

13.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.12 hrs.

[English]

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twelve
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**MOTION RE: FIFTH REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will not take
up Private Members' Business.

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM (Aligarh) : Sir, I beg to
move :

"That this house do agree with the Fifth
Report of the Committee on Private
Members' Bills and Resolutions presented
to the House on the 26th February, 1997."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this house do agree with the Fifth
Report of the Committee on Private
Members' Bills and Resolutions presented
to the House on the 26th February, 1997."

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Sir,
I object to it. Item No. 8, 'Compulsory Voting Bill' has
been kept under Category B. I do not accept this
recommendation of the Committee...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is item No. 8,
'Compulsory Voting Bill'.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What objection do you
have?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : The Compulsory Voting
Bill has been kept under Category B. I want it to be put
under Category A. This should be reconsidered.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You give it in writing. The
Committee will examine it again.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : I will give it in writing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this house do agree with the Fifth
Report of the Committee on Private
Members' Bills and Resolutions presented
to the House on the 26th February, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

14.15 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE : ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
*Contd.***

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take up
further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri
Jagatvir Singh Drona. The time allotted is two hours.
Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona may speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Mr.
Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the last session a resolution
was moved on 13th December, 1996 which reads that
this House expresses grave concern over the infiltration
taking place in this country since 1975 and recommends
that steps should be taken to identify and deport all
these unauthorised immigrants.

Sir, it is an issue of national importance which has
not yet been considered seriously by any political party
ruling at the centre due to frivolous partisan
considerations. We have very long stretch of borders.
There is every possibility of infiltration across the
Punjab border, Rajasthan border, U.P. border, Indo-
Bangla Dsh border in the east or across any other
border. It is true that all the countries are confronted
with this problem but their Governments and people are
alert to see that such infiltrators do not succeed in
settling down in their countries and they are identified
and deported. But this problem is increasing day-by-
day in our country. At present annually about two lakh
foreigners infiltrate our country or settle down here.
They are issued ration cards and enlisted as voters.
They put our country in crisis and reduce opportunities
of employment for our own people and also pose a
threat to the security of nation and peace and tranquility
of our society.

Though Pakistanis are also infiltrating our country,
but this problem has assumed alarming proportions
due to illegal migration of people from Bangladesh
which is continuing since 1975. These people include
Hindus as well as Muslims. Prior to the partition there
was majority of Hindus. Bangladesh was declared a
Islamic State and an amendment was made in the
country's Enemies Property Act whereby the incidents
of property acquisition, molestation, rape, forced religion
conversion started taking place landing them into various
serious and fatal problems due to which they were
forced to flee some other places for their safety and in
the process they could not find any other place as
much safe as India. These people can not be compared
with others. They have crossed over to our territory in
search of a job to earn their livelihood. They are
intruding into our country in a planned way and
disturbing the demographic balance in the border areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though Government's datas
are silent over this figure but on many occasions people

have done a research on it and approximately two and a half crore Bangladeshi people are living presently in different parts of our country like West Bengal, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam. These people certainly are disturbing the population balance of the border states. It has become the national duty of every Indian citizen to express his/her concern over this issue. We know that nearly 3340 Km. long Bangladeshi border touches the border of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and West Bengal. The border of West Bengal alone is 2203 Km. long out of which at 160 places.

[English]

Our border is porous.

[Translation]

From these points, it is very easy to cross over to outside and I can say without any hesitation that there are people in our country who attach more importance to their political interest against the national interest. They are strengthening their vote bank. They are playing the politics of vote bank due to which situation has become from bad to worst. It has started in 1971 and today it has assumed a horrible proportion.

There are 126 Legislative Assembly seats in Assam and out of these, 40 seats are in border areas where the infiltrators have disturbed the population so much so that today they are playing a decisive role in these areas. Likewise there are 294 Legislative Assembly seats in West Bengal. A large number of Bangladeshi intruders have settled in these areas where they are playing a major role. This is a matter of grave concern. On the one hand, it is disturbing our political equation and on the other, it has increased the density of population in the bordering areas. They are occupying our land and have got settled in these areas which has created a sense of insecurity among our people living there. Job opportunities are decreasing and smuggling, theft and loot is increasing in the border areas. Pulses, sugar, K-oil, spices and other things are being smuggled to other countries from our soil and electronic goods, gold, silver and illegal weapons are coming to our land from across the border. Many a time the attention of the Government has been drawn towards this problem, but the Government has always failed to take some concrete steps so that their intrusion can be stopped and the Bangladeshi people, who are more than one crore in West Bengal and have settled there, are sent back to their country. The West Bengal border is 2203 Km. long and through 160 points on this border, the Bangladeshi people cross over to our side. This has changed the very form of Kooch Bihar, Jalpaiguri, West Dinajpur, Nadiya, Malda, Darjeeling, Murshidabad and 24 other Parganas. The foreign elements are playing major role in these regions. Due to this and the poor economy, job and trade opportunities have come down for the local people and the intruders have become influential so much so that the people there are feeling a sense of insecurity. Another thing is that these people are

