

Mr. Inderjeet Gupta has given his statement in this House. There was a news in caption in the news paper of Shiv Sena that Bhujbal was not there so his furniture was burnt to ashes. This is the situation and this all has happened.

But I am sorry to see that the discussion which is going on makes me feel that we are sitting here only for political exploitation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it a debate where some one says-you have killed many persons then the other Member says, when your party was in power you also have killed so many people. What kind of Debate it is in which human life is considered only in figures. Each and everyone's life is valuable...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI): When the incident of bomb blast occurred in Maharashtra...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Pramod Mahajan was also saying....(Interruptions). It is something different-not allow others to putforth his view...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am reminding him...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He remembers.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, this as- person is not called for. It should be taken out of the record...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Pramod Mahajan had also stated that Salman Rushdie's book should be banned. When the peaceful and unarmed procession was going on. They were subjected to indiscriminate firing and many people were killed. It is a fact that we have to shed our blood under each regime. Today it seems that the blood was not being shed for the justice rather it was done only to settle our own political scores. And it make us realise that we are of no importance and this is the reality.

Yesterday, an hon. Member was saying that he was sorry for the fact that Mr. Banatwalla was not present in the House and it was said two times. At that time I was in the Prime Minister's office and giving ears to all these things. This is a reality that blood has been shed and many people have been killed at different places.

Today, ten years has passed when an incident in Maliyana near Meerut had taken place but justice has not

been done as yet. I am telling the truth. There were different parties ruling in U.P. but none of them did justice. This is the reality. What should I do now ? Some affidavit is being mentioned.

15.32 hrs.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now 3.30 PM. Please continue on Monday next. Now we go to the Private Members' Business.

SHRI SURENDRA YADAV (KHALILABAD): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Tenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 31st July, 1997."

The motion was adopted.

15.33 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before we take up the Resolution which is under discussion, that is, the Resolution on Illegal Immigrants moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona, I would like to inform the House that 6 hours and 32 minutes have already been taken on this Resolution against 6 hours and 20 minutes allotted for its discussion.

The House has now to extend the time for further discussion on the Resolution. Is it the pleasure of the House that time for this Resolution be further extended by half-an-hour?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): The time may be extended for only half-an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is now extended by half-an-hour. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan is absent. Shri Girdhari Lai Bhargava may now speak.

15.33 hrs.

(SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGVA (JAIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Mr. Drona from the core of my heart that he has moved a very good Motion in

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

the House. It has been stated in this Motion that "the House expresses its deep concern over the illegal immigration at large scale in the country since 1975". It does not include Hindus, Muslims, Bengalis and Assamees only. Rather it means those people who have migrated/intrude without the permission of the Government of India. Further, it has been stated this House recommends that all important steps should be taken for identifying illegal immigrants and sending them back to their own countries". It means they should be requested to leave this country and go back to the place from where they have come. This is the spirit of this Motion. The Motion does not force them to leave this country.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that there is already 95 crore population in our country. There is a scarcity of employment and the living standard of the people is low. The living standard of the people is not upto the mark and there is no system to ensure security for them. Moreover, about 2½ crore people migrating from the other countries have settled on this sacred land of India. Therefore, this is not a political issue rather it is a National issue, an issue of patriotism importance. All the people must consider on this issue with one voice and one spirit.

The people via Punjab, Rajasthan, U.P. and from the East i.e. from Bangladesh have migrated here. If we retrospect in the past, we will find that even the neighbouring country like Pakistan is vigilant about the migrants and no persons from other country settle there.

Hon'ble Member Mr. Drona might have made a reference about Kanpur apart from many other things. I can cite an example of Jaipur city where I was Chairman of U.R.T. The land which was acquired for Talwar scheme today on the same land lacs of jhuggis have been built there. Facilities like drinking water electricity and ration cards have been provided to them. Since ration cards have been issued to these people they are also getting the ration from India. Not only this, their name have also been included in the voter list. When we approach them for vote, it depends on them whether to vote in our favour or not. But if we oppose here, this very news reaches there. Then they say to me that Drona Saheb and Rasa Singh ji were opposing in the House. I think this is a matter of concern. Therefore, the Government should seriously consider the fact that the people who have migrated and settled in India to whom ration cards have been issued, whose names have been included in voter's list who have got employment and which is not proper at all from the security point of view, such people should be repatriated gracefully. This has also led to an adverse impact on population balance. I would like to point out that this problem has started from 1971.

I would like to say something about Assam where there are 126 seats in Legislative Council and out of which 48 seats are falling under the areas adjoining to the border. Being a border area these people infiltrated into Assam and prevailed upon the voter list. Similarly there are 294 in West Bengal out of which 62 had been grabbed illegally. These people are indulged in smuggling of sugar, pulses, spices and kerosene oil from India and electronic goods, silver, gold, and illegal

weapons into India from the countries where they have come from. The Government should consider in this regard. Today these people have shifted to Bihar from West Bengal and most of them have shifted to Delhi from Bihar. I have been told that they are residing in the colonies like Seelampur, Seemapuri, Azad Market, Nizamuddin, Jungpura, Sadik Nagar, Sarai Rohilla and Jama Masjid etc. The people from Bengal, Assam and Bhutan have come to these places and established big colonies and have made their hold in trades also. Not only this, they have also got a Muhajir Union in Bengal. This union hold a press conference and made a statement that they would struggle for the citizenship of India. Bengladeshees struggled for getting the citizenship of India and the Government could not do anything. When the Press Conference was going on the media persons and other people did not ask anything from the Government about the matter. I humbly say that today also they are trying to get the citizenship. But it is a matter of sorrow that the people have made it also a political question. We have been witnessing the fact from very beginning that BJP which was earlier known as Jansang, had stated that Indian citizenship would not be granted to foreigners. Even in Bhopal session in 1992 BJP had stated that they would repatriate the foreigners settled here, gracefully. But other parties did not support BJP. BJP is not in the power. Now the people always say that if the elections were held this time BJP would surely come into power and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee would become the Prime Minister. No body knows when next election will be held and when we will come to majority. But the people also have not supported on this issue. The other parties say that whatever BJP says, we should not believe is that.

That names of these people have also been included in the voter's list in West Bengal and with their support one political party is ruling there for the last 20 years. Similarly the condition of Bihar has also deteriorated due to the intruders. This is not only a political problem but also a national problem. In this context, I would request that these people should be identified and identification can be done easily for example if some one lives in a locality or village, he can be identified by his way of living and appearance. If there is some department under police and State Government it should be informed that an unfamiliar person an outsider is staying in our locality and this person should be identified. If proper information is received, the State Government should definitely make efforts in this direction.

Similarly, no citizen ship register has been maintained. Today any outsider comes and gets his/her name included in the voter's list. It is essential that the names should be included in the voter's list on the basis of verification otherwise, any one would be able to get his name included in the voter's list at the time of revision of the voter's list. The Election Commission of India has announced about the revision in voter's list. So any person can get his name included in the voter's list and became a citizen of India. Therefore, a register of citizenship should be maintained.

In the same way there should be restriction on movement in border areas. Today the intrusion of terrorist in Kashmir is going on without any check. They enter Rajasthan and

Gujarat through the routes of Badmer and Kutch and never go back. All this facts have to be considered.

At the end, I would like to say that if your own house is open, it is natural that someone will come; sit, drink water and eat and will take away your belongings. If we do not pay attention towards our house, somebody may occupy our house as well. Then he may say that this is his own house and that it is each man's right to be accommodated in it. He may say that he has been coming here for last 20-22 years and has been doing routine works like eating, drinking and sleeping. It is very important that the Government should pay attention towards our big house which is Mother India. I think that the amount which is being spent by State Government on the people PIF and NTF has been wasted. These people guard the residences of senior officers and get salaries from the Central Government. Even they are not prompt in their duty. That is why if we consider all these aspects, we find that when any Minister of neighbour country visit India Like Smt. Khalida Begam, former P.M. of Bengladesh who had visited India and stated that this is the problem of Bengalees and Assamees. It all depends upon the Government of India as to how the Government sort out the problem. In the same way, I would like to request the United Front Government which is an alliance of 15 parties that it should display its courage by refusing citizenship to the outsiders who have come to Bengal, Assam and who have come from Bhutan and denying them the amenities so far provided. All these people should be repatriated gracefully.

Whatever I am saying is that the proposal putforth by Shri Dronaji regarding illegal entry of people on large scale into our country after 1975 should be considered.

I support Shri Drona's view. I thank you for allowing me to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now only fifteen minutes are left for this Resolution. If the Members agree, I will ask the Minister to intervene and the Mover of the Resolution to reply to it.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (BALRAMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Private Member's Resolution is important some more members want to express their views. Though it is Private Member's Resolution but it is a national issue, the problem is serious and crucial. Some more time be extended for this Resolution so that we can also express our views.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satya Deo Singh, your name is there in the speakers' list. But the only thing is that from BJP alone, nine Members have participated in the debate on this Resolution. I think, all the points have been brought before this House. So, if you all agree, I will call the hon. Minister to intervene. Otherwise, we will have to further extend the time.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, every

Member has a right to speak his own mind. It is not the question of a party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not like that.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: It is above party levels. Therefore, I will request that some more time be granted for this Resolution because it is a very important and crucial Resolution and more so, when we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of our Independence...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not go into such details. The problem is that without adhering to any timetable if you are going on like this, it will be very difficult to finish it. You know for how many days one subject is being discussed. To begin with, two hours were allotted for the discussion on this Resolution but we have already taken seven hours and it is still not concluded. In spite of that, if we go on like this, it will be an unending discussion.

