड मलय नेशनल्स, मलयन चाइनीज एसोसिएशन और मलयन इंडियन कांग्रेस, ये जो तीनों का सम्मिलित मोर्चा था, उसमें मलयन चाइनीज एसोसिएशन की तादाद इस चुनाव में घट गई है। और जब मलयन चाइनीज एसोसिएशन की तादाद घट गई और पहले के मुकाबिले में प्रोपोर्शन अनुपात में ये नहीं आये, तो इन्होंने यह समझ लिया कि अब इस सरकार में शामिल रहने से हमारा मामला ठीक नहीं होगा और हम अपने हक की हिफाजत नहीं कर पायेंगे। ऐसी स्थिति में इन्होंने सरकार में शामिल होने से इनकार किया और इन्होंने कहा कि हम सरकार में शामिल नहीं होंगे। क्या सरकार को इस बात की भी जानकारी है कि इस समय जो वहां की आवादी का अनुपात है, उसमें आधे तो मलयन हैं, करीब 37, 38 परसेंट चाइनीज हैं और इसी तरह से भारतीयों की तादाद समझ लीजिये कि 10 या 11 परसेंट के करीब है? अब मैं श्री मुल्क गोविन्द रेड्डी और श्री ए० पी० चटर्जी, इन दोनों के बीच से निकल रहा हूं। (Interruptions) सत्य है कि बहुमत आज भी इसी संयुक्त मोर्चे का है; क्योंकि 144 का रिजल्ट घोषित हुआ है, उसमें उनके 76 आ गए, आधे से ज्यादा आ गए, 30 का रिजल्ट डिक्लेयर नहीं हुआ था, अब उसका भी आ गया होगा। बहुमत तो हो गया, मगर सवाल यह है कि चीनियों की ताकत है, सारा उद्योग चीनियों के हाथ में है, वहां की राजनीति पर वे प्रभावकारी हैं, मगर वे देख रहे हैं कि किसी कारणवश राज्य में उनका उचित

हिस्सा नहीं हो सकता और इसलिए वे अपना अधिकार, जो आर्थिक सत्ता पर हावी है, उसको और ज्यादा फैला नहीं सकते। तो क्या यही कारण है कि इस सरकार के विरुद्ध वहां चीनियों ने एक षड्यंत्र किया और इस सरकार को उलटने के लिए एक जातीय स्वरूप का दंगा खड़ा कराने की कोशिश की?

दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि सरकार की यह सूचना अधूरी है कि वहां कोई इंडियन नेशनल का नुकसान नहीं हुआ है? 15 तारीख को जो झगड़ा हुआ है, वह शुद्धतः इंडियन नेशनल और विद्रोहियों में हुआ है। यह कहना कि इंडियन नेशनल्स का नुकसान नहीं हुआ, मेरी समझ में यह गलत है, क्या सरकार इसको ठुकरा करेगी? इन बातों की रोशनी में जो भारतीय वहां हैं, उनके हित की हिफाजत के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं?

तीसरी बात, क्या इस समय शास्त्री कमेटी की रिपोर्ट इस सरकार के पास है और शास्त्री कमेटी ने इंडियन नेशनल्स की तरक्की के लिए, शिक्षा संस्थाओं में उनके उत्थान के लिए, उनकी जगह के लिए, क्या सुझाव दिया था? उन सुझावों को पूरा करने के लिए आज सरकार क्या करने जा रही है?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, it will not be proper for me to comment on the internal political situation inside that country. Malaysia is a sovereign, independent State. There are a number of political parties which are functioning within that country. What their orientation is, how they fought the elections, what they are doing to move their Government, it is very difficult for me to say. We have information about this M.C.A., about which the hon. Member asked a question; that it

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is a fact that after the elections were over, the M.C.A. did not get proper support from the Chinese population of the country, and thinking that they were not the rightful representatives of the Chinese population in the country, they withdrew from the Alliance Party. But we have also received reports recently that the M.C.A. has decided to join the Alliance Party again. These are still unconfirmed. I cannot say whether it is really correct or not.

As regards the Member's allegation that damage to properties of Indian nationals has been done and some Indian nationals have been killed and that the information that I have given is not correct, I have merely said that as far as our information goes—we are basing our information on the reports received from our High Commissioner there and from the Malaysian High Commissioner in New Delhi—we have been given to understand that no Indian national has been involved in any noting, nor has any Indian national been killed or any damage has been done to their property. But it is very difficult to assess the facts until conditions return to normalcy.