providing shelter to the people who are involved in illegal activities. Matiyaburj and Raja Bazar in Calcutta are known as the settlement of the foreign intruders. These people are, somehow, managing to reach Delhi- which is very far from West Bengal - via Bihar and there are colonies like Seelampur, Seemapuri, Azad Market, Nizamuddin, Jangpura, Ansari Nagar, Sadiq Nagar, Sarai Rohila, Jama Masjid, Yamuna Pushta, Alaknanda and Kalkaji etc. where these intruders have settled in a large number. This has created a kind of problem. I do remember one incident which had taken place on 6th December, 1992 and after that incident engineered riots had taken place in which the armed policemen were attacked with fatal weapons in Mumbai, Calcutta, Ahmedabad and Delhi. It was ascertained that Bangladeshi intruders had played a major role in those cases also. Due to this also, it becomes a matter of concern for all of us. They have become powerful so much so that a few days back a Mohajir Union which is active in Bangladesh - staged a demonstration on the streets of Calcutta. They had organized a Press Conference in the lawns of Press Club of Calcutta and demanded that a separate homeland be created by the name of Azad Muslim Bang for granting them Indian Citizenship. Fortunately their that demand was outrightly rejected. But the matter of concern is that such a demand has been raised by the foreign intruders which requires the Government's immediate attention. An unit of West Bengal has conducted a survey and found that the balance between Hindu and Muslim population in 7238 villages under 74 police stations along the 50 Km. long strip has disturbed. the Hindu population is decreasing continuously. Nobody has any objection if the population of original inhabitants of India-be they Hindu or Muslim-increase but if foreign people are intruding into our country and their population is increasing, it should be a matter of very-very grave concern for all of us. It would a matter of concern for the future of the country. It has been a common observation and it is also a historical fact that whenever population balance inside the country was disturbed, it always led to the decrease of the population of original Indian. Demand for a separate land was always raised from this quarter. In this context we must remember one more fact and that is when in 1947 Mohammad Ali Jinna interpreted the theory of two nations, the country was divided into two nations setting aside the unity and integrity of the country. In spite of the Gandhiji's insistence, he declared that [English] Hindus and Muslims can not live together. [Translation] and ultimately the birth of Pakistan took place. At that time he made his all out efforts to include some parts of Bihar and Assam into the East Bengal - which is presently known as Bangladesh. But when he failed in his mission, he said that I am sorry I could not include the parts of Bihar and Assam into East Bengal.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a point to be thought upon by us that Eastern Pakistan was later formed as Bangladesh and since the declaration of Bangladesh as an Islamic state, the Pakistani Embassy in

[Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona]

Bangladesh has been functioning as a coordinating office for terrorists. Political violence and terrorism is increasing and economic instability and social tension is prevailing there. People are indulging in smuggling activities from across the border. This all is a matter of grave concern for us. Sir, in the interest of the country, its security, economy and to ensure that justice is done with the local people living there, it is necessary to identify the Bangladeshi intruders and send them back to their own country.

In this context, I would like to make one more mention. There is a man by the name of Shri Baljeet Rai, who retired from the post of Director General of Police. He was a very efficient officer of his time. Now, after conducting a survey in the North-East region, he has written a book, titled as

[English]

"Demographic Aggression against India-Muslim avalanche from Bangladesh."

[Translation]

His findings in the book are quite surprising as well as alarming. He has written in his book that nearly two crores such Bangladeshi people have sneaked into India. He has also referred to the states of Assam, Bihar, Tripura and North-East states as the most affected states. The writer has gone upto the extent of terming some of the areas as the extension of Bangladesh; they include six bordering districts in West Bengal, four districts in Bihar, namely, Purnia, Katihar, Kishanganj and Arariya, 10 districts in Assam, namely Dhubari, Barpeta, Bongai Gaon, Narbari, Kokarajhar, Lakheempur, Darang, Naugaon and Kamroop. A very heavy and well planned influx of Bangladeshi intruders have taken place in these areas and now these Bangladeshis are living there like original inhabitants of the area. Now they have mingled with the local people. It is a matter of serious concern. In view of this, I have brought in my resolution in the House so that the Government pay their attention towards this problem.

Now I would like to say something about my party, Bhartiya Janata Party. In 1992, at Bhopal, the BJP Executive had expressed their concern over this national problem and passed a resolution that the BJP, in the interest of the country, would launch an agitation against this problem to get the Bangladeshi intruders identified and deported to their own country. This is our bad luck that due to some political reasons, rather petty political reasons, we could not get the support of other political parties in this task. But since then the BJP is continuing their agitation to identify the Bangladeshi intruders and send them back to their own country. And

until, we succeed, we will continue our efforts in this respect.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to mention one more thing in this regard which could be a bitter one but since we are talking of our national interest, let us say one bitter thing also. I donot agree that without the knowledge and consent of the Government, ruling in West Bengal for the last 20 years, any body can cross over to our side from across the border and get himself settled an our land. Since the people, who are coming, belong to a particular community, the ruling party have placed their interest above the national interest by issuing them ration cards, enrolling their names in the voters' list, providing them illegal possession of land and other facilities also. This all flattering is being done in order to get their votes. Whenever they are asked to leave the country, they are given political patronage by some parties. It was done by the Congress party.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was done by the Congress Party. It was done by the Communist Party (CPM) and it was done by the Janata Dal also in Bihar. The situation which has arisen in Bihar due to these intruders is also not less horrifying. We have to address to this problem at national level with a new approach. We have to rise above our personal political gains and find a way out as the solution to this problem does not lie in the personal policies and principles of individual parties. We should chalk out a strategy for identification and deportation of Bangladeshi intruders in India as they have become a great threat for the country as well as country's internal security. The persons who have served either in Army or Police may understand what kind of a problem these people may create. They can say that India has become a harbouring place for Bangladeshi intruders and Bangladeshi intruders have become a shelter for the terrorists. Here they are doing harm to our economy as well as our internal security.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, there are many other members who will participate in the debate and side with us for when I introduced this Motion, I had said that time also that let us cut across our party line and find a way out to this problem because this is not any political problem rather it is a major national problem with the inherent far reaching consequences. I, therefore, request you to kindly admit this fact and give your remedial suggestions to this problem. These intruders, wherever they are living, must be singled out. It is not very difficult to recognise them. They may resemble with us due to their look, dress, tongue and other similarities as we used to live together before the partisan but it should not be very difficult to recognise a foreigner amid our people wherever he is living. First of all we should recognise these intruders.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my another point is that so far we have not been maintaining any register at

national level for registration of citizenship. We must maintain this register and after the identification of these people we should extend our best wishes and send them back to their own country. If it is opposed by any other country, that should be met with resolute firmness of our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my third point is that people from across the border have been allowed to move freely which requires the Government's immediate attention. It should be checked immediately. As said our border is porous. You are free to go from any point. In spite of the deployment of BSF, CRPF, Indo-Tibetan Force, people get some point to cross such a long border line. They are intruding through the rivers, hills and even plains. Some measures should be taken to stop this infiltration. Some initiatives were taken in Punjab. Terrorists in Kashmir also sneaks into our territory through the same routes which indicates that we are unable to guard our borders. Terrorists' movement through Barmer in Rajasthan and through Kachha in Gujarat should be checked immediately. Unless we give up the politics of vote bank, we can not solve this problem at national level. This is my firm opinion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the remaining time is only two hours, therefore, I would like other members to participate in the Debate in the maximum number. I have introduced this Motion and I would appeal to everyone among you people that please give this issue a serious consideration and think over it honestly by cutting across the party line and rising above the petty self. You should give top priority to the national interest and give up the politics of vote for unless you do so there can not be any solution to this problem. I request you people to extend your positive, constructive contribution in this regard by participating wholeheartedly in this Debate otherwise this Resolution is not going to pass.