If you are insisting, I will allow you to participate. Otherwise, I will call the hon. Minister to intervene.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Sir, please allow me for a few minutes.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are other Resolutions also which are equally important.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: I do agree that other Resolutions are important. That is not my point.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Apparently, most of the people from one section of the House are speaking. It is an important Resolution but all the views and aspects have come. Now there is only repetition. So, other Resolutions should be allowed to be taken up. There are 15 more minutes. I think, both the hon. Minister and the mover can finish it within this time limit and then we can move on to the next item.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (GUWAHATI): Sir, I have also given my request to participate in the discussions on this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name has been received just now. This is not the way. For the last three Fridays we are discussing this particular Resolution. You have sent your request just now. I will not take any more slips today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): Sir, I have a submission to make.

From 3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., it is the Private Members' Business. If the next Resolution is there, it has to be introduced. Once it is introduced, it becomes alive. As such some time should be extended for this Resolution so that three or four speakers, who are waiting for their turns, get the opportunity to speak on it and then the hon. Minister can intervene.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House to extend the time and exhaust the list of the speakers?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Sir, another half-an-hour can be given for it. So, there will be 45 minutes more.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: There is enough time, Shri Prithviraj Chavan.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: But other Resolutions are also to be taken up and discussed.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: For other Resolutions, there might not be many speakers to intervene.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Private Members Resolution, we are not able to take more than two or three Resolutions in a year. One Resolution goes on for two Sessions. Unless we adhere to some time limit, it will not be possible to complete it within the time allotted. We should have some understanding and complete such Resolutions within the time limit of two hours so that we can move on to the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us try to complete it within another half-an-hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona, it is not that only he is worried. The Chair also is equally concerned. There are three important Resolutions before the House. During one Session, we are even not able to complete one Resolution. All the other Resolutions before us are equally important. This is all that I suggest.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, let us not waste the time by getting into arguments. Now, I understand the spirit of your arguments.

Now, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat -- Not present.

Shri Satya Deo Singh. Please conclude in five minutes time.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to convey my thanks to those hon. Members who have supported Shri Drona's proposal to extend some more time for this Resolution. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. The problem of intrusion in our country has not only increased but also it has taken a very serious turn.

Today, this problem has turned into many folds in our country. It is not a question of few people intruding into our country but it is many folds problem. The first problem is that it is endangering the integrity, unity, economy and social harmony of our country.

The problem of intrusion has not only been discussed through this Resolution but this has been discussed on several occasions through Parliamentary Questions and debates. This problem is creating religious frenzy too. The activities of IST have been matter of debate in this House. The problem of intrusion has endangered our nationality. The intrusion is causing conspiracy for sabotage, encouraging anti-national elements and giving them protection. I belong to Balrampur district and its boundaries are common with Nepal. Kathmandu in Nepal has become headquarters of ISI agency of Pakistan. Not only intrusion is taking place from Nepal border but also arms and drugs in large quantity are supplied there from into our country. This is affecting the character and life of our young generation.

The problem of intrusion particularly intrusion from Bangladesh has become grave and Assam Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh which were earlier parts of Assam have become the areas of intrusion and the original residents of these areas have become minority. They are losing their identity. This problem has arisen into Bihar also. Population in Kishanganj, Purnea, Katihar, Sahibganj and Dumka districts of Bihar has increased rapidly as compared to other districts because there is large number of illegal intruders from Bangladesh. This problem is prevailing in West Bengal also. Even cities like Malda, Murshidabad, Calcutta etc. are facing this problem. There are large number of Bangladeshis in Delhi and they are intruding into Indian territory from Rajasthan and Gujarat. In Varanasi, U.P. every fifth rickshaw puller is a Bangladeshi. Unfortunately no of political parties and political leaders are patronising this illegal intrusion. They want to make it a Hindu-Muslim issue to cover this problem. They want to divert the attention of the people, whenever this problem has been raised by BJP and Bhartiya Jan Sangh, it has been given political colour. Today we should not forget that this country has been divided. It has been divided into two nations. It has been divided on religious grounds. We have decided at that time that those people who repatriated in our country would be given a right of citizenship. Today Chakma are being killed who have come into India to save their life. They should not be treated as intruders. This is not correct that only North Eastern region will bear their burden, it has to be borne at national level. The Union Government should pay its attention towards them. It is our duty to give refuge to those Chakma refugees on humanitarian grounds and save their life because they are coming into our country for fear prosecution in their country. The former Prime Minister went to North Eastern region in October, 1996 and was there for one week. It is being said that never in the history of India, any Prime Minister visited North Eastern region for such a long time. He studied the problem of development, intrusion there, held several discussions with the people and met the Chief Ministers. Therefore, a notification was issued in this regard which stated.

[English]

"New Initiative for the North Eastern region".

[Translation]

and I quote the words of the hon. Prime Minister:-

[English]

"It was represented that the laws existing for the detection of foreigners such as Illegal Migrants Determination by Tribunal (IMDT) Act, 1983, as amended, have not proved to be effective. We would take steps to repeal the ineffective laws and strengthen the legal and administrative measures for dealing with foreigners in consultation with States. Further, the policing of the border including fencing at appropriate places would be strengthened."

[Translation]

There was a lot of discussion over this statement in this House and also outside the House and in this discussion concern over the state of Assam was expressed and it was said that today their existence is endangered, their cultural and other values are disappearing and that too in their own State. Lots of infiltrators are coming there from Bangladesh. An important issue in the Assam Accord was the sealing off of the border but the Government after 1985 has not been able to do it till date. The most difficult thing is to identify the foreigners as a person arrested under the National Security Act has to prove that he is not guilty. Likewise the person who claims to be a foreigner has the legal responsibility to prove that he is a foreigner.

Sir, it seems as if the State Government want to consider their duty as fulfilled by shifting their responsibility to those who being the patriotic citizens come forward to tell that they are not Indians nor NRIs but infiltrators from outside. I want to quote Mahatma Gandhi who had expressed concern, especially over the State of Assam in 1944. How farsighted he was and how correctly he could identify density of this problem. He had said it in 1944 when there was no division of Bangladesh or Pakistan and East Pakistan. He had said that if migration at such a large scale would be there from one region to the other that the number of natives in the latter becomes less, then such a thing cannot be tolerated. If the people of Assam do not oppose it, I would consider them very weak indeed. I am not saying this, but it was said by none other than the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi in 1944 which we would remember probably now while enthusiastically celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Further, whatever Mohammad Ali Zinnah said in 1947 that is the part of history. I want to quote what he had said to his Private Secretary Moinul Haq. Within ten years I will present Assam to you in a silver platter. They had planned as to what extent they will get their people infiltrated in Assam even after partition. Bangladeshes are intruding in Assam and other States in a planned way.

Sir, everybody knows how far Assam is secure. It is a fact that foreign tourists were not allowed to visit the State upto 1983 but we had done nothing to check infiltration there which is being done by foreign missionaries for converting religion and we had not expressed any concern over it. We

had assumed that now this State is safe. The environment here is good and no foreign national and tourist will come here and we will be able to keep this beautiful State safe. The State is gifted with immense natural wealth, prosperity, forest, water resources and oil but what is the situation there today? The development of North Eastern region has come to a standstill today. Hon'ble speaker has informed us that we will convene a special Session of the House on the occasion of Golden Jubilee year of Independence in which there will be no Question Hour, Zero Hour and draw the attention of the country towards some important issues and try to find out their solution. Population is one of those issues. Population is increasing alarmingly in the country and what steps should be taken to check it. In what manner it should be discussed and long term measures should be adopted. But we should think about the increase in population of North Eastern region which is mainly increasing due to infiltration. Today employment opportunities are not available for youth in North Eastern region and whatever opportunities are available those are being grabbed by the foreign nationals. Economic security has been provided to them, land has been allotted to them, their names have been included in the voter lists and the people who have nothing to do with this country are deciding the fate of this country. They had not come here with good intentions. They had come here for sabotage, to destroy unity and integrity of the country, to destabilise the economy of the country and to disrupt the progress of the country. It appears to me that it has become our duty to protect them and fight for them.

16.00 hrs.

It is very sad to say that infiltration is increasing in North East today. Today youths are unemployed and get involved in anti-national activities. Such activities attract the youths. There is no development in North Eastern region. One of the major cause of this is the increasing population of foreigners in this region. That is why this crisis has arisen there. We will have to think that if infiltration in the region is not stopped, if the youths in the region are not brought into the mainstream of the country then funds will not reach there and this region will not develop. Today private sector's people are not willing to go there. There is nothing in the North Eastern States. Therefore, when we are celebrating the 50th Year of Independence, we will have to resolve that if we have to divert more funds from the developed parts of the country to the region like North East for its economic development where infiltration is increasing and which is proving our weakness, we should sanction more funds for economic development of such region. In addition to this, until we do not take effective steps and frame national policy on infiltration and do not try to implement the same seriously this problem cannot be resolved. I am sorry to State that the Government in the centre do not heed to this national problem.

The problem in Jammu and Kashmir is somewhat different. Pakistan is involved in infiltration there. Foreign mercenaries are being hired from Sudan and Afghanistan. The Government itself admits that training camps are being run there and those mercenaries are creating disturbance in our country. Their language and costumes are similar to the

[Shri Satya Deo Singh]

Indians so they get themselves mixed up with our people. Whether we will let it go on and can we shirk from our responsibility.

Recently our Prime Minister had been there to inaugurate a rail line with a package of development programme. He made an announcement in the Lok Sabha knowingly or unknowingly that the Government is ready to have unconditional negotiation with terrorists not with Hurriyat Conference. There is no need to negotiate with Hurriyat conference. But what is the intention of the Government to hold talks with terrorists without any condition, through their intention is not good. Do you know as to what extent your announcement will be harmful for the country?

