

Pradesh), Shri Samik Bhattacharya (West Bengal), Shri Rwngrwa Narzary (Assam), Shrimati Sumitra Balmik (Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Parmar Jashvantsinh Salamsinh (Gujarat), Shri Balyogi Umeshnath (Madhya Pradesh) and Shrimati Dharmshila Gupta (Bihar).

Mananiya Shri Sant Balbir Singh: Concern over exploitation by Travel Agents in trafficking innocent people from Punjab to foreign countries.

Concern over exploitation by Travel Agents in trafficking innocent people from Punjab to foreign countries

SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH (Punjab): &I am thankful to you, hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, and I wish Sat Sri Akal to all present in this August House.

Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the August House the situation of our youth who are being exploited by the travel agents within the country. The responsibility lies solely with the travel agents who show fictitious dreams to the youth and, after extorting Rs 50 to 60 lakhs from these youth, they are abandoned to their fate in the jungles of Panama. Incidents of torture have also come to light when these youth, while trying to reach their destination after crossing rivers and jungles, are caught and imprisoned in the jails of foreign countries and their youth is spoilt while languishing in these prisons.

So many youth, who have been duped by the travel agents, are completing their prison sentence in the jails of Armenia. The youth are also languishing in Russia and other countries while going to or crossing these countries for greener pastures/for better employment opportunities. A few weeks ago, the American Government had deported our youth to Amritsar airport in a very inhuman manner by shackling them, who had been duped by the travel agents and sent illegally. The situation in which the youth find themselves involved is due to the network of travel agents who are extorting them by showing them greener pastures and have formed criminal syndicates in the country with transnational tentacles.

Recently about 125 Women/Girls with the help of the Ministry of External Affairs were repatriated to India from Gulf /Arabic countries who were taken there on tourist visas, but were sold upon arrival. Their money was also confiscated and they were made to sign documents in Arabic, the language they were not familiar with. These girls faced sexual exploitataion as well as mental torture in these countries. Many such cases of human trafficking are unraveling in Punjab daily.

& English translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.

I request the Government of India to tighten the noose around these travel agents and save the youth of our country languishing abroad in dire straits .The mothers of our youth are in lot of pain when they receive painful calls from their children languishing in jails abroad. These hapless parents do not have the means to communicate with their stranded children or to bring them back safely, nor their imprisoned children can come back on their own. Thus, I again request the Government's intervention for action on these travel agents.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Sant Balbir Singh: Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal (Punjab).

Shri Vivek K. Tankha; Need for rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits and facilitation of religious visits to Sharda Peeth through LoC Corridor.

Need for rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri Pandits and facilitation of religious visits to Sharda Peeth through LoC Corridor

श्री विवेक के. तन्खा (मध्य प्रदेश): डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, यह तो पुराना दर्द है, जो कि दूर नहीं हो रहा है। पंडितों को तो बहुत सालों से, सदियों से वहां जो ट्रीटमेंट मिला, उसके चलते उन्हें उस जगह को छोड़ना पड़ा। 1990 के बाद तो लगभग करीब-करीब 80-90 परसेंट पंडित फैमिलीज़ वहां से चली गई हैं। लेकिन अब वे सब वहाँ वापस जाना चाहती हैं, वे वहां रहना चाहती हैं, मगर वहां जो व्यवस्थाएं चाहिए, जो सिक्योरिटी, जो रिहैबिलिटेशन, जो रेस्टोरेशन चाहिए, वह क्यों नहीं हो पा रहा है? यह सब चाहते हैं, सब लोग बोलते जरूर हैं, मगर यह नहीं हो पा रहा है। एक ही वक्त लोगों को यह फीलिंग हुई थी कि कुछ हो रहा है, जब मनमोहन सिंह जी ने कश्मीरी पंडितों को वहां पर resettle किया था। That was the only time. ...(*Interruptions*)... आप किसी भी कश्मीरी से पूछ लीजिए। हम लोगों ने फिल्म नहीं बनाई, हम लोगों ने उनके लिए काम किया।

दूसरा, हमारी एक शारदा पीठ है, जो LoC के दूसरी तरफ है। हम चाहते हैं कि पाकिस्तान से बात करके शारदा पीठ का कॉरिडोर पंडितों के लिए, भक्ति के लिए बनाया जाए। आपने करतारपुर में बनाया है, तो कश्मीरियों के लिए भी वह बनाइए। 75 साल से शारदा पीठ का यह कॉरिडोर बंद है। हम वहां जा नहीं सकते। ये चीजें आदि शंकराचार्य जी के वक्त की हैं। मैं तो चाहता हूं कि थोड़ा सा ध्यान आप कश्मीरी पंडितों पर दीजिए। यह मेरी समस्या नहीं है, यह historical injustice है, जो हो रहा है। मैं आप सबसे और पूरी पार्लियामेंट से निवेदन करता हूं कि that time has come to do justice to Kashmiri Pandits. Thank you.