

[1 August. 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): I associate myself with this Special Mention.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H R. BHARDWAJ): I think the whole House would associate itself with it.

Discharge of oily substance in the Beaches of Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): On 26th July, an oily substance deposited along the coastline in the Salcete taluka of Goa from Mobor beach to the Benaulim beach was seen by the villagers. There is a difference of opinion as to whether the substance was tar balls or raw oil. The Director of Science and Technology in Goa opined that the substance was raw oil discharged only recently from a nearby place, say, from Karwa or 20 kms. away from Goa. Whatever may be the nature of the substance, it had the effect of polluting beautiful and clean beaches of Goa, although to a lesser extent. It is also not clear as to how such a mischievous discharge of polluting substance was not noticed by the Coast Guard. This type of blatant rape of Goa beaches should not go unpunished. The Union Ministry of Environment has to chalk out a plan in coordination with the State Governments for the protection of beaches in the country. Although the Environment Protection Act and the laws relating to air and water pollution have enough provisions to deal with such situations, yet it is clear that the Enforcement Agencies are not efficient enough. The Indian Coast Guard has to be vigilant not merely with respect to the instruction of unauthorised ships or other illegal movements on our coastline but they have to nab those who discharge dangerous substances in the sea to the detriment of human and marine lives. The Government should investigate as to whether there was any conspiracy to spoil the Goan beaches to get the tourist traffic diverted to other countries.

Demand for granting Indian Citizenship to Pakistani Minority Hindus residing in Gujarat and Rajasthan

SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI (Gujarat): Sir, after and during the wars of 1965 and 1971, a large number of Hindus had left Pakistan, with passports or permits and come to India for permanent settlement. There were thousands of such people who had migrated and settled in Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Government of India, after amending the Citizenship Act of