This encourages the infiltrators to sneak into our country. They feel that there is no restriction in this country, sneak into it and talk at coffee table. On the other hand, people of our country are not getting employment. We are taking loans and more loans from foreigners. Our economic resources are becoming limited day by day and we are compromising with the terrorists and infiltrators. This dual policy can not work simultaneously. After this announcement of the Prime Minister when the jawans of our security forces who are posted there, who are fighting with the terrorists, who are safeguarding the Independence of our country, who are ensuring peaceful atmosphere in the country so that we may express our feelings freely in the Parliament and are sacrificing their everything, are being killed, then on what ground you will hold talks with the terrorists. I would like to ask that for which objective our Jawans of security forces should lay down their lives? Should we not think of it while giving such statements? Should we not bother about it?

During last few days replies to these questions were received. One may ask any question, the replies to all question were there at the table. In reply to question No. 17 to 87, the Government says that it is correct that camps are held in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied areas to educate and train such elements so that they may be sent to Jammu and Kashmir and they may involve themselves in terrorist and secessionist activities there. All these information are being provided by the Government, but after that the chapter is closed. I would like to thank Shri Dronaji who has, through this resolution, drawn the attention of the House to this national problem. I would like to state to the Government through this House that this problem is not merely for the debate. We utter few words here then forget it. This resolution should have come from the Government. The 50th year of Independence should be devoted to protect the life of every citizen, to provide the right to live to every citizen and to enhance the pace of development in every region. The people should have firm belief that this country is safe and secure. There will be no place for infiltration in this country.

The foreign nationals shall come to this country in a proper manner and in accordance with the law of the land. If they want to get the citizenship of this country, then they will get it in a proper manner. We have to take firm steps to contain infiltration. Do not give it a political colour. If their names are included in the voters list and we are elected to

this House by getting their votes and form the Government, then for how long these governments will work and for how long this House will work like this? If a question mark is put on the nationality of the country and the integrity of the country is attacked in an organised manner and the unity and integrity of the country is sacrificed on petty issues of winning and losing, then the day is not far away that when we are going to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence, we will not be able to pay our sincere homage to those martyrs who have sacrificed their lives have shed their blood and secured the independence of the country to see that India emerges as a great and glorious nation. In order to make India a great and glorious nation it is the prime duty of the Government to provide security to its citizens and not to guard the foreigners.

With these words, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and allowing me to express my views on this serious and difficult problem. Many-many thanks.

[English]

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (GUWAHATI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much that you have considered my notice to take part in a very important Resolution moved in this House. I do not know whether during the last 50 years any such resolution regarding illegal immigrants has been moved on the floor of this House or not. While appreciating the concern expressed by some of the hon. Members of this House regarding illegal migrants entering into the territory of India, I also express my anguish that the immigrants and the infiltrators have not been properly distinguished. Even though the Resolution is about the illegal immigrants, I believe that these are illegal infiltrators because immigrants have a right to settle in a particular country, of course, with permission. But the infiltrators permeate, percolate stealthily. They never inform the Government. They never inform anybody. They take any route and then they permeate into the regions where they find themselves secure.

Now, unfortunately, this country has been facing the problem of illegal infiltrators not only from today but since long. More particularly, we are concerned about the period after 1950. Other Members have expressed concern about the State of Assam. I am grateful to them. When they express concern about the North-Eastern States, I am really grateful to them. Many of the Members may not know that till 1824, Assam was a sovereign State. And only on 26th February, 1824, Assam was integrated with the rest of the country by the Britishers and that too through a pact, called *Sandhi*. The pact was performed not on the soil of Assam but it was done in Burma, now known as Myanmar. Unfortunately, since 1947 and even prior to that, the undivided Assam has become a tragedy of events.

There were many events and most of the Members of Parliament know about some of the events but the majority of the events are not known to them.

In 1947, as has been rightly pointed out by Shri Satya

Deo Singh, a conspiracy was hatched that there would be a grouping system and in that grouping system, the State of Assam would be annexed to the particular 'C' Group. Due to the blessings of late Mahatma Gandhi the father of the Nation and due to the foresight of the late Gopinath Bardolui and his Colleagues, the State of Assam could be rescued and it was annexed to India. Since then events followed one after the other.

The first onslaught on the State of Assam was that a huge influx of refugees were coming from Bangladesh erstwhile East Pakistan to Assam with the connivance of the political leaders and also with the permission of the political leaders. You might know that the then Prime Minister of India the late Jawaharlal Nehru rebuked Gopinath Bardolui who resisted this and said Assam was small state and this very small part of the country could not take the burden of so many Bangladeshi (East Pakistan) refugees and requested him to divide these refugees among different parts of the country. But he did not do it. In return, Gopinath Bardolui was rebuked. When this was protested by the subsequent Chief Minister of the State, Shri Bisnu Ram Midh, you will be surprised to know, he was transferred as the Governor of Tamilnadu so that the obstacle to the settling of these refugees from Bangladesh could be removed. Since then this process of infiltration, this immigration and this influx of refugees from Bangladesh has been continuing.

Shri Satya Deo Singh was correct when he stated that today the entire demography of the State of Assam had completely changed. We are now shaky. We are not afraid of our existence, we have a fear psychosis in our minds that we might have to take refuge in other states, otherwise we shall be thrown out from our soil which was a sovereign State till the year 1824. But for what? This definitely does not speak any good of the Government. The then Government could not foresee that a small sub-nationality of India would be annihilated in course of time. We are now going to be annihilated.

The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution has ruined the whole State of Assam. We are now seven sisters. We were seven times bigger than the Assam of today. Now, by taking the help of this provision of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the State has been fragmented and divided. It has been balconised one after another because it has been so provided in the Constitution. What is the very purpose of the Constitution? Is it to annihilate the people? Is it to subjugate the people? Is it to divide the people and then rule? Then there is no difference between the Britishers and my own Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sarma, please stop for a minute.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, please allow me for two to three minutes more. I shall conclude within that time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. I am not asking you to conclude. The time allotted to you is over and so, maybe, we have to extend the time for another half an hour or until we complete.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, kindly do that.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT (AGRA): Please extend the House for half an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have extended for three times.

[English]

You have come only now. We have to take up some other Resolution also. So, please conclude as early as possible.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, there has been a fraud on the Constitution. I want that the country should be governed with the help of the Constitution but the Constitution should not be taken as a plea to balconise the States, make them smaller so that they could be ruled easily and then swamp the States with foreigners.

Now, Assam is going to be swamped by the foreigners. I do not know whether the Members of Parliament know the figure of illegal migrants or not. In Assam illegal migrants constitute more than 28 percent of the population. It amounts to 70 lakh. To give shelter to all these illegal migrants itself is a problem for the State of Assam as the State's economy would be destroyed, eaten up by these illegal migrants. Not only that, there would be another serious consequence of it and that is, they would rule us. They would become the legislators, the Members of Parliament, the Ministers or the Governors and they would rule us. These illegal migrants should have been detected by the provision of law. We have different laws. We have the Foreigners Act and the Citizenship Act. These Acts have not been implemented by the Government of India. I urge upon the Government to do justice to the laws enacted in this august House. This is one aspect of illegal immigrants.

I believe Assam would not be thrown to the path of another tragedy. You might know, on this very floor of the Parliament, the then most powerful Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, once bid farewell. We, the people of Assam do not want to again bid adieu. We do not want that. We want to remain in India. We want to become a part and parcel of India. We are as good Indians as other Indians living in different parts of the country. We want to be good Indians. Good Indians must be helped, fostered and given cooperation by the Parliament which is sovereign.

You would recall that there is a Common Minimum Programme of the present Government and in that programme the Assam Accord one of the very important aspects for the State of Assam — was included. This Accord may protect the interests of the State of Assam. But that Accord is yet to be implemented. Not a single clause has so far been implemented. We urge upon the Government to take this Accord very seriously so that the problems of influx and other problems arising out of this influx are taken care of.

I am really sorry that the time allotted to us is not enough. Therefore, I shall try to be brief.

[Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma]

The Chinese aggression is still fresh in our memory. We do not want another aggression by any country on the State of Assam or for that matter on the entire North-Eastern region. We want protection. The safeguard is guaranteed in the very Constitution but that guarantee has not been given by the Government to the people of Assam. We hope that the present Government would give us that guarantee.

You may remember the death of Shri Hiralal Patwari, who was a candidate for election to the Parliament from Mangaldoi constituency. He died in 1978 when we came to know that the electoral rolls of Assam were full of illegal immigrants. It was to the extent of 50,000 illegal immigrants in one constituency only.

You can very well imagine what the plight of the State will be where just one constituency is infested with as many as fifty thousand illegal voters.

Very recently, on 17th July this year, a circular has been issued by the Election Commission for intensive revision of electoral rolls only for the State of Assam. You may know about it. You may enquire about it. I have a copy with me. You will be surprised to know, the provision that has been mentioned in that circular says that those who are born on or before 1.7.1987, irrespective of either of whose parents is born in India or not, will be a citizen of this country. Can this hon. House agree to this proposition? Should we not revolt against it? I urge upon all the Members of this House to definitely revolt against this provision that anybody and everybody either of whose parents is an Indian citizen or not but born on or before 1.7.1987 should be included as a voter. Do you subscribe to this view? I do not. It is because, if that is done, Assam would have to be for good considered not a part of India. It will be taken away.