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Sir, I thank you for giving me time. At the same time, I appreciate the efforts made by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona for bringing forward such an important Resolution. My submission will be with some figures and quotations. That is why I will sometimes read out the relevant figures and quotation.

It is our grave concern that a large number of illegal immigrants have been streaming into the country.

I cannot say accurately as to what the figures are. But so far as I understand, at present India is having more than 15 million Bangladeshis of which, in Assam the figure is five million; in West Bengal it is seven million; in Bihar it is two million and the rest one million is scattered over all the other States, for instance in the

States like Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Meghalaya. The western-most city of the country, Mumbai has touched a population of 12 million, of which the number of Bangladeshis is around one lakh or, may be, more.

Sir, I believe, Bangladeshis began streaming into India for economic reasons. It is because Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world. This is reflected in the population explosion, particularly in the border districts of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Meghalaya and Tripura. It has created social problems particularly for our country because they compete with locals for jobs. They come to India as rickshaw-pullers as casual labourers, as manual labourers, agricultural labourers etc. The position has reached such an extent that in Calcutta the immigrants took out a procession demanding citizenship rights. However, their demands were never conceded to.

It is not surprising that a large number of infiltrators have managed to procure ration cards. The census of 1991 indicated minority population in the border districts in percentage terms. For example, in Dhubri it was 70.45 per cent; in Barpeta it was 56.07 per cent; in Goalpara it was 50.18 per cent; in Hailakundi it was 54.78 per cent, in Karimganj it was 49.17 per cent and in Cachar it was 34.48 per cent. Of course, it is no denying the fact that Bangladeshi migrants are economic refugees but at the same time I must say that for this a developing country like India has to pay heavily.

In such a situation, some political parties use these immigrants as their potential vote banks whereas the Pakistani ISI agents utilise them for smuggling of arms and narcotics, and for some other nefarious purposes. At present, the density of population in Assam stands at 284 per square kilometre; in West Bengal it is 766 per square kilometre and in Bangladesh it is 849 per square kilometre. So, the condition is alarming. As such, India in no way can bear the burden of immigrants. Unless census is conducted in the entire North-East - in fact in the whole of India - it is difficult to know exactly the figure of Bangladeshi migrants living in India. There should be distribution of separate identity cards for residents of border districts. Not only that, there should also be barbed wire fencing along the border, construction, improvement and augmentation of border roads, heavy deployment of BSF, dusk to dawn curfew in the affected areas and there should be no-man along the border. Moreover, there should also be strengthening of the State police forces, tightening of the visa system, and establishing a communication network connecting the Centre and the States concerned.

The Supreme Court has held that neither possessing the ration card now figuring in the voters list, confer any right on an alien for citizenship. In this connection I

[Shri Dwaraka Nath Das]

would like to quote Shri S.L. Shakhder, Chief Election Commissioner. He spoke of :

"Large scale infiltration of foreign nationals in some States, especially in the North-Eastern region"

and described it as, "alarming and requiring drastic action."

Mr. Hiteswar Saikia, The Chief Minister of Assam on April 10, 1992 announced in the State Assembly that between two and three million Bangladeshis had illegally entered Assam since 1987. Of course, the Chief Minister had to retract his statement under pressure from the Muslim forum and some of his own party colleagues.

It would be an impossible task to correctly estimate the number of Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and other parts of the country. I think the Centre is considering to repeal the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, at the request of the Chief Minister of Assam. I would like to mention here the reply given by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs on 3rd September, 1996 and I quote :

"The Act extends to the whole of India but is presently in force only in the State of Assam.

Proposals have been received from various quarters for the repeal of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983. The matter is under active consideration and is likely to be finalised shortly."

On October 27, 1996, the hon. Prime Minister promised to repeal the Act. He visited the North-Eastern States also.

I am of the view that the process of detection of foreigners through these tribunals has not at all been satisfactory. I am of the view that this IMDT Act, 1983 should be scrapped altogether. It should be seen that according to this Act only those who entered Indian territory after March 25, 1971, without valid papers of entry, are termed illegal migrants. This Act has no provision to deal with the earlier migrants. That means, the jurisdiction of this Act is thoroughly limited. It is a good for nothing Act, particularly, in Assam. I say that this Act must be scrapped.

Out of 2,87,412 inquiries made between January 1, 1996 and July 21, 1993, 25,051 were referred to the tribunals for decision. However, only 8,694 individuals were declared illegal migrants. These are the activities of the tribunals set up under the IMDT Act, 1983. The tribunal's sole function is to determine the status of the suspected individuals. It has no authority to deport illegal migrants by deploying its own staff. What is the necessity of such a tribunal if it cannot deport the migrants?

In addition to this, all cases of migration before March 25, 1971 are to be decided as per the provisions of the Foreigners Act, 1946. Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964 and Citizens Amendment Act, 1985. So many Acts are there to decide the fate of the foreigners, why should we have this IMDT Act, 1983? According to the provisions, the onus of proof rests with the complaint and not with the suspect. How funny is it that a complainant should come with the evidence, and not the suspect, to show that a particular person is an infiltrator! This is a peculiar situation created under this Act.

Infiltration is going on unabated in Assam. It continues even today. The border is porous. The percentage of illegal migrants, in eastern India particularly, has crossed the danger limit. So, it is high time that illegal migrants are deported at once. Better late than never!

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion initiated by my colleague Shri Drona.

The problem of influx of illegal migrants is growing. It is creating not only economic and social problems, but political problems also. It is not confined to the north-east areas only. The problem is seen in the southern and western parts of India also.

The problem in the North-East, as you are all aware, is because of the influx of people into the region. It has created a lot of problems in the socio, economic and demographic conditions of the North-East. There is a long-drawn struggle in Assam. The problem needs to be resolved now. At the same time, I have to say that while taking cognisance of the problem as is obtained in the present situation, we should also take note of the fact that the problem of Assam, particularly regarding the influx problem, is not only of the present period, it has its own history. Without considering the history, we will be in a difficult position to solve the problem.