श्री राजनारायण : इंडियन ओरीजिन के लोगों का कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ, आपकी मशीनरी ने यही खबर दी है?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have already said that some damage has been done to Malaysians of Indian origin.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): When a question was asked about the C.I.A., the hon. Minister said that he did not have much information about it and he was not in a position to say anything about it. Surely the hon. Minister is aware that in April, 1966 the New York Times published five articles plus an editorial in which very authoritatively C.I.A. activities in various parts of the world were exposed after a very careful study. In one of those articles, it was pointed out how the C.I.A. was active in Malaysia and in Singapore. They had also said in that article, quoting the Prime Minister of Singapore, that he had been offered a bribe of three million dollars . . .

SHRI SYED AHMAD (Madhya Pradesh): Only?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You belong to the Birla party. Three million is "only" for you. For me it is not "only." Now, three million dollars was offered to him as a personal bribe, not to the Government, to cover up some C.I.A. activity. The Prime Minister revealed it to a pressman and on that basis, it was published. Also other accounts were given about the C.I.A. activities in that region. In view of these things, may I know whether the hon. Minister has sent instructions to our mission in Malaysia to find out by a special investigation or by whichever way open to them, the extent of C.I.A. activity there and whether and how the C.I.A. is operating in this situation there? This is very essential because we have to learn from this thing. Activities are going on here also. So I would like to know this from the hon. Minister.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, what the C.I.A., or for that matter any other agency, does or does not do in a third country is really no concern of ours and I am afraid I cannot make any comments on that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Man Singh Varma. Your name is here. Do you want to put any question?

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, मैं काफी देर से आया हूँ। देर से यह चर्चा चल रही है। मुझे पता नहीं क्या पूछा जा चुका है। मैं इस बात में दिलचस्पी रखता हूँ कि समाचार-पत्रों में जो बराबर समाचार आ रहे हैं और पढ़ने को मिले हैं कि भारतीयों के साथ वहाँ बड़ा अत्याचार हुआ है, उनकी सम्पत्ति लूटी गई है, इसके विषय में माननीय मंत्री जी क्या कहते हैं?

उपसभापति : इसका जवाब दे चुके

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have already said that the Indian community is not a target of attack, but it is just possible that when riots of this magnitude take place in any place, some innocent people may get hurt.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY (Tamil Nadu): Whatever might be the views of Chatterjees and Guptas here about Tunku Abdul Rehman, the country as a whole would remember the day when he openly declared in India that he would stand by India and not by China. We all remember that, and we are very sorry that such a friendly and sisterly country is in trouble now. Now, Madam, the majority of the people of Indian origin there are from South India. So when I ask this question, you must not take it that I am asking this question in a parochial way. I want to know whether in the melee between the Malays and the Chinese, any of the South Indians had been killed, and whether their properties had been attacked. I ask this question because very anxious enquiries are made about those people and whatever information that is being given by the hon. Minister would not satisfy the anxious enquiries that I am getting from Madras. I want the hon. Minister to say whether any of these people have been killed or their properties have been looted. This information is vital to South India. Will the Government make some arrangements to give publicity to whatever news they get now and then?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Madam, we ourselves are greatly concerned about the welfare and well-being of people of Indian origin in Malaysia. I have already said that in regard to people who are our nationals, our High Commission there is doing everything possible to protect them and to give them all possible aid and help. We have every reason to believe that this protection is being given to them. As regards Malaysians of Indian origin, I have already said that the local Government is taking the necessary steps to give them all possible protection. But, as I said earlier, it is just possible that some of these people might have been killed, as reported, and their property damaged. But that is something which is bound to happen in a situation like this. What can we do about it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Calling Attention motion is over.

Now about the Lajpat Nagar incidents. Mr. Rajnarain and others have taken my permission. But I am told that the Minister is going to make a statement. We may

wait for the Minister and after he makes the statement, you can ask questions.

Now, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta.

REFERENCE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S REACTION TO NIXON PLAN AND PERMISSION TO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT TO HAVE OFFICE IN INDIA

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, generally nowadays we do not discuss the international situation here. It was a good practice which we were following but nowadays we are not . . .

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): It is a good practice.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It was a good practice when we discussed the international situation. But my friend is so much a national that he would not look at the world outside. My interest lies in something bigger than in some silly things here. Madam Deputy Chairman, I heard last night the All-India Radio giving the views of the Government on the Nixon plan for the Paris peace talks between Vietnam and the U.S.A. In that broadcast the Government of India is reported to have welcomed the Nixon proposals as a step forward. But when the National Liberation Front a few days earlier made a ten-point plan for the Paris talks the Government of India did not come out with its reactions nor was there any such broadcast at all. They completely ignored it. Anyhow, nothing they said. The Government of India has not yet said anything on the subject on the floor of the House. When the Parliament was in session, disregarding the Lok Sabha and this House, the Government took the line of using official agencies and giving official handouts to the Press to broadcast to the world that the Government of India more or less welcomed the Nixon proposals. Madam, is the Minister listening to this?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is listening to you.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Or, is he thinking about the palace to which a reference was made yesterday?