Therefore, I urge upon this hon. House, through you Mr. Chairman, that they should become sensitive to this particular provision and revolt against it to make necessary impact on the Election Commission, and for that matter the Government of India, so that this provision is corrected according to the provisions of the Constitution and according to the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

The IMDT Act has been referred to. The Citizenship Act is an Act which is applicable to the whole of the country. The Foreigners Act is also applicable to the whole of the country and so also the other Acts. The IMDT Act is an Act which is applicable only to the State of Assam. And the very implication of this Act is, for identifying an illegal immigrant the onus of proof lies with the person who says that that person is a foreigner, and not with the foreigner himself. If I say that so and so is a foreigner, the onus of proof lies with me and not with that foreigner. Can such an Act be implemented in the State of Assam? Should we not say that either this Act be repealed or amended so as to make it effective and nonpartisan in its application?

We, the Assamese, and more particularly the members of the Assam Gana Parishad, believe that it is a pluralistic society where people belonging to many religions and people speaking different languages live. We do not distinguish the foreigners, the illegal immigrants on the basis of

religion. They are from Bangladesh, they are from Bhutan, they are from Myanmar and many of them are from Nepal. All of them are definitely not of one particular religious group. They belong to different religious groups. Therefore, while identifying, while detecting, while deleting their names and deporting the foreigners, this particular provision of secularism must be availed.

Mr. Chairman is very kind. I know that he is a very sympathetic person. He has given me only two or three minutes extension.

Has any hon. Member of this House seen the Census Report of 1991? If they have seen it, then kindly look at the population pattern of the State of Assam and see for yourself, convince yourself and compare it with the Census Reports of 1901 and 1951. And convince yourself as to how many foreigners are living in Assam and take with that the rate of growth of population of Assam which is the highest in the country. In Assam, if the highest rate of growth of population takes place out of its natural course, then also, you compare the Census Reports of 1901, 1951 and 1991 and convince yourself, how many illegal immigrants have entered into the State of Assam? On the basis of this, through Mr. Chairman, I request the Government of India, of which I am a part, to take corrective measures immediately.

I only say that we must not involve ourselves in politics with difference of opinion and dilute this vital issue. Cutting across party lines, we must have to save our nation from the infiltration and influx of these foreigners, more particularly the territories of Indian Border. Shri Satya Deo Singh and many others have mentioned, that infiltrators are there in Delhi also. But a population of more than 1.2 crore in Delhi cannot be outnumbered by the infiltrators. A population of five lakh of infiltrators in Mumbai with a population, which according to Shri Ram Naik is around 1.8 crore, including the suburb, may not be overwhelmed. But a population of only 2.25 crore in Assam, if encroached upon by or entered into by 70 lakh illegal immigrants, probably the populace will be easily swamped in course of time, may be within five or ten years. We want an assurance from the Government of India. I request, the hon. Chairman to see that this guarantee is given by the Government of India to save ourselves.

Political will is the call of the hour. Today, we have the United Front Government. I think, they will be able to do something. I urge upon any Government that may come to power the political will is the call of the hour to resolve this issue. We must not play politics with the sovereignty of the nation or with the influx of foreign nationals. Assam is an integral part of India. We want that it should remain a part of India. Its situation should not be allowed to further aggravate. Assam is restive. Therefore, I request, through you, Sir, that we must rise above politics to resolve the issue, once for all.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA): Sir, I congratulate Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona for moving this Resolution. He has opened the eyes of the country as well as of the Government. That how the people who have infiltrated

into India illegally are creating problems for the country. It is a multidimensional problem. My Hon'ble friend from Assam who was speaking just now has expressed the pitiable condition of Assam. It is truly the condition of the whole nation. The Government should pay attention to whatever has been said by him. There is danger to the country on both East and West borders. He has told about danger in Assam. There is danger in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and as I have said, there is danger from Pakistan and Bangladesh side also. At present it appears that some forces are attacking the country in a civilian manner through foreigners. This is such an attack which is carried out without any armaments. That is why people are unable to know about it. Our political leaders are busy strengthening their vote bank. They are of the opinion that these immigrants will prove boon for the ruling party and they will use them as the vote bank. That is why the unity and integrity is being put at stake.

So the Government should learn lesson from Smt. Indira Gandhi. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev ji is seated here. When Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India in 1971, a war was fought with Pakistan and as a result of which Bangladesh was created. It was created on the ground that the people of Pakistan Committed atrocities on the people of East Pakistan and pushed about one and a half crore people of East Pakistan to India. Smt. Indira Gandhi had said that she would solve this problem and will sort out this issue and take revenge for each and every displaced person who had come to India from Pakistan and she did it. I would like to say that India should show the same will power which was shown at that time by Smt. Indira Gandhi and the immigrants in India who are coming illegally, may not be treated as vote bank. The unity and integrity of the country should be protected in the larger interest and infiltration should be checked.

ISI is infiltrating in the country. The Home Minister of India is sitting here. He may go through his papers. Secret agencies have reported and indicated that ISI have established its roots in Meerut, Hapur and many other places. Aligarh is also a similar place and Muradabad is the fourth place which I am pointing out. This is in my knowledge but he has original information. The activities of ISI throughout the country are continuing through immigrants who have sneaked into India unlawfully. The same persons are also active in Kashmir. They are also active in other parts of the country. They were responsible for the heavy bloodshed in Bombay where hundreds of people were killed. I would like to say that activities of ISI should be checked. But unfortunately, some political leaders of United Front are giving protection to ISI and members of their family are in connivance with them. I would like to say that the political parties should give up their political interest and they should not make any alliance with the ISI to strengthen their vote bank and to become God Father of a particular community. They conspire alongwith the local people, create law and order problem, indulge in rioting and in this way create anarchy in the society. The Government must tell this in clear terms that India is not an orphanage where whosoever wants may come. There is no other country in the world where citizen of other country can settle without permission of concerned Govern-

ment. But India is such a country where nobody bothers who comes and who goes. It should not be so. Consequent upon the conspiracy hatched by ISI agents and a political party, riots of Shia and Sunni in Lucknow and communal riots of Hindu-Muslims with SC's in Agra broke out and a conspiracy is also being hatched to break out racial riots in Agra.

Once hon. Speaker was telling on the occasion of 50th anniversary of Independence that our major problem is rapid growth of population. We know that every year we add a population of 1.80 crore to this country which is equivalent to the population of the Australia. Probably, it is likely to be discussed at 50th anniversary of independence. The population of our country is increasing and one reason behind this increase is high birth rate—which is understandable and the second is, inflow of immigrants who are illegally settling in our country. At least this inflow should be prevented. My friend Sharmaji was telling just now that influx of foreigners in Assam is more than the number of children taking birth in our country. In this way the population is increasing. It is necessary to check the growth of population.

Farmers brought green revolution, and increased food production, production on other fronts also increased but how far the means of production will be increased under the pressure of ever increasing population including the illegal influx of crores of people. Resources are limited and population is increasing rapidly and therefore it is necessary to check the foreigners who are intruding in this country. It is really surprising that how election commission decided that if foreign parents give birth to a child in India, the child would be called Indian. Government must look into these laws that such things should not be there. Due to increase in population food has become inadequate. At present increase in population is the biggest problem of country, in this way we are lagging behind on the social front and in providing common facilities to our citizen. This is the root cause of unemployment problem.

I would like to request the Government through you that it is essential for country's unity and integrity, geographical security and the basic character of cultural identity and also in order to maintain our economic growth that Government should ban entry of illegal persons into the country, expel them and take strong action who have already entered the country. As Sharmaji was pointing out, that cultural, social and ethnic character of the country is itself in danger.

At the time of formation of Pakistan Mohd. Ali Jinnah had said that we would occupy the entire area of Assam by increasing population. Their infiltration into UP might create a new Pakistan and these deep conspiracies planned by Muslim League are now taking place. So our unity and integrity are in danger. We should be careful and I once again congratulate Dronaji who has raised this important matter in the House. I would like to urge upon the Government of India to take effective measures in this matter without indulging themselves in dirty and selfish politics.

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (RAJAPUR): Thank you Sir.

[Shri Suresh Prabhu]

It is one of the most important issues that we always politicise and try to say that it has been raised by a particular party or by a particular individual with political motivation and try to overlook the national importance of such issues.

I am very glad that my esteemed friend, Shri Drona has raised this important issue before Parliament. I am also really grateful to another illustrious Member from Assam, Dr. Sarma for raising another very important point that is threatening the cultural identity of a very important State of Assam.

Sir, I sometimes wonder that as a country, as a nation, do we really have to raise these issues? If we go to any other country in the world, like the United States of America, there are some persons who cross borders from Mexico. They try to fence the entire border and they try to throw away the persons who have crossed over from Mexico. They do not let them come even to their country. Here, we have been allowing as if India is the only country in the world which has got no borders. It means anybody can come any time, anybody can cross the borders any time, bring in arms and take away arms and we are going to look at them harmlessly. That is, what we feel is, our culture. But in the process the entire country's identity is at stake. I think, it is high time that the Government came out with a very concrete policy.

Sir, when WTO negotiations were going on, India raised a very important issue. We wanted that if there is a flow of free capital, if there is a flow of any free trade or services and if goods are to flow without any barrier then why should there be barriers between the countries as far as labour, which is also one of the important constituents of that economic activity, is concerned? Why should that also be not allowed to flow from one country to another country? All the countries in the world, particularly the developed countries, opposed this concept.

If we had accepted this concept, Indian labour also could have gone to USA like USA goods come to India. In that case, probably we would have considered these illegal immigrants in a different context. When Indian labour want to go to another country, they are faced with all sorts of problems. India is one country which does not really bother about this and people from other parts of the world would like to come into our country.

Sir, I would like to point out a very important issue, which is pertaining to Assam. I would like to highlight that because the State from which I come from is the State of Maharashtra, which is also facing this problem in a very big way. Whenever any citizen from Maharashtra or for that matter any other part of the country raises such issues, it is always said that this is a coloured issue and they are trying to raise it on religious grounds. There is no religion involved in this. It is purely a patriotic issue. So, I will take the State of Assam as an example.