You are aware that Assam has received a lot of races, languages, cultures and religions. All these people at one point of time contributed to what Assam is today. They not only contributed in the formation of Assamese nationality but they also helped in developing other sectors of the economy. We should not lose sight of the fact that at one time Assam was ruled by the Ahom kings and others. They had invited some Muslim weavers etc. There are some Muslims who contributed towards the integration of different communities in the State. Some people belonging to the Muslim community had also fought against the invasion by Mughals. A lot of contribution was made during that period by Muslim population. The British annexed Assam in 1826, by virtue of the strength of the Yandabu Treaty. The purpose of that regime was not to develop the economy but to loot that area and to exploit the resources of that area.

They also imported people. They not only imported the Bengali-speaking people but also some tribals from Chota Nagpur area of Madhya Pradesh and from Orissa so that the tea cultivation could continue there. They brought them also with the intention of looting the resources of that area.

In Assam particularly there were at one time a lot of jungles and cultivable areas. The density of population is less. So, the people migrated from other areas and from Mymansingh area. They also helped in the growth of economy and to produce more crops etc, to increase the agricultural production etc. During that British regime, not only these things were produced, but agriculture sector also developed to some extent. The idea of the British was to loot it. They were there not to ameliorate the problems of the people of Assam, but to loot the resources of that area. After the partition of the country, new problems have cropped up. At the same time, you are well aware that people throughout the country unitedly fought for ousting of British. There were some communal politicians who were out to divide, to partition the country and as a result of the Partition, India is divided into Pakistan and India. There are also not only a lot of migrations, but also the problem of influx in that area. During that period after independence the Government, in order to rehabilitate the people who had become refugees as a result of partition, had dumped them in the North-Eastern region, particularly Assam. As the Central Government could not help them much during that period, the Central Government took the position that as Assam is a far off place surrounded by foreign countries, namely, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, Bhutan and China, so, there should not be any industrial development. So, no appreciable industrial development took place there. But, at the same time, Assam's economy remained, practically an agrarian economy as a sort of colonial economy. It purely depended on agriculture. Now what is the position of agriculture in Assam even after so many years of Independence? I can cite some problems of Assam. During 1950 the *per capita* income of Assam was much higher than the all-India *per capita* income. In 1950-51, the *per capita* income in Assam was Rs. 520.10 against the all-India figures of Rs. 469/-. The figure was more than the all-India figure by Rs. 50. Now, it is gradually decreasing. In 1984-85, it was found that Assam's figure was less than the all-India figure by Rs. 219.90. It is increasing now. Naturally, a lot of pressure on land is also there. You can also see the figure that against the all-India size of landholding which is 2.3 hectares, the average size of landholding in Assam is 1447 hectares. The *per capita* cultivable land in Assam is 0.192 against the all-India figure of 0.32 hectares. The *per capita* net area sown in Assam is 0.09 hectares as against the all-India figure of 18 hectares. So, there is a lot of pressure on land. But, at the same time, no measure was taken to develop

agriculture. The land is fertile in Assam. Practically, there is a lot of not only surface water but also ground water. In spite of that, there is no arrangement for irrigation. So, the production and productivity in Assam, particularly in agricultural sector, is very low and people are very poor. This situation has been created because of the policies pursued by the then Central Government and the State Government. So, the problem is there. As a result of this, a lot of anger and resentment among the people of Assam is there. There is no industrial development. There is, practically, no agricultural development. But, at the same time, there is influx of population not only from India but also from other countries. This has created a lot of problems of apprehension in the minds of the people of Assam. So, we are all aware that there is influx of population. Naturally, we have to see in which way we have to solve the problem. Now, some people are using communal card. By doing so, we cannot solve the problem. By dividing Hindus and Muslims, we cannot solve the problem of Assam. Before partition, a part of Assam was in by that. Assam has its own composite culture. In Assam, there are a lot of people belonging to minority Muslim community. But in the name of identifying illegal migrants, you cannot harass these people. These people have settled in Assam long-long back. They have contributed not only to their economy but also to the culture of Assam.

15.00 hrs.

So, only by targeting minorities, you cannot identify these people as your enemies or Bangladeshis. You have to take care of all these things because anybody belonging to the minority community is not a Bangladeshi. Among Bangladeshis there are Hindus and Muslims. Intruders cannot be divided into Hindus and Muslims.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI CHITTA BASU *in the Chair*]

They are all foreigners. Every foreigner is an intruder if he enters into any country without proper documents.

So to solve the problem, the Central Government and the State Government of Assam, at one point of time, came to an agreement with the agitationists and everybody agreed that those who have come over from Bangladesh to Assam or other North-Eastern parts of India after 25th March, 1971 are not the citizens of India.

There are laws to take care of this problem. But laws alone will not solve the problem. Laws would be there to defend the citizens of India, to defend the sovereignty of the country, but what I feel is that there should be an effort to create confidence among the different sections of people of that part of India. If you fail to create the confidence among the Assamese

[Shri Uddhab Barman]

people, there will be some problem or the other. If you fail to create the confidence among the minority people, who are staying there for years and years, even before Independence, then also the problem will be there. They also belong to India. Unless you create the confidence among the minority people, you cannot solve this problem.

So, what I feel is that this communal appeal alone will not solve the problem as Assamese culture is very composite. Hindus have contributed to it, Muslims have contributed to its culture and even tribals have contributed their mite. So there should be an all out effort to create confidence among all sections of the people there. This will create ground to identify the people who have recently been coming to Assam as illegal immigrants.

At the same time, what I want to say is that the effort should be there to create the confidence among the people. Without that we cannot solve the problem of illegal entry into Assam.

Now, I would like to touch upon the economic development of that area. We are grateful to the Prime Minister who visited Assam and other North-Eastern States and stayed there for some days. He tried to understand the problems of those areas. He also announced economic and other packages for the people of those areas. For this economic development, democratic atmosphere should be there. If that is created then we can even fight the evil designs of ISI also.

There is a lot of information that the ISI people are creating a lot of problem in Assam, Mumbai, Delhi and even in Rajasthan. But they can be fought easily and can be identified properly if we do not divide the people on communal lines, if we fight communal forces and create confidence among the people of those areas. We have to make them understand that they are part and parcel of that State. They are as much citizens of India as any other Indian is, so that they must also be committed to fight against the foreigners and ISI.

