

[Dr. Venkatesh Kabde]

13.00 hrs.

However, as per Article 371 (2) of the Constitution, separate boards were to be formed and the resolution to this effect was passed on the floor of the Maharashtra State Assembly on 24 July, 1984. But, Sir, boards have not yet been formed. Our hon. Prime Minister as well as hon. Home Minister gave the assurance that these boards will be formed but no action has been taken. Hon Prime Minister said that before the end of this Session some action will be taken but no action has been taken. In the Regional Conference Meeting which was held on 5th and 6th May, 1990 at Aurangabad, again a demand for board for Marathwada was made. Sir, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister that these boards may be formed immediately so that the divisive forces may not adversely affect the situation in Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards recurring feature of flood in Bihar. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar is the State which alone has 16 per cent flood prone area of the country and 37 per cent of the total area of the State submerge in flood water every year.

The Government of Bihar has made a demand of Rs 200 crores from the Minister of Water Resources for starting permanent flood control measures. The Ministry of Water Resources sent a high level Committee to Bihar which in consultation with the State Government, recommended for the grant of a long term loan of Rs 200. Therefore, I would request the Government to pay immediate attention towards this thing so that this natural calamity can be faced.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Kodarma): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Hazaribagh district of Bihar,

3500 Mahavir Jhandas, which have not been allowed to take their traditional path, are lying in Akharas since Ramnavmi. It is all happening because of an unholy alliance between the administration and the leaders of the Congress (I). Thus, religious sentiments of the people of that region have been hurt and the situation is taking an explosive turn. The Government of Bihar has failed to improve the situation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister and the Home Minister to take steps to control the explosive situation to diffuse the tension and to allow those Jhandas to take the traditional route.

13.02 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

13.03 hrs.

Alleged harassment of the Fijians of Indian Origin in Fiji

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (Delhi Sadar): I call the attention of the hon. Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him that he may make a statement thereon:

"There situation arising out of the alleged harassment of Fijians of Indian origin in Fiji and the steps taken by the Government in the matter.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha)
Madam, I would like to draw your attention

MR. CHAIRMAN I have already Called
the Minister He is on his legs

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN Nothing will go on
record

(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
HARI KISHORE SINGH) Sir ever since the
military coup of May and September 1987
and the establishment of an illegal interim
government by former Prime Minister Ratu
Mara Fijians of Indian origin have faced
discrimination in various aspects of day to
day life including admissions to educational
institutions scholarship recruitment to civil
service, promotion avenues as well as eco-
nomic discrimination (e.g. bank loans etc.,
for business) About 20 000 Fijiains of Indian
origin are believed to have left Fiji in the last
few years mostly professionals There have
also been attacks by religious fanatics on
places of worship of the Indian community
Inflammatory statements by fanatic religious
elements and the coup leader Rabuka have
created uncertainty and fear among the Fiji-
ans of Indian origin There have been cases
of arbitrary arrest and harassment of Fijiains
of Indian origin New regulations are pro-
posed to be introduced affecting the vital
economic interests of Fijiains of Indian origin
namely, the new Master Sugarcane Award
and alterations in the Agricultural Landlord
and Tenant Act Most disturbingly, a process
for institutionalisation of racial discrimination
through constitutional changes is under way
A Draft Constitution proposed by the interim
government and a subsequent report by a
Constitutional Inquiry and Advisory Commit-
tee (CIAC) has recommended voting on
communal and discriminatory basis to the
detriment of multiracial democracy Fijiains
of Indian origin would be given dispropor-

tionately low representation on the basis of
ethnic discrimination

The Government of India has taken up
the Fiji issue at various international fora and
in bilateral discussions with concerned countries.
These included CHOGM Summits at
Vancouver and in Kuala Lumpur in 1987 and
1989 all three sessions of the UNBA since
October 1987 and the NAM Meetings. Our
views have been categorically reiterated on
various occasions as would be seen from
Prime Minister's statement during the visit of
the Mauritius Prime Minister in January 1990

"There is another area, closer home,
where recent developments have caused us
much anxiety In Fiji, we have a shared
concern at the trampling of the national rights
of the Fijian Indian community and discrimi-
natory Constitution It is our hope and expect-
ation that all responsible segments of Fijian
society will work for a genuine dialogue
amongst themselves as the only way to
ensure peace, stability and racial harmony in
Fiji"

We support the efforts of Fijiains of all
races who oppose the institutionalisation of
racism and the discriminatory policies of the
'interim government' We will continue to
assist them in mobilising international opinion
A constitutional system which is demo-
cratic in principle, racially non-discrimina-
tory in character and acceptable to all com-
munities living in Fiji, is the only way to
achieve the restoration of racial harmony,
peace stability and well-being of all Fijiains,
including Fijiains of Indian origin

[Translation]

PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA
(Delhi Sadar) Madam, Chairman, I have
gone through the hon Minister's statement
which makes a mention of the problem of
that country However, the solution sug-
gested in the statement is not so effective
and it is not going to solve this problem. In
fact the crux of the problem is that the Fijiains

*Not recorded

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

of Indian origin, despite being fifty three per cent of the population, have been fully divested of their political, economic and social rights. They are being treated as the third grade citizens in that country. The Palestinians and the Malayshians, who have been stated to be the natives of Fiji, are proposed to be given all the rights on a priority basis.

