

[Shri Mallikarjun]

similar equipment supplied by others, especially in the field of avionics. Are we to fritter away the foreign exchange so carefully built up by the previous Government?

The price of one G-222 aircraft with avionics equipment and accessories is being offered at \$ eight million. Aeritalia have been asked to reduce their offer slightly since others have quoted as low as \$ six million. Aeritalia are sticking to their price as the engines are not manufactured by Italy but by General Electric of America. Again a number of parts will be farmed out to parties other than Aeritalia. In the event of hostilities, the U.S. may refuse to supply the engines which will make the aircraft inoperative. We experienced the attitude of the U.S. during the Indo-Pak war which could easily be repeated.

Lastly, I request the Defence Minister to make a statement regarding the purchase of G-222 Aeritalia and whether he is prepared to constitute an impartial judicial body to enquire into it.

(ii) NEED FOR PROPER IDENTIFICATION
OF BANGLADESHI NATIONALS
COMING TO ASSAM.

SHRI AHMED HUSSAIN (Dhubri):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, for some time past the issue of infiltrators from Bangladesh has been raised from various platforms in the State. It appears that the Government of Assam has recently given some direction to the officers at lower level to deal with the people of Bangladesh origin. I want to make it emphatically clear that I am not asking for protection to Bangladesh nationals who have crossed over to the Indian territory without valid authorisations. But unfortunately it has come to our notice that the officers at the lower level of the administration are misusing the power and authority granted to them and are unnecessarily harassing the Indian citizens and in many cases deported people who have acquired citizenship of India and have

accepted our country as their motherland. No real effort has been made to ascertain in most of the cases whether the person is a foreigner within the meaning and definition of the Indian Constitution as well as the other laws in force but people of particular areas have been rounded up and taken on some vehicles and then dropped on the border with directions that they cross over to the other side. As a result, a feeling of uncertainty and insecurity has gripped the minority communities.

The Government of Assam should study the problem and analyse it and come forward with a statement giving the statistical data about the increase in population. Without such study it will be unfair for it to state that this increase is only due to the infiltrators from Bangladesh. This can be done only by setting up Law Courts where such cases should be tried to find out whether he is really a Bangladeshi.

Quite a large number of persons who originally migrated decades ago from the then Bengal province to make Assam their home are now bona fide Indian citizens living in Assam for generations. Therefore, any attempt to identify new-comers by face or language is bound to lead to profound harassment of Indian Muslims living in Assam.

Such Indian Muslims are in the habit of living in the Char areas which are frequently eroded. They change their homes and place of cultivation due to dire necessity and have to move from place to place. It is such helpless people who are likely to suffer from Police excesses.

After partition of India in 1947, many Hindus from Bangladesh migrated to India and permanently settled in Assam after obtaining India citizenship. Very often police also are deporting them without giving them any opportunity to prove themselves as Indian citizens.

Cachar is a district of the State where there is a considerable number of Muslims and Bengali Hindus. When

er they travel by train they are frequently harassed both at Badarpur and Lumding Railway Stations. These are day-to-day occurrences and this happens only because of misunderstanding and wrong impressions.

While the interest of the country, the State is involved on one hand, rights of the genuine citizens are involved on the other. We stand for secularism i.e. equality irrespective of caste, creed and religion. If this is not properly implemented, the very basis of democracy will be called in question.

In the circumstances, I feel that a legal method of identifying Bangladeshi without causing harassment to *bona fide* Indian citizens should be adopted, while, at the same time, the national interest of preventing infiltration should be fulfilled.

(iii) REPORTED AGITATION BY THE EMPLOYEES OF SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR REDRESSAL OF THEIR GRIEVANCES.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): Mr. Speaker, Sir

MR. SPEAKER: It is a bit long, please try to cut it down.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE. I will be brief.

For quite some time past the employees of the Shipping Corporation of India both at Calcutta and Bombay have been forced to launch movement for the redressal of their outstanding legitimate grievances. Although the Shipping Corporation of India through its Board of Directors had recommended payment of bonus at the rate of 20 per cent for the year 1974-75, such payment was withheld during the Emergency. The employees have been demanding the payment of bonus for the said year as decided by the Board of Directors and also for subsequent years. The management has taken up the attitude of total indifference towards the demands of the employees. Various other outstanding issues in-

cluding pending Charter of Demands are not being attempted to be solved by the management even by bilateral discussions with the Employees' Unions. As a result, the employees have no alternative but to agitate peacefully for the redressal of their grievances. Apart from the indifferent attitude, the management of the Shipping Corporation of India have taken recourse to repressive measures. In Bombay they have initiated legal proceedings against the employees for stopping of movements and agitations. In Calcutta on the plea of taking part in demonstrations and on the ground of alleged violation of bipartite agreement of January 1978, the management decided to withhold payment of Rs. 50/- per month per employee which was agreed to be paid under the agreement. The Employees' Union at Calcutta went to court and obtained an order for maintenance of *status quo* which was served on the management on 30-1-79 but surprisingly the management in furtherance of their anti-labour policy illegally withheld payment of the salary which was due to be paid on 31-1-79 and ultimately under an order of court they have deposited Rs. 50/- per employee with the court and have paid the balance amount to the employees.

The management is threatening to deduct further amounts from the salary of the employees for the month of February, 1979, which will only aggravate the situation. Such anti-labour activities on the part of management have naturally created great resentment amongst the employees generally which is bound to affect the normal functioning of the undertaking. Although an assurance was given in the Lok Sabha by the Labour Minister that trade unions in Public Sector Undertakings would be free to negotiate wages and D.A. revision and that the management will be at liberty to enter into agreements with the Unions which would not be dependent on prior consultations with the Bureau of Public Enterprises or the approval