I hope that with these efforts we can go a long way not only in creating the confidence among the people belonging to different sections, languages and cultures or belonging to different religions, but also in solving the problem of that area.

At the same time, I feel that, as this problem has already taken a serious proportion in that area, we have to take up economic development programmes not only in Assam and Tripura but in other areas also to solve the problem in that part of the country.

Agriculture should be given proper importance. There is a lot of fertile land in Assam and Barrack Valley in Assam and also in Manipur. But, every year the crops

in Assam Valley are damaged by flood and erosion by Brahmaputra and its other tributaries. If Brahmaputra and its other tributaries are controlled and scientific of water management is done, then agricultural development will take place in that area. With this production, we can not only feed the people of North-East but also the people of other areas in the country. There are forest resources and other natural and mineral resources not only in Assam but also in Meghalaya and in Manipur. All these resources should be harnessed for the economic development of this entire area. Without doing this, we cannot create confidence among the people of Assam. And to solve the problem of that area, unity of the people is a must, creation of confidence among the people is a must and economic development is a must. If democratic atmosphere prevails there, then I am sure the people of the country, as freedom loving as they are, as the patriots of this country, will help a lot in resolving this problem.

This problem cannot be solved with communal approach. So, I request the entire House to take into consideration not only the problem of Tamils and others but also to take into consideration the problem of North-East as their problem. It is not only Hindus and Muslims who are facing this problem but the tribals are also facing this problem. The entire people of India should share the feeling of the people, the hopes and aspirations of the people of that area and try, as one man, to solve the problem of that area so that they can contribute a lot to the flourishing of agricultural, economic and other developments of the entire country.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA (Mumbai South) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the efforts made by our friend Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona for bringing forward such an important Resolution. For this, he deserves our thanks. I want to express my some ideas about this Resolution. The cultural history of our country India is a glorious one and we are proud of it. The Indian culture has always been a centre of attraction in the whole world. It has always shown new path to the world. Culturally it has guided the entire world. And because of this cultural achievement, we have made many jealous enemies. Now their number is increasing and the number of our friends also is decreasing.

Sir, now when we are discussing about our country, let us think as to why we were required to discuss the matter pertaining to the intruders. One very simple reason is that if we keep our doors open even after the 50 years of our independence and feel that we are safe, then we are living in fool's paradise. Today is a different situation. If we keep our doors open, it will tempt the

thieves to enter and loot our homes. They will be allured to molest even our mothers and sisters. Not only this much, if they get an opportunity by tomorrow or day after tomorrow, they will not take much time to take our homes under their possession. Thus we are required to close the doors of our homes in order to feel secure as it is a matter of our national security. If we do not defend our borders properly and they remain unguarded then we should not feel surprised in case any intrusion takes place from across the border and thieves enter our territory.

After the 1962 war with China, the intruders began streaming into India. Since then many Resolutions have been raised in this regard in the House. Many Resolutions have been brought in, many rounds of discussion held and every time statements in this regards were also made by the in-charge Home Ministers. But these statements remained confined only to papers and no concrete efforts were made by any of the Governments for our national security. No serious measures were taken to strengthen our national security. Today we are heading towards the Golden Jubilee of our independence and our friend Shri Drona ji has taken a very wise step by bringing in this Resolution to open the eyes and ears of the United Front Government. While welcoming this Resolution I want to place some of my demands before the United Front Government.

I am representing the Mumbai South Constituency. I had fought and won the election to 9th Lok Sabha held in 1989. But after 15 months Lok Sabha was again dissolved and the next elections were scheduled to be held in May, 1991 but due to the assassination of former Prime Minister Shri Rajeev Gandhi, these elections were held on the 15th of June. Upto that time, I had got only 15 months' experience of working as an M.P. I want to let you know as to what had happened in my Constituency during that period of 15-16 months which ultimately accounted for my defeat in that election. I had written a letter in that respect to Shri Sheshan, the then Chief Election Commissioner. Trombay is one of the six Legislative Assembly Constituencies in my Constituency. During the above period of 15-16 months, around 50 thousands Bangladeshi intruders were enrolled as voters. These fake voters ultimately turned out to be the reason of my defeat. I was surprised to know as to how the number of voters in this Assembly Constituency went up by 50 thousands. When I brought this matter to the knowledge of the Administration but to no avail, I raised this matter by asking a question in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. I raised my voice that bogus-ration cards have been issued to the intruders which should be investigated immediately. At that time, Shri Sudhakar Naik ji was the Chief Minister. He extended his cooperation fully and got the matter investigated to find out that there were 16 thousands bogus ration cards which were recovered from the Bangladeshi intruders and were later cancelled by the Maharashtra Government. The population of these

Bangladeshi people were scattered all over in Trombay, Shivaji Nagar, Gowandi and Devnar.

I want to narrate one incident before you. During the 1991 elections when I went to meet the voters I happened to meet with a Muslim woman. She came to me with her four day old child in her lap. She told me that she had given birth to that child just four days back but neither she was having anything to eat nor to drink. Neither she was given ration card nor any other facility and she might have to leave India any time any day. She revealed me that she had come over to India from Bangladesh. Her name was Fatima. I was deeply moved at her condition. Now you may imagine that neither any facilities were given to the Bangladeshis nor any arrangements were made for their stay. One arrangement, of course, was made for these people, that too, because the former M.L.A. and the Minister representing to that Constituency, was the follower of the same religion.

Therefore wireless cables were laid in jhuggi zhopris of Shivajee Nagar, Govandi, Thana Belaspur Road area in order to provide them loudspeaker facility for performing the Namaj but they were not provided with ration and water. Such infiltration of Bangladeshis is nothing to be wondered about. One thing that I would certainly like to mention that twenty-months back in Maharashtra Shiv sena-BJP alliance Government declared that the foreigners living in Bombay would be identified and deported. Some foreigners left the State on their own after the declaration but still these people are living there clandestinely. When some people are rounded up in the interest of law and order position of Mumbai, they include Bangladeshis and other foreign nationals. They are found involved in case of theft decoity, rape and anti-social activities also. Bangladeshis having a head count of one and a half lakh in Mumbai is a matter of concern but not to be wondered about.

