

[Translation]

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

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Which is your constituency.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15.50 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Rationalisation of Postal Tariff

[Translation]

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

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

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

demand but should also cater to the communication needs of the common man at affordable rates. Consequently rigid norms of commercial viability have not been followed and the department is incurring heavy loss in as many as 18 out of 23 services that it provides on a highly subsidised basis. The amount of subsidy provided for 18 losing postal services range from 2 per cent to 93 per cent of the cost of operating these services. On the basis of projection for 1996-97, among the heavy subsidised services are the post card with subsidy amounting to 93 per cent of its cost of operation, printed post card with 60 per cent letter card 67 per cent, registered newspaper about 90 per cent, printed books 64 per cent, book pattern and sample packets 42 per cent periodicals 70 per cent, value payable post 70 per cent, registration 40 per cent and Indian Postal Order with 86 per cent. In 1995-96, the department incurred a deficit of Rs. 643.61 crores, the establishment expenses having accounted for approximately 80 per cent of the total expenditure of the department and consequently the amount of deficit is likely to increase further.

Redeployment and rationalisation of manpower along with other conventional measures for economy have been undertaken to contain establishment expenses. However the overwhelming dependence on manual operations and mounting cost of manpower have steadily contributed towards increasing the deficit of the department. Hence there is an imperative need to rationalise the postal tariff on a selective basis to partially offset the growing deficit without undermining the principle of universal service in any manner. My hon'ble colleague, the Finance Minister will announce the specific revision in postal tariff while presenting the Union Budget.

15.54 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS —
Contd.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to participate in the discussion on the resolution moved by Shri Jagat Vir Singh Drona on 13th December, 1996.

If we go through this resolution, we will find that principally there should not be any objection for moving such a resolution.

The question that arises here is that it is not only the question of identifying the foreign nationals who have come to this country illegally and deportation but also there are some other intentions behind it and that

point has to be discussed. Here, the question is about the illegal immigrants. This is a global problem. This problem is not only in India but there are many countries where the Indian people have entered illegally who are also expressing the same type of concern as our Members are doing here. At the same time, one point has to be understood in the correct perspective that once Bangladesh, India and Pakistan were all one country. The India was comprised of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan and it was one country. It was one India at that time. But due to political division, that one India has become three countries now. That is why, ethnically and culturally, where the same type of people are there, and here are naturally a trend of movement to each part relations here and there. So, we shall have to discuss this point taking into account all these perspectives. Otherwise, simply taking out one question of illegal immigrants and discussing here cannot help. This question cannot be resolved.

I know what had happened in the past. I am also a refugee settled down in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There are many other friends of mine who have settled down in India. They migrated to this country after partition. We were all one country men. We had one citizenship. But due to the partition of the country, we become the foreigners. All of a sudden, a section of the population of this country become foreigners after the partition of the country.

Sir, at that time, there was a commitment made by the Government of India saying the Government would take care of the life and property of those people who were minorities, who would come to this part of the country. What should have been done was, unfortunately, not done. Even today, lakhs and lakhs of people who migrated to this part of the country are roaming round here and there without any kind of facilities provided by the Government. I have seen what is happening in Pilibhit, Nainital and Bijnore. There are people coming to me and telling about the problems. Those people are staying here for the last 20 years, 25 years and 35 years. Yet, those people are being termed as foreigners. This Resolution mentions about the period as "since 1975". I would like to know whether this is practised. Whenever anything is done is politically motivated whenever it goes on a linguistic basis, somebody, for example, speaking in Bengali is immediately termed as a foreigner. Whether it is Mumbai, whether it is Pilibhi or whether it is Nainital, such a person speaking the language is termed as a foreigner. So, our apprehension is this. Principally, there cannot be any two opinions that those who are foreigners, they are to be detected and taken out of the country. There cannot be any two opinions about that. But while doing so, there are some political motivations. At that time, it is misused. Previously also, it was misused.