Sir, a popular movement in the State of Assam was started in late 1970s and early 1980s for establishing cultural identity of the local Assamese. If we had awakened at that time, probably today we did not have to face this

issue, which is now engulfing the entire country. Even at that time it was thought to be a movement launched by the Opposition to destabilise the Government which was elected in the State and it was also thought that probably if we try to hit the genuine demands of the citizens of Assam, some of the votes that we could garner would be lost. In the process we have politicised this issue and today the State of Assam is virtually on the brink of extinction on cultural grounds. I think, we must get ourselves united and all the political parties, all the citizens of this country must unite and should not look at it as an issue raised by a particular party on religious grounds.

Sir, I would not try to differentiate those who are crossing the border. Once they cross the border, they come to us as foreigners. What religion they possess and what national identity they have before they cross the border are not important because they are illegal immigrants who have crossed the border without valid documents.

Sir, there is the economics side to it, which, of course, has been highlighted by many friends. It is very obvious. I would not like to go into it. What is important is to see that when the people crossed over into the country, with what motivation they are coming. Whenever the refugees have been crossing the border in different countries, they come to the notice of the United Nations and the United Nations has an organisation which exclusively looks after the plight of the refugees. Even the United Nations Refugees Organisation also says that they have to be segregated and they should not be allowed to intermingle with the local population. In any case, even the United Nations does not talk about giving citizenship right to such immigrants. But here, even without anybody demanding it, we are out to give them citizenship right and we are giving it to them even without verifying the entire process as to how a person could become a citizen. This is a very serious matter. Unless we really try to dwell upon it with all the seriousness that it demands, we would have lost a good opportunity and probably one State of Assam would go away today and later on many other States would face the same fate and this august House, which is supposed to be the most sovereign body, which is supposed to look after the interest of the entire country would not have served its job if we do not look into this issue.

Sir, I remember that when people from Tibet crossed over the border into India, we, as a country, realised their plight and provided them proper house and proper accommodation. We also tried to segregate them and kept them in different places. They have been there in the Dharmshala in Himachal Pradesh, they have been there in the State of Karnataka and they have been there in different parts of the country. Sir, there are people, particularly from Bangladesh, who are coming in such numbers into all parts of our country and are involving in such activities that really demand the Government to awaken. Is there any machinery on the part of the Government to detect such foreigners coming into the country? If we do not have any such machinery, then it is a very serious matter. The Government is not able to give the figures about how many immigrants have really crossed over.

There are certain constituencies particularly in Assam,

where the number of registered voters had increased disproportionate to the normal rise in the population of that area. If there is an increase of one or two or three per cent in the national population, the number of voters who are registered in a particular constituency is rising by 15 to 20 per cent. This is something very unusual and cannot be explained by a normal logic. There could be only one explanation that there are illegal immigrants who are coming into the country and now we are thinking of giving them citizenship right.

Sir, the citizenship right is not something which can be doled out like this. By this, we are trying to insult the remaining citizens of the country. We are insulting the sovereignty of the country and I think we have to follow the proper system which is mentioned in the Citizenship Act and we cannot just keep on giving away citizenship like this. I think we will really have to be alive to this issue.

Sir, I realise the constraint of time. I thank you for according me this opportunity. Also I must thank the Mover of the Resolution as well as the other Members who have spoken on this Resolution.

16.45 hrs.

(SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): I am thankful to Shri Jagatvir Singh Dronaji, who is the mover of this resolution and also to those hon'ble Members who have participated in the debate. I am thankful to them also. I have expressed my views in true sense and besides this I personally give more importance to this illegal immigration. This is a very serious problem. Hon'ble Members have expressed their views in regard to illegal infiltration to our northeast from Bangladesh and also other princely states including Gujarat by making West-Bengal as corridor. In this connection, I would like to say that this phenomenon is not of today. But even before Independence people used to come from that areas. What are the reasons thereof? We have a long border. Its distance is about 4000 k.m. We have a neighbouring country called Bangladesh. Its border is not only wide but its geographical sketchies such that sometimes canals and sometimes hills fall under our area and sometimes under their area.

[English]

I think this is in a position of being criss-crossed.

[Translation]

And in the past these three countries were one country. They had same language. They had uniform culture and moreover the population of Bangladesh is much more. In comparison to its area and their land is also not very fertile. Due to frequent floods there is loss to life and property and as far as relationship is concerned, some friend from that side used to say that everybody is separated from each other.

[English]

This is also a factor of attraction for the people from that side.

[Translation]

There could be another reason also. When our political leaders want to make them member individually or party basis. When they are required to get votes, at that time they tolerate this illegal immigration. However, whatever may be reason, we should think about this serious issue above the party politics. When I study the figures I realize that in north eastern states number of foreigners is much high, in that case the major step we should take relates to issue of vested interests beyond party politics. We must overcome the issues meant to bargain votes. Apart from it, the Government of India is also serious on these issues while taking measures on it. We have increased the border security force on our borders for through check up and we have increased the border outpost on borders. We have increased the Outpost Towers and the range of surveillance equipments have also been raised. We have confident that we have made our border roads alert so that in the coming days there will be complete check up. Besides this wherever necessary we had made arranged for fencing and all the time the mobile task force remains vigilant whose expenses are borne by Government of India. Apart from it under the Chairmanship of Home Secretary we have constituted a committee and alongwith this, our officers initiated discussions with the Government of Bangladesh from time to time. We are satisfied with the new regime which come into power under the premiership of Sheikh Hasina. The number of intruders into our country have declined. I will give some figures in this regard. I can't give the accurate number of interception which had taken place in 1991. But the interception used by our BSF and other organisations in 1991, on the basis of that there were 83,857 interceptionsts caught during that period. Those illegal immigrants were sent back and after that the number of immigrants has declined. In comparison to 1991 in 1996 the number has come down to 13745. Therefore, I assure the country on behalf of the Government that we will check it up completely. Many hon. members have pointed out the issue in regard to Jammu-Kashmir, indeed it is also a serious matter but I would like to assure that the people of J&K, our great para military forces and our military forces not only defeated the evil designs and activities of ISI in J&K.

I think they have now more courage and are compelled to abscond. We have succeeded in making popular government in Parliamentary Election and now the situation is such where role of ISI was very brutal and people of my native place were perplexed with their life and at the time of election. When I asked them whether they need road, school building, their only reply was that we have no problems because our life has become tensed and insecured and we want to die. But two months before when I went there I visited border areas, villages and found that now there is a atmosphere of confidence because now public are attending meetings and they also demand water. Therefore, I want to assure you that now infiltration will come to an end. One of

[Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar]

the Hon'ble member has pointed out the infiltration of ISI which is taking place in Meerut and Aligarh. I would like to assure them that the evil designs of ISI emerged in Kashmir and we have rooted them out, in the same way it will be rooted out in other parts of the country. Tourist will come to J&K and the places which have been made hell, by ISI will again become heaven. The emergence of ISI in Meerut or Aligarh will be dealt in the same way. Today you have expressed its emergence here and there. You should inform us immediately. We will save our country from the evil designs of these people by making all kinds of sacrifices and we are ready to make all sacrifices to check this illegal immigration. I have expressed my personal feelings. On behalf of Government of India I want to assure you and all people that the decision we have taken.

[English]

I think those are sufficient to check illegal immigration completely.

[Translation]

On this basis, I request the Hon'ble Member Shri Jagatvir Singh Drona, who has introduced this Resolution—

[English]

that this Resolution need not be adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my Resolution was very clear and we had heard very attentively the views expressed by the Minister of Home Affairs. Whatever he had spoken, in fact had endorsed it. But I don't know as to why he has asked me not to press for this resolution and withdraw it. Is it not a contradiction? If we go through his speech, we will find that he has spoken totally in favour of my Resolution. He has linked his views with my sentiments. My Resolution is very clear:

17.00 hrs.

"This House express its grave concern over the large scale illegal immigration into the country since 1975 and recommends that concrete steps be taken to identify all those illegal immigrants and deport them to the country of their origin."

There is nothing against the Government in this Resolution. Whatsoever the government may be in power it is concerned about the security of the country. This conclusion is emerging out of the views expressed by you in your speech. I was thinking that you would appreciate my Resolution and thank me that atleast I invited the attention of the Government to this national problem.

Many Members took part in the discussion, 29 Members have expressed their views. Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs had also expressed his views. In the beginning of my speech itself, I had emphasised the basic problems. Today In a country having a population of 95

crores which does not have adequate food for its countrymen and also does not have adequate employment opportunities and resources to raise their standard of living could bear the additional burden of Immigrants. It would be an additional burden on our country.