I would like to say that this problem of Fiji is more serious than that of the apartheid in South Africa. We and all other countries of the world have been raising our voice against South Africa on the apartheid issue. Several countries have come out with political and economic sanction against South Africa which has ousted it from the International Community. But I don't understand why the countries of the world are keeping silence on Fiji issue and India too has not put in her all out efforts to raise this issue. However, I would like to place before you certain facts of which no mention has been made by the hon. Minister. These days they are framing a new constitution for that country. According to the new constitutional provisions out of the total seats in the Lower House and the Upper House 37 and 29 seats will be reserved in this respect House for the natives of Fiji, whereas only 27 and 10 seats will be reserved in the Lower and the Upper House respectively for the Fijians of Indian origin although they constitute 53 per cent of the total population. It has not been stated in the statement by the hon. Minister as to what action has been taken by the Government of India against this provision of the new constitution of Fiji and how they are going to resist this move? Madam Chairman, last year the High Commissioner of India Shri P.P. Shrinivasan was expelled and sent back to India only because he had gone to visit two temples, one Gurudwara and one mosque which had been set ablaze in that country. The houses, shops and the women folk of the Fijians of Indian origin are being assaulted there. This issue has not been effectively raised by India on the International forum. Even in the council of Ministers of Fiji which consists of 17 Members, there is only one Minister belong-

ing to the people of Indian origin. This imbalanced position in respect of the council of Ministers is sufficient to make one realise the miserable conditions of the Fijians of Indian origin there. There is not a singal person of Indian origin in the Army of Fiji, their number in the civil services also is negligible. Even those who were serving in such positions, have been removed from service. Even most of the Scholarships have been reserved for the Palanasians and Malanasinas. It has also been provided that they will be eligible for scholarships even if they obtain only 230 marks out of a total of 600. But on the other hand, a candidate of Indian origin will have to obtain atleast 330 marks for the same. This is an arrangement to debar the people of Indian origin from scholarship.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have got 10 minutes. You are reaching at the end of your speech. According to the rule, you will have to put only questions.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I know the rule.

[Translation]

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY (Gaya): Full opportunity should be given to the member to speak.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I would like to know as to why all these aforesaid issues have not been raised by them. Even in his reply the hon. Minister has not mentioned all these things.

In the earlier Fijian constitution of 1970, there were three parties i.e. the Fijian of Indian origin, the native Fijians and the British Government. The constitution of the Britishers has been changed without taking the Fijians of Indian origin into confidence. The word 'Secular' has been deleted from the constitution. They have come out to give it an outfit of a "Christian Constitution". To this point the hon-ble Minister has not referred. In 1986, out of the total of fifteen secretaries

in the Government of Fiji, there were eight persons of the Indian origin. But now the number of such Secretaries has been reduced to one with the termination of all others. The Hon'ble Minister just stated that only 2300 persons have been driven out of that country. But, has it come to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that the actual number of the Fijians of Indian origin who have left Fiji is between thirty thousand and one lakh, which is bringing a change in the ratio of their strength in that country. All these things have been mentioned by Rabuka in the following words:

[*English*]

"Indian Fijian who practice Islam or Hinduism should be converted to Christianity."

He believes that conversion is "a mission" from God.

[*Translation*]

In one of his books "No other way" he writes-

[*English*]

"Those who do not choose to become Christians can continue to live here, but they will probably find that it is a difficult place to live in."

[*Translation*]

Have you taken note of this religious frenzy that neither a Hindu nor a Muslim would be allowed to live in Fiji and their temples and mosques would also be pulled down. No body can go to Cinema on Sunday, no body can play any games on that day and if some one likes to go on a picnic, he is not allowed. Nowhere in the world, such a situation exists. But such a discriminative law has been made there and on being asked as to why they have arrested Indians, their reply was that no body could play games on Sunday as per the Christian laws. The person found playing games would be sent

to jail. Atrocities are being committed on them. Sir, Mr. James Sanker is the Chairman of Fizian Sports Group. He has said in his statement that:-

13.16 hrs.

