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Title: Discussion on the motion for consideration of the Illegal Immigrants and Overstaying Foreign Nationals (Identification and Deportation) Bill, 2009 (Discussion not concluded).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Item 53; Shri Baijayant Panda.

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA (KENDRAPARA): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for identification of illegal immigrants and those foreign nationals who are overstaying in the country or have gone missing after the expiry of their visas and for their deportation to the countries of their origin and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the subject matter of this Bill is of grave importance to our national security and to the development of our country. The fact is, even though we are a very large country, only the second country in the whole world to have more than a billion population, we are still a developing country.

We still have a constraint on resources. Sir, only very recently, a few months ago, when the U.S. President Barack Obama was here, he announced that India is no longer a developing country and it is a developed country. While such sentiments may be a matter of pride for us, the fact remains that we are somewhere in between. We are not a fully developed country because we have hundreds of millions of our citizens who are deprived of basic necessities. We do have to take pride in that aspect of our country, which is world-class, which is first world, which is admired by the rest of the world. That part of our economy can compete with any other country in the world. But the fact remains that we have hundreds of millions of Indians who are deprived of basic necessities. And this fact is what is compromised when we do not take illegal immigration seriously.

Sir, illegal immigration and people from other countries who may have originally come to our country legally but have stayed on illegally has an insidious effect on our nation's development because it strains the resources that I have just been talking about.

Sir, just now, before I introduced my Bill, this House has had a very deep and long discussion on the matter of child labour and the various facilities that are being provided, and in the conclusion we were just coming to the point about how much more still needs to be done. Sir, when we talk about much more need to be done for the children of India and for other deprived citizens of India, we have to give priority to citizens of India.

We can have a big heart for people who are suffering in other countries, and we do have a big heart. Even though we are still a developing country, even though we are transitioning into a country which can take pride in becoming a developed country, we have contributed to other countries and to the citizens of other countries who have gone through difficulties.

Sir, I remember, a few years ago, when the Tsunami hits South East Asia, when countries like Indonesia, when countries like Sri Lanka, when countries in this part of the world got hit very badly, India was one of the first countries to respond, to contribute financially and to contribute other resources to help out unfortunate citizens of other countries.

Sir, only a couple of years ago, when there was a major earthquake in Pakistan, India was one of the first to offer and offer substantial amount of money and other help to citizens of Pakistan who were affected by this natural disaster. We have done more than that.

Six or seven years ago, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the southern part of the United States, which is the most developed country in the world, India was one of the first countries to offer help to the citizens of New Orleans, the citizens of Luciana and the United States because we have compassion. We have compassion for people of the world, for the citizens of the world wherever they are but when it comes to running our own country, when it comes to giving priority to the citizens of our own country, inside our own country, we sometimes forget that we must give priority to the citizens of India over those who are in this country illegally.

Sir, the illegal immigration problem is widespread. Official and semi-official estimates state that there are at least 20 million illegal immigrants in this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, you may continue your speech next time.

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA : Okay, Sir. Thank you.

17.59 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS- INTRODUCED. Contd

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up Item no. 42 – Shri P.L. Punia ji. You can introduce your Bill now.