Dr. Sarma has stated that there are about 70 lakh infiltrates in Assam. Such a large number of infiltrators reside there. My estimate was of about 30-35 lakh. I did not know that my estimate of 2.5 crore would reach the level of 3 crores. It may be on any account. There will be an additional burden on our country as a result thereof. If our country spends ten rupees per day on each of these 2.5 to 3 crore people, who do not have any relation with our country, it comes to an additional expenditure of about 25-30 crore rupees. Mr. Munshi has stated that we are having emotional with them. It can not be denied. In 1947, when our country was divided, we had an option either to live in India or to live in newly constituted country, Pakistan. After that international boundary came between the two countries. Today if anyone whether he is a Hindu or a Muslim or anyone else enters the country illegally by crossing the boundary, he would be called illegal immigrant. It would be the foremost duty of a citizen to identify and repatriate them to their respective countries of origin. The laxity shown in this regard is improper. I endorse the speech of Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs. About one crore such infiltrators are living in West Bengal. They stage demonstration on roads. They demand the creation of Mahazir-Sangh, as their Home Land. They hold conference in the lawn of Press Club of Calcutta. The 2203 kilometer stretch of Indo-Bangladesh border along West Bengal is having 160 such entry points through which infiltrators are coming to our side. The strength of West Bengal Legislative Assembly is 294. About 60 illegal immigrants are members at present, in the Legislative Assembly. They are playing a decisive role. The density of population is on rise border area and as a result thereof developmental opportunities are becoming limited. Out of 126 seats in Legislative Assembly of Assam, 40 seats have been occupied by such immigrants. It is improper that illegal immigrants intrude and imbalance the density of population in the border area. I agree with you that it has reduced the employment opportunities. They consider our country as an hospice. It does not make any difference if the Government desire to adopt a humanistic approach towards them, but it would be wrong if the Government continue to accept them, for then they would continue to intrude here and if their names are included in the electoral-rolls to provide political benefit to the Government as is happening in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. Such a series of incidents are occurring in border areas because of our political approach and this aspect is not at all being looked into. Our next generation would have to bear its adverse effect. This country has already borne the burnt of partition and is again preparing itself for another partition. Just now Shri Satya Deo Singh had made a reference to statement of Shri Jinnah wherein he had expressed his grief for non-inclusion of Assam in Eastern Pakistan at the time of partition in 1947. I too agree with Shri Satya Deo Singh. I want to quote a conspiracy which is being hatched in a planned manner. Shri Baljeet Rai, D.G.P. (Retd.) had

served for a long time in eastern states. He had some facts based on his experience, on the basis of which he wrote a book titled: "Demographic Aggression against India - Muslim Avalanche from Bangladesh". It has been clearly mentioned therein that how it is being done in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, Tripura and Eastern states. It mentions how the four districts of Bihar namely, Purnea, Katihar, Kishanganj, Araria and ten districts of Assam namely Dhubri, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Nalhari, Koraghat, Lakhimpur, Dorand, Naogoan, and Kamroop have at present just become extension of Bangladesh. It is a fact that their identification is a tough task. Their physical traits are almost same as ours. It is also a fact that earlier too their flow was towards East Bengal. But after partition East Bengal came to be known as East Pakistan. East Pakistan was our enemy. Then it gained freedom. During Smt. Indira Gandhi's time, historic incident took place in the war of 1971 when 93,000 solidiers of Pakistani Army were forced to surrender. At that time while expressing gratitude, Sheikh Mujiburahman had been the sole incharge of Bangladesh. At that time we thought that it would be a secular state like India where people of different religions could live. But it did not happened. Bangladesh also became a muslim Nation and since then this problem is prevailing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to paucity of time I do not want to repeat all those points. But I would like to ask as to what seems to be objectionable in it to the Minister of Home Affairs or the Government. The Government should clarify its policy in this regard.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I have stated that Government have adopted certain measures to check it and Government is also confident that there will be a total check up. Then what is the need to move this private Resolution? I would like to request not to press it but to withdraw it.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: In this Resolution, there is nothing against the Government, it is in the interest of the nation. We all have spoken in our speech and it would also be the policy of the Government. You can see the file pertaining to immigrant in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the policy of the Government in this regard. Even during the tenure of Shri Rajesh Pilot as Minister of State for Home Affairs, there would have been some policy in regard to immigrants. They should be identified and repatriated to their country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my suggestion is that a National citizenship register should be maintained and immigrants should be repatriated respectfully to their countries. If the Government of any country objects to this proposal, it would lose the faith of their countrymen. I have not censured the Government, I have just made a suggestion. If Central Government and Ministry of Home Affairs disagree with it, then you come to your record otherwise I will ask for division. There is nothing in this Resolution like that, you should accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you not withdrawing it?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: The question to with-

draw it does not arise. You accept it and at least bring it on record that immigrants would be repatriated to their countries after identifying them.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I have said that identity cards have been issued in border districts and steps have been taken in this regard. You please don't politicize it.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: This is not incorrect, this is the same whatever you are doing.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: Then why you moved the resolution?

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Because inspite of the steps taken by you, things kept on deteriorating.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: Then why you have made it prestige issue? I would request for third time. Earlier I have requested twice.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: You please give me an assurance.

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR: I have giver you an assurance two times. I again give you an assurance third time that we will check the illegal immigration completely.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Is it the policy of the Government?...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that the Government have accepted my viewpoint and after the clear cut assurance from the Minister of Home Affairs that he agrees with my Resolution, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.12 hrs.

STEPS FOR THE ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION

[Translation]

SHRI SHRI RAM CHAUHAN (BASTI): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:-

"that this House express deep concern over corruption prevalling in every walk of life and request the Government to take strict action to eradicate this evil."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today corruption is rampant in every walk of life. No field is free from corruption whether it is judiciary, legislative or executive. This is the burning problem of our country. When corruption rises in the country, the pace of development comes to a standstill. We chalk out many plans in this House and pass many budgets but when funds are released for villages and districts, the amount decreases. The corruption starts from the beginning. All the officers and

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staff indulge themselves in corruption which compelled former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi to say that when we allocate one rupee it becomes 20 paise on reaching to the villages. Where does the eighty paise go? Certainly, it goes to the pockets of some persons due to which proper development and upliftment of the country does not take place and financial condition of the villagers is affected. Hence it is a very serious problem. The Government consider it, make many announcements and deliver speeches in this regard but does not take any positive step in this direction.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that our newly elected hon. President has mentioned about corruption in his speech. His speech was not only listened in India but also in other countries. The hon. Prime Minister has delivered his speech some time before. In this Lok Sabha he said that the roots of the corruption are deep and people have to come forward to eradicate it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that hon. President who is the first citizen of the country. They can give a new direction and provide corruption free administration to this country. They ask the people to come forward but do not make any announcement regarding formulation of strong steps. That is why problems are increasing and this great country is facing these problems. It is said that earlier, this country was considered a very great country and its borders were fully secure. Once upon a time, our country was very prosperous and its civilization and culture were great. Historians once called India "Sone ki Chidiya" (Golden sparrow). According to them, there was prosperity in the country. But today, you will find that a number of infants die due to lack of milk. Even during marriage season we have seen that so many girls belonging to the poor families are married without golden 'mangalsutra'. This is the condition of the country which was once called a 'golden sparrow'. But now the condition of our country is deteriorating. The root cause of this deterioration is corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to explain my point through an example. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya has written six golden pages of Indian history out of which one page has been devoted to Chandra Gupta and Chanakya. During the period of Chandra Gupta and Chanakya, people did not lock their doors. It was because everything was available at that time and there was no shortage of any commodity. Thefts and dacoities take place if commodities are not available in sufficient quantity. People lock their doors due to fear of theft and dacoity only. Chinese traveller Fahayan visited India to see as to how the borders of this country are secure, how this country is so great. He was very much impressed by the prosperity of this country and hence, he desired to meet the advisers and the Prime Minister of India. When he proceeded towards India, he thought that Chanakya might be living in a bungalow near Rajpath, but when he moved ahead asking people about Chanakya's residence, they pointed towards a pathway. He further moved on that track and people told him that Chanakya lived in a hut. When Fahayan approached that hut and called Chanakya, he was writing something in the light of a lamp. When Fahayan called Chanakya, he did an act. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to what I am going to tell. Chanakya lit another lamp with the help of the lamp which was already

lighting and put out the first one. Thus, Fahayan received correct information from Chanakya about the composition of state affairs, its system and other things in the light of another lamp. While returning, Fahayan said that he had understood all the things but he was not able to understand the act which he did when I called you. Chanakya asked him as to what he did at that time. Fahayan said that when I called you, you lit another lamp and put out the first one whereas the light and shape of both the lamps were the same. Why did you do that? Thereupon, Chanakya gave a reply and that reply is a slap not only on the politicians but also all the Officers and personnels in the country who are indulged in pilferage and corruption. He replied that the oil being used in the first lamp was provided by the State and that I did my official work with the help of the first lamp. But I did my personal work with the help of the second lamp by purchasing oil from the market from my salary. When you called me, I was doing official work. Therefore, I was using the first lamp but when you called me, I used another lamp for which I purchase oil from my salary because our personal conversation was about to begin. Even a single drop of official oil should not be used for personal talks. When there is the best feeling of general welfare among the people then only, a country makes progress and that era is called a golden era, and that country is called a golden sparrow. Due to such feeling India is great. If such feeling had been there today, the area of our country would have been two and a half or three times wider.

Today, let us ponder over the fact that the people holding highest position in power are not honest. Corruption always percolates from top to bottom not from bottom to top. Corruption, always goes from top to bottom as water falls from 'Auroti'. If the Prime Minister himself is involved in corruption, his Minister becomes corrupt, his secretary and the officers working under his control will also become corrupt. If Officers are involved in corruption the Governors and Chief Ministers in States will also become corrupt. If such a situation is created in States, all the I.A.S. and P.C.S. Officer will indulge in corruption and this trend will reach the S.Ps and D.Ms in the districts and B.D.Os, Tehsildars and clerks working under their control. Therefore, if we want to remove corruption from our country, people holding the highest position in power should improve their image.

Today, allegations are being levelled against many persons. Bofors gun deal kickback have found mention in the editorial of one of the newspapers today. If such scams take place even in the deals of Defence, it definitely proves that we have no respect for our country. We receive kickback even while we purchase equipment for the security of our borders. That is why, the Government had been changed in the country. With the help of this slogan a gentlemen became the Prime Minister but even after the expiry of 10 years, investigation officers are continuously seeking powers and permission to prosecute the guilty persons. The whole country wants to know the names of the culprits. The Government has been changed in the country due to Bofors scam but nothing has been done even after ten years. Permission is not being granted to prosecute the guilty persons in order to keep some persons in power. How unfortunate it is that no

concrete steps have been taken in this regard for last ten years and the position remains to be the same.