Secondly, when we ignore them, they feel more determined to settle down here. Whenever it is asked as to what Government has done about it, I tell them that the Government is not doing what it was expected to do. Three decades ago they raised a force to prevent infiltration of foreigners, called PIF, a mobile task force and the Central Government resolved to bear its expenses. It was thought that NTF check posts would also be set up besides those of BSF in order to apprehend the infiltrators who sneak in after BSF personnel and to maintain a record of such infiltrators and ensure their return but how unfortunate that throughout these thirty years PIF and NTF personnel did nothing and have only proved themselves to be burden on the exchequer. Plans are paper horses. When asked to tell about the action taken by the Jawans of PIF and NTF the top brasses of PIF and NTF tell that they too are serving their bosses in the check posts like

[Shrimati Jayawanti Navinchandra Mehta]

staff of any other police force. They are paid salary by the Government and honours are also bestowed upon them, but they do not maintain a record of infiltrators. PIF and NTF were raised apprehend infiltrators. If you perchance visit their check posts, you would find their boards in pitiable condition and no one on duty. One Newspaper has suggested that dogs should be deployed there instead of men in uniform, as they would prove more trustworthy in watching the borders of our country. At times I feel it is a patriotic suggestion and not a suggestion from anti-national elements. If we really want to create a milieu of communal harmony in the country, we would have to make endeavours for it. All those who inhabit India, irrespective of their creed, should strive for it to join the national mainstream. These infiltrators indulge in terroristic and disruptive activities and form disintegrating forces.

Here, I would like to tell about proselytation - going on in Jammu and Kashmir. Today my friends are talking of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. The people of Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura are faced with this problem and from there proselytation campaigns have spread in Mumbai, Delhi as well. These infiltrators have disturbed our economy., They are governed by different laws and our countrymen by different laws. This trend is not long lasting. In PIF and NTF right from Deputy Inspector General's level to the level of Constables 3154 posts have been created by the Central Government exclusively for Assam, 165 posts for West Bengal, 194 posts for Meghalaya and 144 posts for Tripura. The Centre bears the expenditure incurred on these forces. In fact this scheme is not being implemented. The Party in power is keen to make its vote bank with them in order to continue its hold on power somehow or other.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the other day the former Premier of Bangladesh, Smt. Khalida Begum had visited our country and said that the Bangladeshis living in the country are our people and not their. From such statements one can infer that Government of India has been feeble Government and it has not defended its borders and the country as a whole. There is an adage in Gujarat :

"Aa kai Bodi Bamani Joon Khetar Na Thi,
Ke Koi Pan Gai Aveenein Ghas Chari Jay."

Which means this farm does not belong to widow where anybody's cattle can graze. I urge the Prime Minister of the United Front and his Government to defend our borders. Our main deities of Hindus Lord Ram and the Supreme Lord Shiva had respectively bow and a trident to ward off infiltrators. Rama kept a bow with him in order to fight out injustice. You should also be powerful. Anybody can infiltrate into the country

when the Government is weak. When the Government at the Centre is weak and lacks a direction, then the infiltrators will become more powerful. If our present weakness continues, then one day certainly our national security would be jeopardised.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble members sitting here love their nation and they are patriotic. Therefore I would like to urge the Government that it should be ready to implement again the scheme of NTF and table a report showing the achievements of the force over the last 30 years, the number of infiltrators nabbed during this period and how records of infiltrators have been maintained by the force. If these things are looked into, then only we can succeed in containing infiltration. It is not sufficient to raise a security force only on the basis of an old scheme. Besides checking infiltration, arrangements should be made for safety of women folk and houses and also of the economy there. Only then we would succeed in ensuring peace and tranquility in the country.

With these words, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity.

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad):
I commend the resolution put forward by Hon. Member Shri Drona. We have been debating this issue time and again through such resolutions. This resolution involves a national issue and thus it is in the national interest. You know that infiltration is really a grave problem which has adversely affected our social, economic and political structure to a great extent. It has also affected our defence and for this reason it is still more serious problem but we do not take it seriously. The entire country knows that some time ago arms were dropped on the border of West Bengal and Bihar by a foreign aircraft in a planned manner. The question is wherefrom and through which agency such sophisticated arms, which have not yet reached our police and army, were dropped there putting a question mark on the vigilance and the security arrangements of our Government. We should also reflect on this point as to how much difficulties we are facing simply because we are not alert.

India is a vast country. The people of this country are seeing the activities of the people to whom they have handed over the power and they understand their intention. Whenever someone highlights this aspect, he is opposed though he should not be opposed. The Hon. Member was referring to Assam. In Assam this question was raised long ago, the movement was intensified and policies of murders was started. The people of that area expressed their resentment over increasing infiltration because with the influx of infiltrators on such a large scale Assam people were unable to find jobs. The Assamese have come on roads. The Assamese felt agitated over this issue and then a Committee was set

up to study the situation and identify the infiltrators. We get awakened only when caused some loss and thereafter we constitute a committee to bring in peace whereas for this purpose work should be done on a war footing. You demolish house which are constructed in violation of the rules framed under a master plan. Likewise a plan should be formulated to identify and to repatriate the infiltrators. Until these infiltrators are not repatriated this danger will continue to plague our country. We are facing this problem across all our borders. How much difficulty we are facing in Kashmir. All these problems are wrecking the economy of our country. There is no dearth of money in our country. We do not take loans from any country but we are not paying due attention towards the security of nation. This blunder can not be forgiven. We are facing the results of the partition of the country. Had there been no partition of the country, there would have been no problem of infiltration. We should consider this point that our economy is being wrecked by infiltrators. This is the result of the petty politicking indulged in such activities in the country. We should not indulge in such policies. The country is supreme. You may die one day but the country will continue to exist. Those who are on the opposition benches were sometimes on treasury benches. Such things continue in a democracy. We should rise above our greeds and render selfless service to the nation. We should not indulge in frivolous policies which are causing immense harm to the nation. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL (Sadar Delhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have risen to speak on the resolution brought by Shri Jagat Veer Singh Drona which reads that this House express its deep concern over the large scale illegal immigration taking place in the country since 1975 and recommends that all such illegal immigrants should be identified and deported to their respective countries. As Shri Drona has told, there are more than two and half crore infiltrators in our country but no census or identification campaign were ever carried out to ascertain the size of their increasing population. Their population is increasing in our country because we have kept the doors of our country ajar, because selfish and power hungry people are ruling the country and due to this reason only there is nothing amazing if their population has gradually increased upto five crore. At one time they were confined to Assam only but now a day, be it Assam, Bihar, Bangalore, Mangalore, Delhi or Mumbai, everywhere these infiltrators from Bangladesh and Pakistan have settled down. A country which provides food and job to such infiltrators at the cost of it's own people, where the Governments, instead of taking any steps, remains a mute spectator to such