[SHRI NIRMAL KANT CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

"The Indians are gagged. If they protest, they are locked up. The new Constitution will ensure Indians are third class citizens."

[*Translation*]

Besides, Shrimati Margaret Thatcher who talks of establishment of democracy in the world and abolition of apartheid provided facilities for imparting training to the Officers of Fizi in London. Apart from this, France, U.S.A. and Canada are also lending support to the racial Government of Fizi. In the beginning, Australia and New Zealand raised their voices against the discrimination of the people of Indian origin. At that time Indian's opposition was so mild that these countries also did not feel the need of opposing it strongly. Even Mr. Rambuka said that only Australia was raising voice against it. But

[*English*]

Do you want any extension of Russian and Libyan influence in the Pacific, Russian influence through India's Hindu immigrants and Libyan influence through its Muslim immigrants.

[*Translation*]

There is severe racial discrimination in Fizi and the Government of India should have first raised voice against it as it raised its voice against apartheid in South Africa. I have no objection as to why it raised voice against it. Indian has done good job as it spent crores of rupees for it. India should have raised this issue not only in U.N.O. but

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

at other fora also. However, it was not adequate to raise voice against racial discrimination in Fiji at one or two fora only. India should have raised this issue at all fora. Even then the people of Indian origin in Fiji look to India for help. 50 per cent of doctors and Accountants have left Fiji and took shelter in Australia and New Zealand. Under the rule made recently, no Indian can go without visa. Most of the school teachers left Fiji. Such hell been created that the people of Indian origin have become 'Third Grade' citizen. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why India did not raise this issue at Commonwealth forum. A meeting of the Commonwealth countries should have been called and the British Government should have been exposed therein because of Queen of England represents Fiji in Commonwealth Conference. The British Government should have been grilled and asked as to how it is supporting apartheid in Fiji. America too should be exposed if it lends support to Fijian Government. Thus, there is a conspiracy to convert the Hindu population to Christianity in the name of Methodist Church or force them to go back to India. They were taken there from India in 18th and 19th centuries as indentured labourers and subjected to severe atrocities. Mahatma Gandhi had launched a movement in 1910-20 when our country was not independent and raised their cause in the world. Today, this question is not being raised firmly by the Government of our independent country. I regret to say that our previous Government did not pay any attention to it and failed to raise their voice at the international fora. Our Ambassador was meekly allowed to return from there but the new Government also did not take steps which should have been taken. It has been reported in the newspapers last week that the pace of exodus of the people of Indian origin from Fiji has further gained momentum as it has become impossible for them to live there in the present condition. I mean to say that to utter a few words in one or two sentences in the meetings of the U.N.O. or in the Commonwealth conferences or for that matter at

the Non-aligned Forum or to raise voice with the leaders of Mauritius on their visits to India, is not sufficient. There is a need to do something concrete as efforts were made to mobilise world opinion against the apartheid practised in South Africa. Racist discrimination is more acute in Fiji than that in South Africa. For this, we should mobilise world opinion. Ministry of External Affairs should set-up a separate Cell in the Ministry for this on the line of the Cell set up by the previous Government with regard to South Africa. Necessary funds should be allocated for it. Conventions should be organised at different places in the world. Besides, special day be observed from time to time to highlight the problem. Ministry of External Affairs should not take it lightly or in casual manner as it is related to the lives of the lakhs of the people of Indian origin. Therefore, I want to submit to the Government that there is a need of considering the problem seriously as the people of Indian origin in Fiji are in majority there.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): Mr. Chairman.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give the reply later. For information of the Minister, that kind of practice was there in the Rajya Sabha.

Shri Ishwar Chaudhary.

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY (Gaya): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we can not be a silent spectator of the happenings in Fiji. The democratic Government which came into being in Fiji in 1989 was dethroned through a military coup and since then the people of Indian origin living there who were in majority have been subjected to atrocities. Just now, Shri Malhotraji has stated that the people of Indian origin were compelled to leave the country to New Zealand, Australia and other countries. It is also affecting the people of Indian origin residing in the other parts of the world. Had India taken timely action or raised