Our country is an agricultural country. 85 per cent population of our country depends upon agriculture but scams like urea scam, gur scam and sugar scam have taken place here. There is a large number of cattle in our country and it has been on the number one position in animal husbandry for long time but now they have become the source of income and cows are being slaughtered for exporting their meat. The fodder scam has occurred in India which has got the largest cattle population. Nothing more needs to be said about the pitiable condition of those involved in the fodder scam. This issue has been debated in the House so many times even two-three days ago, it was hotly debated in the House. But why does such a situation arise? When an administrative head of a state gets involved in the scam, it does put a question mark on our moral bearing and conduct. Unless and until we strive to character building and educational upliftment, this country will continue to bog down in the quagmire of corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our top leaders holding high positions just escaped from landing up in jail in the Saint Kitts forgery case. This House also saw the MPs bribery case so as to save the rule and the Chair of Prime Ministership. A case is going on in the court. The Democalies sword is hanging over several people. To what level our public life has stopped to, this is a glaring example.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when all out efforts were being made, to save the government, one of his ministers was found involved in a scam in the telecom deals and the minister had got to jail. Such situations still exist in this country. Share scam occurred in this country and paper scam has recently rocked Gujarat. Today's newspapers have reported a scam in the purchase of computers for Kendriya Vidyalayas giving details of Procurement of Computers in 1997 at the rates of 1994 and their supply to Kendriya Vidyalayas. In 1994, the computer's price was 84,000 rupees and now in 1997, the computer's price is near about 30-35 thousand rupees but the purchase was made at the rate of 1994. The Mukta and Panna area in Mumbai where expansion work was conducted by ONGC with the cost of 500 crores of rupees has been given to MNCs and commission agents. Everyday new scams are being unearthed in this country. Therefore, this country ranks in the list of most corrupt countries. Our image, our reputation in foreign countries has been tarnished and this country has earned the dubious distinction of a nation of corrupt people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will have to bring about improvement to save this nation. This country has been a country of sages and virtuous people and has given several examples to the world. 'Nothing for oneself, everything for the nation' people with this motto have ruled over this country but today people in high offices are utterly corrupt. Therefore, I would like to emphasise that unless and until we hit hard on the very roots of corruption which has eaten its way into the innards of this society, we cannot weed out corruption from this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a sum of 10,000 rupees used to be realised under the Indira Awas Yojna which was eaten up by the officers of the district and blocks and now as a result of our efforts, 20,000 rupees are allocated under Indira Awas Yojna but the officers of block and district eat up the substantial amount out of it and finally people get in between 10,000 to 5,000 rupees varying from place to place. Large scale irregularities have also been reported in the ongoing work of free boring of tubewells.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, these days our courts are coming forward to put a check on our politicians. They are playing to the gallery but is our judiciary free from corruptions? When you ponder over this issue you will come to know that even our judiciary is not free from corruption. It is O.K. that the guilty should be punished but the courts too, are not free from the corruption. Unless you pay Rs.2/- or 5/- to the peon who calls the name, he does not allow the person to get in. Likewise, you have to pay Rs.10 or 15/- to the court clerk to get the next hearing. Therefore, the courts which have been assigned to dispense justice, are not free from corruption. This is really shameful. The courts which make high claims for dispensing justice, should analyse their own system and ponder over the issue of corruption in courts. If he openly takes the bribe of Rs.5/- or 10/- then how would we dispense justice and educate the masses. Those who have got money, can influence the justice, in several cases, oral evidence and cross examination are completed but final verdict is not given because our judiciary has fallen into the all possessive degradation in our society, therefore, justice is not dispensed with in the manner it ought to be. Several detenues are lodged in the prisons for last 20-25 years and nobody is there to defend their cause as they have got no money. Had they got money, they would not have been behind bars for so long. All these fact do put a question mark on our legal system.

If we want to bring about a change in the society then, our Prime Minister, Ministers, Governors, Chief Ministers, Chief Secretaries and S.P.s of jails should be men of high integrity. If an honest S.P. is posted in a police station, the police stations are not sold out. Otherwise the police stations are sold out for Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 20,000. If the police stations are sold out, then the Sub-Inspector would ask the policemen to bring money so that he could pay it to the higher ups. This way, the policeman also indulge in corruption to pay his Sub-Inspector and the Sub Inspector has to pay to his S.P., so as to save his posting as the incharge of police station. The S.P. too, gets his posting after paying to his higher ups. The S.P. too get his posting after influencing DGP and others. Therefore, one has to pay to get a good posting. Therefore, unless we streamline and bring transparency in the system, the cancer of corruption which has eaten its way into the innards of society making it hollow from within, can not be weeded out from the country.

The schools are the centres of learning. Money is taken for allowing cheating in schools. Different rates prevail for guaranteeing first class, second class and for just passing the Board Examinations. As such where moral education is given, there the situation is deteriorating. These things must be controlled. The child who gets education in school, who is

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the future of India, all depends on him in the country. One who passed by giving money to become the best citizen, he gets degree but not the knowledge. That is why he continues to roam here and there and the problem of unemployment increases. These trivial troubles are the hardwork of highly placed people and due to them these problems increase. Therefore, I would like to tell you that this is a very serious problem of this country. Everyday this is discussed in this House on this or that context. Everyday a new scam is reported in the newspapers and debunked by the media or other magazines due to this the image of our country is earning a bad name and today we are not able to show our face abroad...*(Interruptions)* Our colleague Chandrabhushan Singh is saying that we figure at the eighth place in the list of most corrupt countries of the world. India, once a leader of the world is now being counted as the most corrupt country. This is a matter of great misfortune and this august House has maximum responsibility in this regard.

This House must take a decision after discussing this resolution which would be implemented from top level of echelon, only then we would be able to do away with corruption, otherwise there would be no end to it. As long as the Hon'ble Prime Minister did not take a leading role in these matters and did not request his ministers and ensure that every body was govern by the same code of conduct irrespective of his position, we will not be able to protect the future of this country which is going to dogs due to corruption. Prosperity and development can be ensured only when we start this process at the highest level of power. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (KARAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate Shri Shri Ram Chauhan and also thank him for having brought this very important Resolution before this august House.

Corruption is eating into the vitals of the nation. Economy is gravely affected by corruption, whether it is at political level, whether it is at bureaucratic level, whether it is in business, international trade or day-to-day dealings of ordinary citizens with the State. In every walk of life today one hears of deep-rooted corruption. But talking about corruption endlessly will not end it. We, in this august body, the highest democratic institution in the country, must come to some concrete plan of action in this 50th Year of Independence, if the situation is to be changed.

Ours has been a feudal society for centuries. We had very little democratic traditions or the western type traditions which Greece and Rome had and later on, the British parliamentary system, followed by democracy in United States and other western countries.

Fifty years ago when we got freedom, our founding fathers sat down to draft the Constitution for this country. It was great people like Nehru, Gandhi, Ambedkar and Rajender Babu who gave us the Westminster like democracy. But democracy has not really taken deep roots.

Corruption has led to a situation where people throw out political parties in general elections. If you look at the

results of the 1977 elections, corruption was a major issue; in 1989, it was an issue; and even in the recent elections, the issue of corruption has played a major role. People have given their verdict. They have thrown out people for either real corruption or perceived corruption or because of media propaganda. Whether at the Centre or at the State level, whenever people have perceived a political party as being corrupt, they have thrown that political party out.

On the economic side, we had adopted a mixed economy hoping that it would be better than the other two systems – completely planned economy like the socialist economy or completely free economy like the American system. But we ended up, perhaps, getting the worst parts of both worlds. The centrally planned sector of our economy became very inefficient and corrupt. Similarly, the private side of our economy also had its own ills. It was also equally corrupt. So, we are worried now as we adopt market economy, globalise our economy, privatise our State enterprise and marketise it. We are unwittingly ushering in consumer culture. Whether it is through cable TV, whether it is through multinational companies coming in, bringing in multinational culture in our country, whether it is through pop music or through fast food, western consumerist culture is invading our society at a very rapid pace.

The problem with a globalised economy is that it is an economy where market forces alone decide in which direction the economy should go. The disparity in the society would increase. It is increasing. Today, qualified, better skilled, western educated, English speaking, elitist people are getting huge salaries. It is not uncommon to hear of Chief Executives of multinational companies getting consolidated salaries in the range of Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.5 crore per year. On the other hand, rural, less educated, semi-urban people are not getting jobs. There is an army of educated unemployed people who are not even able to get a job worth Rs. 1,000 per month. Disparity and tension in the society are increasing. All these are putting additional pressure on simple living people forcing them to take shortcuts, adopt corrupt ways of life.

As I said, discussing this issue alone will not be enough. It is a happy day today that we are again focussing the attention of this highest forum of democracy in our country on this very crucial and important problem. I would now like to focus on certain areas. We, in this 50th year of our independence, should sit down to draft the agenda for the next fifty years. Various political parties and various organisations are sitting down to hold seminars and write articles. As you know, our Party is meeting in the next ten to fifteen days in a plenary session in Calcutta where we would be pondering, deciding and deliberating about the direction which our Party wants to take and about the direction in which we want our nation to go on the political, economic and social spheres. For the next fifty years, when we ponder over the issue of corruption, cleaner public life, cleaner bureaucratic life and cleaner life in business, first of all, we would see that democracy has to be strengthened. In order to strengthen democracy, make it deep-rooted, really meaningful, we have to aim for a better informed and alert citizenry.