infiltration, there is nothing to wonder if infiltration goes on increasing year after year. Infiltrators find it very easy to sneak in such a country, the motion made by Shri Drona should have rather come from Government's side as this involves a issue concerning the whole nation and not any particular party. In Delhi itself Bhartiya Janata Party launched a number of movements demanding identification and deportation of infiltrators before conducting any election but this demand was detrimental to the interests of such parties as are directly benefited by these infiltrators, as they strengthen their vote banks and their votes facilitate their entry in power. You can realise their difficulty. In Delhi alone, most of the people living in the slums of Alaknanda, Govindpuri, Seelampur, Nizamuddin, Jama Masjid, Kalkaji, Sadar Parliamentary constituency, Azad Market and Lal Bagh are infiltrators, you get each and every voter list checked and you will find that all these people are employed. First of all, it is the duty of the Central Government to identify them and take action against them. Then comes the number of State Governments and thereafter it is duty of every individual citizen to identify them. These infiltrators provide cheap labour, that is why people tolerate their infiltration and do not check it and due to this reason only unemployment is increasing in our country. Even our own people are loosing their jobs. But this Government is still playing a mute spectator to all this. Mr. Chairman, Sir, even prior to my birth, i.e. perhaps in 1951-52 Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had written a letter to Pt. Nehru about increasing infiltration of Pakistanis. Even at that time Pt. Nehru said that there was nothing to worry about that, for they were not infiltrators but mere job seekers. If our Government takes this issue so lightly, then what one can say about it. During these 50 years after independence it was mainly the responsibility of congress to check infiltration but no congress Government ever checked this trend. The congress which ruled over this country over these years, is responsible for the problems of corruption and unemployment, and also for this problem of infiltration in the country because it has not taken any action till date to solve this problem. I have read in an article :

[English]

"The most unfortunate part is that the Congress, the Janata Dal, the CPI(M) etc. have developed a vested interest in promoting illegal infiltration. They count votes and not the infiltrators."

In Assam there are 40 out of 126 Assembly seats.

[Translation]

Among the infiltrators Muslims are in majority. Just now my friend was telling that such people are there throught West Bengal. Just to come in power there one

[Shri Vijay Goel]

political party is taking no action against infiltrators
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : There is no problem... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

We are opposed to them but not on such grounds as to what is their religion, what is their cast or where from they have come from outside or inside
...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Well, you don't have any problem in Bengal. Instead you are extending them support. Today some people are using them as their vote banks but how this will affect our coming generation, this should also be considered... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : We too have come from Bangladesh. After having shed our blood for freedom of this nation we migrated to this country. You deport us as well... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, here some people are presenting the facts in their distorted form and trying to divert this debate from the main issue... (Interruptions). This motion does not seek deportation of all immigrants from Bangladesh.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Advaniji has also migrated from Sindh, I have migrated from Bangladesh. Deport Mr. Advani, and me too... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : In it there is no question of deporting all immigrants from Bangladesh
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. You speak when your turn comes.

SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA (Serumpore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is really very unfortunate that the name of West Bengal is dragged all the time unnecessarily
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have got your names here. Please take your seats now.

[Translation]

SHRI SAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Muradabad) : In your party itself there are some infiltrators... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : He is pleading in favour of Bangladeshi infiltrators and then he has strengthened his vote bank.

I used to think as to why the Central Government has not taken any step so far. I did not know that still there are such people in the House who readily support infiltration. If somebody comes from Bangladesh, they don't treat them as infiltrators. Here I am not taking of Hindus or Muslims. If any one illegally infiltrates into

our country and settles down here without obtaining citizenship of this country, at least we people will not remain a mute spectator to it. The present plight of the Congress party is mainly because it favoured such things, it favoured infiltrators... (Interruptions). I am not talking about those who had immigrated to this country before independence. India is well integrated today. Bangladesh itself is developing this theory that on the basis of human considerations anybody can settle down in any country. Well you should have some consideration for humanity but at the same time you should be aware of national interests.