this issue at various world fora such as U.N.O. etc., the situation perhaps would not have deteriorated to the extent it has deteriorated. Due to lack of timely action on the part of the Government, persons like Col. Andre Rambuka who is holding the Military command and incharge of internal affairs could not have muster courage to impose a new Constitution and other black laws on the people of Indian origin in Fizi. If they could succeed in their design, the people of Indian origin will not stay for a single day there. Mr. Chairman, Sir, racial discrimination has assumed alarming dimension. People are being subjected to economic, social and political discrimination. These Indian were taken there by the Britishers as indentured labour. Majority of the people of Indian origin grow sugarcanes there and there are many sugar mills in Fizi. They nad been given land on lease for 100 years or for some such fix period. This lease is going to expire in 1997, if the new las is enforced, Master Sugar Cane Award, Agriculture land lord and Tenant will be changed and the people of Indian origin will be dispossessed of their land. They will be forced to return to India penniless. Why did the Government of India take this serious matter so lightly? Was any effort made to enlighten its neighbour countries? I think that if a discussion has taken place in this House on this subject, the Government would have been forced to think about this problem. But this matter was casually raised by the member of our party Shri Kant Mishra in the Rajya Sabha to draw the attention of the Government to it. However, the Government should have taken steps in the light of the discussion made in the Rajya Sabha as the Government of India is accountable to both Houses. So it hardly matters whether it was raised in the Rajya Sabha or in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has accepted that the people of Indian origin in Fizi are being tortured in many ways. At the same time , the Government is also concerned over it but it has so far not taken any concrete steps in the matter. How are you going to express your concern for them? How are you going to react over the atrocities being made on the people of Indian origin in Fizi? What are the

steps being taken by the Government of India to exert International pressure on the racial regime of Fizi for security of constitutional rights for the people of Indian origin in Fizi? I would like to know whether Government is taking any steps for protecting the people of Indian origin from General Rambuka? I would also like to know whether it has been proved that U.S.A. is also lending support to the Fizian ruler for practising racial discrimination against the people of Indian origin in Fizi and whether any enquiry has been made by the Government in this regard, and if so, why this fact was not made public and why any preventive steps was not taken? Was any policy has been formulated by the Government to safeguard the life and property of the people of the Indian Origin in Fizi? If so, the details thereof?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to know from the Government through you whether there is any proposal to take initiative under the new foreign policy to work for abolition of apartheid in Fizi? The Government should apprise of its plan to the country in detail through the House. The Government should not take this matter lightly as the similar situation may develop elsewhere also. People of Indian origin live in a number of other countries also. This will adversely affect the interest of our people in other countries also. With these words, I conclude and again urge the hon. Minister that in this regard he may tell about his plans in detail in this House.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Before saying anything, I would like to say that the statement which has been made is nothing but

[English]

"This is a tale told full of sound and fury but signifies nothing."

[Translation]

The basic question is as to what steps and the Government has taken to stop the political and economic exploitation of the people of Indian origin settled there, towards

[Sh. Yadvendra Datt]

which my colleagues Malhotraji has drawn attention to this House? I would like to cite an example in support of my contention. Sir, you are a socialist. Sugarcane is the main crop of Fiji and sugar industry is the main industry. The sugar mill owners do not pay full amount to the sugarcane growers for their produce and the amount incurred in producing sugar is deducted from the amount of the farmers. What sort of Justice it is? As a result, sugarcane growers are not in a position to recover even the amount of investment made in growing sugarcane. This is all done under a law called Master Plan. I would like to know what steps have been taken by the Government in regard to this draconian law called Master Plan? The second question is with regard to the lease of land which is going to expire very shortly. Under the new laws, the farmers will be dispossessed of their land and that they would be rendered landless. They will become paupers once they are dispossessed of their land and they would be forced to be vagabond all over the world

It is being emphasised here that this issue was raised at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Perhaps this issue was raised at the Kuala Lumpur meet also. I would like to remind the hon. Minister of the words used by the British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher to the then Prime Minister at the Bahamas and Kuala Lumpur meetings and the efforts made no headway. It is indeed an irony that on the one hand we are prepared to fight for causes of other countries, on the other we are not really to do anything for our own people. What happened to your vocal proclamations about your principled stand against racial persecution? Is not racial persecution taking place there? Where is your Secularism? Atrocities are being perpetrated against the Hindus, because of their religious beliefs. Temples, Mosques and Gurudwaras are being burnt down there and you are turning a deaf ear to it, despite your 'Secular' postures. You mentioned here that you raised this issue at the CHOGM meet. Whenever