When we consider the quality of our voters, the citizens of our country, the thing that hits us directly in the eyes is the level of illiteracy of our people. It is really unfortunate that even after fifty years of Independence we have still not achieved the objective of full literacy. The 1991 census shows

that hardly half of our population was literate. The UN give us the figure of 48 per cent. According to Government of India, it is 52 per cent. If you see the number of illiterates in our country, today it is really far greater than what it was at the time of Independence. Growing population has contributed to it. But the fact remains that illiterate citizenry and illiterate population cannot really contribute to the making of a great democracy. Unless democracy is deep rooted, unless people are alert, unless people know the value of their votes and unless people throw out corrupt politicians at all levels, it would be very difficult to eradicate or reduce the problem of corruption.

When we are deliberating on this issue, achieving full literacy in the shortest possible time should be the first priority. I am sure the latest thinking of the developmental economists and the UN Development Programme are all focussed on the third world, especially on these glaring issues. With better literacy, people will be better informed about their rights and duties. They will take the whole election process – the process of electing their representatives – more seriously.

The next direct assault on corruption will be by enacting a legislation for right to information. I am very happy that the present Government is seriously considering bringing in such a legislation. There have been some half-hearted attempts by some States like Rajasthan to bring in such a legislation. Rajasthan started it but stopped it half way. People should have the right to information, at least about the developmental projects, the money that is spent on rural development projects, the people for whom this money is being spent etc. That would be the first step towards ending corruption. The second step is to change our secrecy laws which are antiquated, behind which bureaucracy often hides and a lot of corruption goes behind it. Right to information is something on which the House should have a unanimous opinion and force the Government to bring in an enactment as soon as possible.

To make the citizens more informed and alert, I would request the hon. Minister of Education to see that study of the Constitution of India, the great Constitution of ours drafted by Dr. Ambedkar, should be made compulsory at all levels. What is the position today? During the entire course of our education, only in fifth standard or sixth standard there is a mandatory Civics class and in that one chapter is devoted to the Constitution. After that one is not forced to ever look at the Indian Constitution. It is true for every professional except the lawyers. But in United States of America, if one wants to become a citizen of that country, he has to appear for an examination on the US Constitution and is required to get through that examination. So, my request is that the study of the Constitution should be made compulsory in all professional courses. A copy of the Constitution must be present in every school and college. It is not so today. Unless people know what the Indian Constitution stands for, they will not be aware of their rights and responsibilities. There is also a need to increase the content of legal education in all streams of discipline.

The next important area that I would like to come to is the judicial and the constitutional reform that we must undertake. We know that there are a lot of corruption cases in courts. There are some special courts trying them. Everyday we are hearing some corruption cases taken up, cases against politicians and bureaucrats. But it is a fact that crores

and crores of cases or litigations are pending in courts. This backlog has to be removed either by forming more courts or computerising the whole system. In any case, this has to be done. We have to have more special courts to try cases of corruption, be it political corruption or bureaucratic corruption.

The Chief Justice of Supreme Court recently mentioned that an attempt was made to influence him. It is a very serious matter and the House had deliberated it. But what did it mean? An attempt was made by some individual at the highest level of judiciary for the Supreme Court. Justice to withdraw from the case. It means that if a particular Justice withdraws, somebody else would come in who would be more amenable. So, without deliberating more deeply on it, a point was made by the mover of the Resolution that even the judiciary, particularly at the lower level, is not free from corruption.

Then, we will have to have a consensus on an independent investigative agency. The role of CBI has been criticised vehemently in the last few years, of seeking publicity by some and going slow by others. There are cases with the CBI which have been directed by High Courts and the Supreme Court which are pending. I will just cite one example here. On the 23rd July of last year, a death took place in Maharashtra. There were political connections. A person called Ramesh Kini was killed in mysterious circumstances in Pune and his widow has alleged that certain high political people were involved in it. The Maharashtra Police obviously went slow. The Mumbai High Court got into it and for the first time in the history of Maharashtra, ordered that the case be investigated by the CBI. The decision was appealed against; the Supreme Court upheld the decision; but the CBI is sleeping over it. Nothing is happening. This is the condition of cases. I think CBI needs to be restructured. There has to be an independent investigative agency which can look after at least cases of political and bureaucratic corruption.

We have all talked about Lokpal. I think we must have a consensus and a political will to bring it soon. Which way it may actually take shape has to be gone into. A lot of parliamentary committees have gone into it. It is something which will have to be enacted very soon.

The next area which I would like to touch upon is the corruption at political level, elected representatives and electoral reforms. I am of the firm view that unless we have a compulsory interparty democracy, roots of democracy will not really reach the bottom most level. We had seen how the Election Commission got involved and forced the political parties including mine and Janata Dal to hold elections as per their constitution. I think that even involving the Election Commission in the process of party elections to a limited extent would not be a bad idea. It is being done in US. I would say that this also should be considered.

Another aspect is the training of elected representatives, particularly at Panchayat level. Unless lakhs and lakhs of elected Panchayat officials get trained in the functioning of democracy, we will not be able to root out the problem at the political level. We have to involve the NGOs and we have to create the atmosphere through NGOs, through the people, through the media. The political parties must nominate people with cleaner image.

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When we talk of electoral reforms, we find that election funding is the root cause of corruption and we have to see that some State funding should come in as election funding.

The next area that I want to touch upon is business and industry. As we privatise the infrastructure in different area like power, telecom, petroleum and road sector, we have to see what happened in the case of Enron. We have seen what has happened in the case of privatisation of basic services in telecom. The famous Sukh Ram scandal was there. The mover referred to the petroleum scandal, the Reliance and Enron and Panna Fields. They are all a cause for worry. When we are privatising infrastructure, it is necessary to have transparent regulatory authorities before you privatise it. We did not form it till the tender for basic services was there. And we know what had happened.

SEBI came in only after the securities scam. Now we are discussing the Bill for Insurance Regulatory Authority. The Banking Regulatory Commission also came in after the scam. Every field that we want to privatise must have a very transparent regulatory authority working in it. Only then, will the privatisation of infrastructure, which is necessary, would succeed.

The reduction of Government controls with the economic reforms of 1991 has helped to reduce corruption in business and industry to an extent. But it has to go further. The unnecessary Government controls will have to be taken out while keeping the role of the State in necessary basic areas. But I think, from many of the production sectors, the State can withdraw.

The bureaucracy is also a major cause of corruption. Transfers have become the biggest industry in some of the States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is not development or industrialisation, but the biggest industry is transfer of bureaucrats. There are some honest officers. They need to be encouraged. They need to be supported. A complete politicisation of bureaucracy is one of the worst diseases that this democracy can face. That is what is happening. We will have to work out a political consensus that bureaucracy should not be politicised. I think, the frequent change of Governments will help bureaucracy towards that objective. The coalition Governments that are now an order of the day will also perhaps help it. But we will have to have a consensus on that.

There is a lot of corruption in international business, particularly in large deals, in Defence deals and in deals about infrastructure. The Government of the United States of America has a law called US Foreign Corruption Act. But many of the European Governments do not have such an Act. It is not illegal for these foreign Governments to pay bribes to the leaders or the politicians or the bureaucrats of the third world countries. I think, we will have to work at the international fora. All the third world countries will have to work together so that such an Act is enacted whereby the practice of foreign suppliers indulging in corruption in one country or giving bribe to the officials of another country is considered a crime as it is considered in the USA. Corruption is a very major and deep issue. I think, the House should deliberate it at a great length. Unless the vitals of this economy stop from being eaten up by corruption, the country will not progress. I once again thank the mover of the resolution for

having brought this resolution. I support it. The House should consider this issue seriously and come out with a concrete action plan to root out this evil.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): Sir, I support the resolution moved by Shri Chavan that "This House does express its serious concern over the corruption prevalent in each sector of public life and urge upon the government to take stern action for eradicating this evil."

I remember the lines of one urdu poet that "Gulistan barbad hone ko ek hi ullu kafi hai, anjame gulistan kya hoga, jahan har sakh par ullu baitha hai." Sir as by predecessor speaker has just said that whether it is economic, political, judicial, educational, administrative, religion or any other sector, everywhere we see corruption. It seems that corruption has entered in our each and every field of life. Sir, first, the condition of democracy is that there should be transparency in public life and conduct of leaders. If in a country where it is said 'Achara parmoh dharmah' today corruption enters in each and every nerve of society, would it not be a mockery. Today itself I was surprised to read in a magazine as to which is the most corrupt country in the world and which is figured last in corrupt. In this regard an organisation in Berlin namely 'Transparency International' has conducted a survey.

18.00 hrs.

He has conducted a survey. Ten marks will be there for the survey. It was said that where there is least corruption will get ten marks. No country in the world could get full ten marks but among the least corrupt countries were; Denmark, Finland and Sweden. I don't know how Sweden figures among them? The issue of Bofors relates to that. But ten countries having maximum corruption in the world has been selected. First name was Nigeria, Pakistan at Fifth number and Hindustan at Eight number. By knowing this our head comes down with shame. Besides other countries were Bolivia, Colombia, Russia, Mexico, Indonesia, Venezuela and Vietnam. Our country was prosperous one. For that it was said

"Etdeshay parastasya sakashad agrayanam

swam-swam christeren shikhsen prithvya sarvmanava."

The country in which ruling people bear a good moral conduct and they were found honest, they were regarded as worship worthy and people while bowing in front of them used to get education of character and good conduct by paying obedience to them...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you can continue later. The House stands adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, August 4, 1997.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 4 1997/ Shravana 13, 1919 (Saka).