

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.19 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the House will take up matters under Rule 37. Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique.

- (i) **Need to take adequate steps for protecting strategic areas in the country reported from CIA's Surveillance.**

SHRI BIJOY, KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Any Third World country will feel deeply perturbed over the CIA's increased surveillance of their military weapons programmes in both conventional and non-conventional areas.

This Special CIA mission ordered by U.S. Administration, as reported in the Los Angeles Times on 21st June, 1992 aims at covering the world-wise development or acquisition of production technology, designs, components or complete military systems in areas of mass destruction and advanced conventional weaponry. This covert action plan ranges from recruiting or subverting scientists in Third World countries involved in weapons development to sabotage weapons research, production or storage facilities.

This move of the U.S. administration should not be taken just as a routine operation. This forms part of their persistent effort to consolidate American gains of unipolarism by suppressing other countries, particularly the developing countries which are capable of posing a challenge to their supremacy.

While disarmament on equal footing and a genuine nuclear non-proliferation, though not in the purview of the NPT, is the committed goal of all peace-loving nations,

the U.S. Administration design is a serious interference in the internal affairs of these sovereign nations.

Since India figures among the targeted countries, it is imperative what she raises the matter not only at the diplomatic level but also in the UNO particularly at the Security Council. At the same time, the Government should take adequate steps to protect our defence-related strategic areas and our scientists engaged therein.

- (ii) **Need to restore the power of Regional Passport Office to issue emergency passports**

[Translation]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, the Government has recently taken away the power of regional Transport Offices to issue passports urgently. From May 1st, this power which was being enjoyed by Regional passport Offices will rest with the Chief Passport Officer.

Because of this, an applicant will have to wait now for a long time to get his passport. The External Affairs Minister had earlier said that a passport will be issued to an applicant within 30 days of submission of the application. The present order does contrary to the statement of the Minister. This new rule would adversely affect the people of Kerala more than others because on several occasions, they will have to come up to Delhi for getting a passport. In the case of children below the age of ten also the police enquiry has been made compulsory. In case there is change in photos, signature etc. or loss or damage of passport, one has to wait for a period of 100 days.

Therefore, it is requested that the power of the Regional Passport Offices to issue emergency passports should be restored to them at the earliest.

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\*Translation of the matter originally raised in Malayalam.