this CHOGM word is used I am reminded of a Hindi word which rhyme with it i.e. "Bhogam" which means eat, drink and be merry. In CHOGM the delegates also indulge in eating and drinking champagne and then return home. Many of my friends echoed the same sentiments here and I agree with them. There is a particular Secretary in their department who does not even have an iota of Indian-ness in him and is a rootless person and I don't want to take his name. To cite an example, the Secretary General of the Committee on International Cooperation had written a letter on September 28, 1988 seeking permission to hold a conference on International Co-operation on Fiji and to date, no reply has been sent to him. When I raised a question on it, I got a written answer stating that they have not received any such letter. When I asked about the whereabouts of the letter written on September 28, I was replied in the negative and the Secretary of that Department, about whom I mentioned earlier, states that there is nothing objectionable about the burning of the Gita. I know that person, but I would not mention his name. Why this issue was not raised at the United Nations Organisation, like they raised the issue of apartheid in South Africa, why they did not raise this issue at the United Nations? Why they could not progress beyond the liquor sessions at the CHOGM? The fight against apartheid in South Africa has complete international support? Why we did not work for gathering international support on this issue. Here too, the issue of racial persecution is involved. Moreover, here there is religious persecution too. I would like to know one more thing from the hon. Minister. If he is not aware of it, then he may ask the Secretary. When a Coup'd etat was carried out in Fiji by Col. Sitiveni Rambuka and Ratu Mara, Australia and New Zealand deployed their warships for seven days. Why did the Indian Government maintain a discrete silence at that time? They waited for some reaction from the Indian Government, but there was no such reaction. An excuse was made that there was failure of communication. Perhaps, they did not receive any communication from our High Commissioner posted there. Then, why did not they seek

the necessary information from the High Commissioners of Australia and New Zealand? I urge that this issue should be raised at the United Nations and talks for an economic boycott of Fiji should be held, as their entire economy is dependent on the sugar industry. Why don't we take the assistance of the Sugar suppliers across the world? They should boycott Fijian Sugar in the International market. This issue was raised at the United Nations, but why was it not taken up at the Non-Aligned Forum? You should raise an uproar against this in the country and across the world, as you had done in the case of apartheid in South Africa.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a mention was made about creation of a Cell for it. You must have observed the joke about the Cell during the question hour itself. That Cell is nothing but a Pharaoh's Tomb. If the archaeologists dig it out, chances one that they may come across some Pharaoh's Tomb but not that Cell. A Ministry of Overseas Indians should be created on the lines of the Ministry of Chinese overseas in China. Why are you hesitant about accepting your own people? There are no two opinions about the fact that if Indians are thrown out of Fiji, they would also be thrown out of Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica etc

If you pay your attention towards South Africa, you will find out about the happenings in Melville. 40,000 Indians have fled from the Melville township of the Natal province. The recist Pretoria regime have created a Civil War conditions

[English]

between Zulus and A.N.C

[Translation]

You should think in terms of providing security to those Indians. Just because you were unable to do anything with regard to Fiji, it does not mean that you are going to take for granted the miseries that may befall on the crores of people of Indian origin, who are settled elsewhere in the world

My third demand is that we should provide the people of Indian origin in Fiji with full moral, material, political and economic support and we should make a declaration to this effect. There is nothing to be ashamed of it. You created the AFRICA FUND and contributed crores of dollars and pounds towards it. Why is there no such provision for people of Indian origin settled abroad and why are you not creating any fund for them? They look to us for help. It is a strange sort of secularism wherein we are concerned about others, but least bothered about our own people. I feel concerned about their future. This situation reminds me of the following lines—

"Yaam Chintayan Satatam Mahasa,
Virakta Sapanya Nidhyati,
Swajarni Niskata Dhiktancha,
Tanch Madanacheh Imaan Manachah"

They may face this miserable plight. You should pay heed to the fact that if you do not bring about changes in the policy.

[English]

Fiji is going to be a test case.

[Translation]

You should formulate a forceful policy on this issue. You should first talk to Australia and Newzealand as they are adjacent to Fiji. In Australia, a labour party Government headed by Mr. Bob Hawke is in power and there is every chance of our getting support from them. There is every chance of your getting support from Newzealand also. I hope that in your reply to the Debate you would be kind enough to reply to the three or four demands, that I have raised here.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL (Morena):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Malhotra and many others have already spoken about the atrocities and injustices being perpetrated on the people of Indian origin in Fiji, after the Coup'd etat there.

After grabbing power in an unlawful

[Sh. Chhaviram Argal]

manner, **Ratu Kamasise Mara** is practising racial discrimination against Fijians of Indian origin. They have been debarred from educational institutions. Recruitment to the Civil Service, promotions, scholarships and all other facilities available to them have been done away with. Feeling harassed after all these developments, more than 20,000 Fijians of Indian origin have fled from Fiji. It has become difficult for Fijians of Indian origin to live in that country. Religious Fundamentalists are also hurting the religious sentiments of the people of Indian origin. A feeling of uncertainty has grown in the minds of the people of Indian origin and an atmosphere of fear prevails. Their economic interest have also been hardly hit. The laws in Fiji are also being changed and this is bound to have an adverse impact on the populace. Our former Prime Minister had gone on a visit to Fiji and many allegations were levelled against him, but he did not reply to them. I would like you to inform us about the allegations levelled against our former Prime Minister and the Indian Government, when the former visited Fiji. Along with this, all these issue should be raised at the International level. I would like our hon. Prime Minister to make a programme to visit Fiji and see for himself the plight of Fijians of Indian origin there. Objections were raised in the Fijian Parliament also against the introduction of amendments in the Fijian Constitution in an unconstitutional manner and a demand was also made in the Parliament of the effect that Fijians of Indian origin should be given representation in proportion to their population, but no consideration was given to those demands. Not only the Fijians of Indian origin but also their elected representatives including Members of Parliament face danger to their security. If they too had sought assistance from the Indian Government, then we should give it to them. We should give a serious thought to the developments in Fiji including the humiliation of our Ambassador, when he was asked to leave the country. We should provide financial assistance to the Fijians of Indian origin, so that they may lead a life of self-respect and we should raise all these