I am constrained to say with regret that even such senior members are supporting them. Bal Thakrey was right in his observation that all such infiltrators settled down in Mumbai would have to leave the country irrespective of their religion or caste. Today we also subscribe to his statement that this country will not tolerate any infiltrator from any country. The same people of Assam Gana Parishad and AASU are today supporting the United Front Government who were some times demanding deportation of infiltrators. Cannot they say this thing to the United Front Government
...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has mentioned the name AGP.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your name is here. You speak when your turn comes.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is written in the resolution in explicit terms that it concerns those who have settle down in this country after 1975. It seems that hon. Members have not read it properly... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : I had gone through this resolution before I stood to speak on it in the House. The members of AGP and AASU, whom we used to appreciate beyond words, have now become partners of United Front and observed silence on this issue
...(Interruptions) Earlier they used to say, their leader had said... (Interruptions) But thereafter they observed silence.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has made a statement about the people who were sponsoring the Assam agitation like A.A.S.U. and A.G.P.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I rule it out. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am making a simple observation that though you are supporting the United Front Government, yet you cannot persuade the U.F. Government to accept your demand. Then why don't you withdraw support from this Government? Only they are responsible for anarchy and communal disturbances in various parts of the country. The recent communal riots in Mumbai were the handiwork of these infiltrators only. I felicitate all those who subscribe to this view that this resolution brought by Shri Drona should have instead been moved by the Government as it is a national issue.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party I urge the Government to maintain a register of citizens. There should be a national register of citizenship for which sometime ago AGP had also been urging but which has not been started so far. Secondly, the Indo-Bangladesh borders should be sealed. I have gone through previous records and have observed that the Government has given different kind of assurances at different points of time. Some time it said that BSF would be deployed, some time it said CRPF would be deployed and sometime it said barbed fencing would be done there along the border but infiltration could not be checked. Therefore I urge the Government to state to what steps were taken to check infiltration of foreigners in the country. The Central Government should undertake the work of deporting these infiltrators.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I felicitate Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona for bringing such a nice resolution and thank you for giving me a chance to speak.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is clearly mentioned in the resolution moved by Shri Drona that those who have immigrated after 1975 ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Those who have immigrated after 1971.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : No, it has been written in the resolution that those who have infiltrated into India after 1975 should be sent back to their country why they came on such a large scale? Of course we should think over it. While the debate was going on about Bangladesh one hon. member said that there were one and half lakh infiltrators, then after some time another member said that they numbered two and half crore. Thus within a shortwhile the number of infiltrators increased from two and half lakh to two and half crore. Likewise the newspapers are publishing the manipulated data at the instance of the Government. They had a percept in their mind that with the formation of Bangladesh, the economy of Pakistan would collapse and Pakistan would breath its last as Bangladesh was the prime source of its income.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at that time I and my friend Shri Shyam Lal Yadav had given a press statement that all such derivations were wrong. Formation of Bangladesh would go against the interests of our country. East Bengal would continue to be a poor nation and as such it could provide in roads to China or America. At that time we had given a caution and for that these very people and the people of Congress party termed us as anti-national elements. A demand was made for our arrest. They said that we were anti-national elements, pro-Pakistani. But today we feel proud that the caution given by us has come true. Had not Shri Shyam Lal Yadav joined me in making that statement, these people would have condemned me to languish in jail under MISA or some other Act.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : We were also in jail at that time then how could we allow you to languish there.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Please listen wherever there is poverty and starvation side-by-side with the land of prosperity anywhere in the world, illegal infiltration is bound to take place. The Gulf countries are more prosperous than our own country. That is why lakhs of illegal migrants from India are living in those countries. Almost every day newspapers carry out news in this regard. Our people are arrested and repatriated. In the same way the Bangladeshis are migrating to our country for the same reason. These people are responsible for it who helped in formation of Bangladesh just to gain a image of Durga or Ranchandi for themselves and to win the election. They knew that an independent Bangladesh, the erstwhile East Bengal would face starvation and utmost poverty. They knew it very well, but the people who helped in its formation they just wanted to become heroes...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, this is an aspersion on a foreign independent country. It is an insult to the liberation struggle and untold sacrifices of the freedom fighters. This is not fair...*(Interruptions)*. This Parliament was unanimous to support the struggle of that country. This is not a correct comment...*(Interruptions)*. This is not fair...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Sir, this should not form part of the proceedings...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Chair will examine the records and, if necessary, expunge such remarks.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have already given that order.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Now I come to the real point. They are infact opposed to those Bangladeshis whose religion is different from their religion. In my constituency itself there are three-four Bengali colonies.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Which is your constituency.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Shahabad. These colonies have a population of five thousand people. They are all Bangladeshis and have been rehabilitated there. They are Hindus...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen. They have come after 1975...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not for you to tell them. You tell us.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : They too have their own problems. Recently they were allotted 123 acres of land in grid number 13 out of which 20-22 acre of land was forcibly encroached by people. I joined them in their Satyagarh and restored entitlement of that land to them and thereafter I came in the Lok Sabha. They are all Hindus and have come from Noa khali district of Bangladesh. Now the question is on the one hand you are rehabilitating some people by providing 5 acre land to each person on the other hand you are branding some people as Bangladeshi infiltrators, as they follow a different religion. Wherefrom people collect all these data, someone says they number one and half lakh whereas another says they number two and half crore. Whatever figures are being presented here are all based on wrong statistics, just like those statistics which suggested at the time of formation of Bangladesh that Pakistan would die if an independent Bangladesh is formed as Bangladesh is the prime source of Pakistan's income. Who wanted to make Pakistan economically ...*(Interruptions)* with the formation of Bangladesh ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Hardwar) : What you have to do with Pakistan?

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : I have nothing to do with Pakistan...*(Interruptions)*. Please listen, when they will starve...*(Interruptions)*. They too feel hungry. They are also human beings. As I have told earlier, our own people are living in Gulf countries as illegal migrants. Everyday newspapers publish news about them, every day some of them are arrested. We also help them. They are also human beings. They too feel hungry. They are not concerned about their creed or religion. These people link it to religion which is unfair and I condemn this tendency. I do not want that foreign nationals from Bangladesh or anywhere else may not be allowed to settle in our country which is already over populated. But the people who are mentioning the names of streets of Delhi and giving wrong data, I challenge them to show me even 100 Bangladeshis in

their constituency. Just now when Shri Banatwala raised the issue of DDA area in Okhla, they said all Bengalis have encroached upon that area. I am also living at Okhla for the last ten years but have not seen even a single Bengali there so far. They said so because those who are living in Okhla are Muslims. You give up this communal mentality, only then you can serve this country. But you view everything with your jaundiced eyes which is the biggest problem for this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You do not say anything to him. You address me.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : With these words I conclude and again appeal to you to give up your prejudiced attitude and prove yourselves beneficial for the country.

15.50 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Rationalisation of Postal Tariff

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : The Indian postal network is the largest postal network in the world. It had 15300 post offices by December, 1996. It is successfully providing connectivity among the people in the country. There are still more than 8000 gram panchayat villages in the country where opening of post office is justified on distance and population norms. The Department is progressively making efforts to cover these villages in the next two Five Year Plans. The postal service is committed to provide basic facility for postal communication for all in the country and this is underlined by its policy of expanding the postal network with considerable subsidy for the rural areas.

The liberalisation of economy and rapid changes in the communication technology have necessiated modernisation of the postal service to meet the needs of customers. The Department has therefore, given thrust to its programmes of modernisation for providing more services more relevant for customers. With the use of Computer technology and electronic transmission through satellite, postal services are being gradually modernised to provide more efficient and customer friendly services. The vast postal network in the country is also providing ample opportunity for various socially relevant schemes, like those of small savings and Mahila Samridhi Yojana. The postal Life Insurance Scheme has been extended to rural areas which is making rapid progress.

The Government fully realises that the country's postal service must not only meet the growing market