matters including the latest developments at the International Fora. The hon. Minister should also inform us about the incident of discrimination, which were raised at the international fora. He should also inform us about the steps taken by the Indian Government to provide complete security to the Fijians of Indian origin. If we fail to do this, then a feeling of insecurity would gain ground in the minds of people of Indian origin settled in various countries across the world. The hon. Minister should answer in details the march of events in Fiji. Life has become difficult for the people of Indian origin in Fiji due to the institutionalised racial discrimination being practised by the interim Government and in order to alleviate this problem, we should put pressure on the Fijian Government by moulding international opinion. I would like the Government to give a serious thought to all the relevant issues and provide full assistance to the Fijians of Indian origin.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA

(Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the credit for the modernisation of Fiji goes to the Fijians of Indian descent. Today's Fiji is the outcome of the toil of the Indians who had gone there a century back as indentured labourers, but today they are not enjoying the position that they deserve. That situation is being negated and as a result that problem has come before us at the international level. The new Government in Fiji which is also called an unconstitutional Government or a rebel Government being in power, the security of the people of Indian origin is in peril and under the circumstances, their security should be guaranteed. It seems that the number of migrants from Fiji has gone upto one lakh instead of 20 thousands as reported. The influx of people from there still continues. If this trend continues, we may be forced to face a quite unpleasant situation which would not be a good thing. Besides, it may cause a feeling of insecurity among the people of Indian origin living in other countries the world over. Therefore, Government of India must assure them of security and tell them that they would not have to face problem there nor would they be treated as third class citizens. They should also be given

and assurance that they would be treated on the basis of their population percentage which stands at 53 per cent. Our Government should raise this issue on international level at international fora. I would like to say this also that people of Indian origin are being deprived of their basic means of subsistence like farming of sugarcane etc. through new amendments in the laws such as 'Master sugarcane award' and Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act'. Thus, the process of their ouster has begun. Has the Government tried to take up the matter with that country and exerted pressure on the Government on this issue?

I would like to tell you about the treatment being meted out to them. They are not being given the representation due to them. Even the constitution is being amended to legalise the discrimination against them which seeks to reduce them to a minority despite the fact that they are in majority there. Our people over there must get their due rights. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to the fact that the very constitutional set up over there is unconstitutional as it clearly violates the democratic principles. It is a move which seeks to violate the secular basis of constitution by discriminating the people on the basis of race as well as religion. This has certainly created a feeling of insecurity among the Hindus of Indian origin. Even their religious places, customs and traditions are being denigrated. They are feeling quite helpless. I would like to know the names of International fora on which this issue has been raised by the Government as also the steps taken to ensure the safety of the people of Indian origin in Fiji. As hon. Malhotra ji has told us that even our Ambassador (High Commissioner) was humiliated and expelled from there. Therefore, will the hon. Minister be pleased to give us detailed information about the steps taken by the Government to solve their problem and difficulties? I would also like to know the steps taken by the Government to undo the move which seeks to create hurdles in their promotions, appointments and their extinction from the services despite the fact that they constitute 53% of the total population in Fiji. Thus,

a situation has been created there which threatens the very existence of the people of Indian origin in Fiji. Their rights must be safeguarded there. It were these people of Indian origin which had once put Fiji on the international map. These people have done a lot for the progress of Fiji. Therefore, hon. Minister should enumerate the steps taken to safeguard their rights in Fiji.

[English]

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU (Balasore): Sir, you can allow me one or two minutes. I had also given the notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the normal procedure.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I will complete in a minute.

I rise to intervene because I feel the young Minister should look into this problem in depth. In a way our approach to the people of Indian origin staying in different countries needs to be thoroughly discussed and suitable policy to be formulated.

It is a very delicate issue, very difficult path to treat here in Fiji. I am not making any accusation. I do not know by neglect or by some international pressure the former Government had really neglect this problem. In South Africa, apartheid is going to end but here in Fiji, a new form of apartheid is getting the constitutional sanction. I do not want to delete.

A good statement has been given by the Minister. We have been championing against apartheid, against social and ethnic discrimination. Here, the Fijians of Indian origin who have built up the Fijian national economy and made Fiji prosperous are going to be thrown out in the sea by the machination of a dictator. I would like the Minister to consider in the Ministry or in other forum that there is Human Rights Committee for South Africa to study the problems of apartheid and recommend to the United Nations from time to time on the problems of apartheid prac-

[Sh Samarendra Kundu]

ised there I am told since the South Africa is going to get freedom, the role of that Committee is going to an and I would like the Minister to raise it the the United Nations and in the Security Council to see that this Committee on Human Rights for South Africa also continues and probes into the charges of apartheid that have been made by the hon Members here in this House The Government of India should also take it up with the Security Council If a conference on this matter, of South Asian countries is called in India it would be useful to find a solution

MR CHAIRMAN One of the reasons why I permitted you is to indicate that the present system of call attention procedure in this House seems to be rather unsatisfactory So may I request you to suggest to the Rules Committee that there should be some change in the rules

SHRI SAMARENDR A KUNDU I will write to the Rules Committee

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH) Mr Chairman Sir I have listened carefully to the speeches of hon Members, Shri Malhotra, Shri Chaudhary, Shri Yadavendra Datt, Shri Argal, Shri Pandeya and Shri Samarendra Kundu I respect their sentiments While sharing their concern Government agrees that in other countries also a Fiji-like situation can arise Shri Dubey has referred to South African incidents and has cautioned that a similar situation may arise even in South Africa

The people of Indian origin migrated to various countries during the period 1879-80 to 1920 According to 1986 figures, the number of people of Indian origin in Fiji was 3 lakh, 47 thousand, 4 hundred and 65 (3,47,465), that is 48% of the total population of that country There can be no difference of opinion as far as the opposition to any discrimination on the basis of class, birth, colour

or origin is concerned The Government of India has always lived upto its responsibility in so far as the question of protecting the rights of its people is concerned

PROF VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA The mention of 48 per cent may create an impression that people of Indian origin are in minority there While the native Fijians are just 42 per cent, majority of the remaining 12 per cent did not like to be called of Indian origin, otherwise the people of Indian origin come to 53 per cent Therefore, 48 per cent may create the impression that they are in minority there (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY Mr Chairman, Sir 50 per cent people are of Indian origin while 47 per cent are natives and the remaining 3 per cent belong to other European nations and China etc , nevertheless people of Indian origin are in majority there (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH I want that facts, not figures should be placed in the Parliament

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN You will remember that this is his maiden reply to Call Attention

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH I was saying that the people of Indian origin were taken to various countries, these people worked hard for the prosperity of the respective countries Now-a-days, in some of these countries, a conspiracy is going on to deprive them of their fundamental rights and Fiji is one such country

It is just possible that the previous Government did not highlight this problem so vigorously as expressed by the hon members now but this issue has been raised from various international platforms and Fiji's membership of the commonwealth has since been terminated Fiji is trying its utmost to regain entry into the commonwealth, but it

has been the earnest endeavour of our Government that Fiji does not become a member of the Commonwealth until necessary reforms are undertaken there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not true that the Government of India did not encourage its people to participate in International conferences and seminars. India had sent participants to the seminar convened in Australia in this regard.

India has been raising the question of Human Rights through three principal International Organisations viz. the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth and the United Nations Organisation. The problem of Fiji will definitely be raised again in the forthcoming meetings of the Commonwealth or the NAM.

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY: What about the problems of the people of Indian origin?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: No only Indians, this problem concerns the entire Fiji.

[*English*]

MR CHAIRMAN: Not only Indians in Fiji. It is for the entire Fiji. What he says is for the entire Fiji.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the objective of the Government of India is not only to safeguard the human rights of the people of Indian origin in Fiji, but to highlight our image and viewpoint in this connection.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Nobody else will raise this issue.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If you do not raise it, who else will?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I did not

say that we will not raise. We will. We have raised it earlier also. We are still raising it and will continue to do so in future also.

14.00 hrs.

Sofar as economic boycott is concerned, Australia has taken steps in this direction and has suspended its five million dollar aid to Fiji. India has severed all its economic relations with Fiji. Shri Argal had made a mention of the tour of the former Prime Minister to Fiji. According to our information, the former Prime Minister never visited Fiji. In case the hon. Member has any secret information, it is another matter.

Shri Pandey has rightly mentioned the policy of the Government of Fiji with regard to the Master Sugarcane Award and Agriculture. This will certainly result in losses to the people of Indian origin. The Government of India has raised this issue from various platforms whether it is CHOGAM, UNO or NAM. We are again going to discuss it.

So far as the suggestion of Shri Dubey is concerned, it is really a serious suggestion. In reply to question, the foreign minister has said today that we are going to make separate arrangements in the Foreign Ministry for the problems relating to the people of Indian origin. The suggestion of the hon. Member would be given a serious consideration. Shri Kundu has suggested to raise this issue in the Human Rights Commission. We shall undoubtedly raise it. We shall take up this issue in the Human Rights Organisation of the United Nations and launch a vigorous campaign at the International level so that the Government of that country is forced to safeguard the human rights of all its citizens including those of Indian origin.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank all of you for raising this issue. Now we take up Matter under Rule 377.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the natives of Fiji or the people's representatives thereof have asked for any assistance for their security from the Government of India?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we cannot make arrangements for providing security to the citizens of other countries. We can only highlight their sense of insecurity at the International forum.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, may I seek your permission to make a submission? I feel it is my moral duty because I am the only Member sitting on the side of the opposition today. I do not make any controversial statement here. I would just like to bring to the notice of the House that the majority of the Members in the Opposition belonging to the Congress Party are absent today because they, along with their Leader, are on a fast. I am only trying to make an appeal that since we are all in consonance with the noble cause to fight communalism and to do everything to strengthen our national integrity, let us all support the noble cause. I make this submission only to place this record. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: The hon. Member is misleading the House. We have just visited the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He is upset with dysentery and has gone on fast after over-eating. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: That is very bad.

To make a statement of that nature is very bad. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Let us take up the next item.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I do not say that you have not given me a chance. But I think, in the absence of Shri Rajiv Gandhi... (Interruptions) I am raising a point of order. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed with the next item.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: He has made a statement regarding the former Prime Minister and none other than opposition leader. I, a Member of the opposition sitting here, have to bring to your notice that he should not have made such a statement. He should be instructed to withdraw that, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you. He should not have made that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He only said that the former Prime Minister did not go to Fiji.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not that one.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAILENDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA (Patna): How can the remark that the former Prime Minister is suffering from dysentery can be expunged? Only a physician can say after examining him that he is suffering from dysentery or not.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us proceed with the next item.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: He said that the Leader of the Opposition had taken his lunch and had gone on fast. That is very bad. I think, the Member should refrain from making such statement. I deplore it. And I pray, if the Member has got some respect to the House, to the opposition, to the leader and to the whole House, that it may be withdrawn. Do you agree that such statement should go on record? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am proceeding with the next item. Would you please allow me because there are other items to be taken up. We have to discuss on the Demands for Grants.

Now we take up Matters under Rule 377.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

14.08 hrs.

[**SHRI JASWANT SINGH** in the Chair]

[*Translation*]

- (i) Need to check the growing espionage activities of foreign agents in border area of Kishanganj (Bihar)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (Motihari): For the few years, the activities of foreign spies are continuing unabated in the border district of Kishanganj in Bihar which has common border with Bangladesh and Nepal. This has turned Kishanganj virtually into a foreign espionage base. Recently four Chinese spies were arrested at a place called Kakada Meetha on 31st January in this border area. Similarly in October 1989, a French spy and a Sri Lankan spy belonging to Jaffna were arrested. In 1990 too ten Pakistani and two Bangladeshi spies were arrested near Sonedhara Phulwari a place situated at Indo-Bangladesh border. Many smugglers have also been arrested by the Boarder Security

Force in January this year. Foreign currency and large amounts of money have been recovered from all these spies and smugglers.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister to take stringent measures to prevent Kishanganj and other border areas along the Bangladesh and Nepal borders from becoming activity bases of foreign secret agents. I demand that the Home Ministry should order a secret inquiry without delay into the conduct of pro-Pakistani, Pro Chinese and pro-Bangladeshi elements present in the Government machinery in these areas and take stern action against them, otherwise Bihar would turn to become another Kashmir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform the hon. Member that if he deviates from the approved text of the subject on which he has been allowed to speak under Rule 377, that will not form part of the record.

SHRI KESHWAR CHOWDHURY (Gaya): Mr. Speaker Sir, many hon. Members whose names are listed as speakers are not present. Will the hon. Members whose names figure at the end of the list be given a chance tomorrow?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Speaker will be apprised of it.

- (ii) Need to direct the management of Refractories and ceramic Units under Burn Standard Co, Ltd. a subsidiary of the B.B. Udyog Nigam Ltd., Calcutta to pay interim relief with retrospective effect in accordance with the decision of the Calcutta High Court

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol): Sir, the management of the Refractories and Ceramic units under Burn Standard Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd., Calcutta has not yet implemented the order passed on 4th December 1989 by the Hon. Calcutta High Court, in which it directed the management to pay the interim relief to