12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED VOILENT INCIDENTS AGAINST ASIANCOMMUNITY IN SOUTHBALL LONDON

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK (Sonepat): I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

'The reported violent incidents against the Asian community, particularly Indian immigrants, in Southall areas of, UK and reaction of Government thereto.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): Mr Deputy-Speaker Sir We have noted with deep concern the reports on the clash in Southall, London, on 23rd April. I personally spoke to our High Commissioner as soon as I heard about the incident on 24th April. I again contacted the High Commission on 25th April to ascertain the latest position. Our High Commissioner had gone to Southall to meet the members of the Indian community, including some who had received injuries during the incident.

As the House is aware, the incident arose from an election meeting held by the National Front in the Town Hall of Southall on 23 April. The National Front is a racist neo-Nazi organisation which advocates hatred against coloured settlers and their compulsory repatriation. Asians in Southall had resented permission being given by the local authorities to the National Front in view of its obnoxious ideology and programme. The Indian High Commission had advised the British Government on 19th April that such a meeting would affect the racial environment in the area and even provoke some untoward incidents. These fears came true. The police blocked access to people approaching the Town Hall from the afternoon of 23 April. Serious clashes between the police and the demonstrators occurred during the evening. It was not only the Asians in Southall but also British people opposed to the fascist policies of the National Front who took part in the demostration to express their feelings. The police alleged that the demonstrators had launched unprovoked attacks on them. On the contrary, the Asian and other organisations blamed the police for their high-handed use of force. In the disturbances several people were seriously injured and one of them, a New Zealander, belonging to th Anti-Nazi League, died from the injuries. About 40 people of Asian origin are reported to have sustanied injuries. About 340 people were arrested and most of them released on bail. Our High Commission has asked the British authorities to indicate precise figures of the Indians arrested and charged. It is understood that the British Government are making their own inquiry into the incident under the Police Act of 1976.

The latest reports from our High Commission indicate that the tension has been reduced in Southall. Our High Commissioner has repeatedly advised restraint on the part of the Indian community in the interest of racial harmony.

We are in touch with the British Government, both here and in London, regarding the follow up measures. We are glad to note the condemnation by the British Prime Minister and other British political leaders of the racist National Front "reminiscent of Nazis", as Mr. Callaghan has said. Without in any way minimising the magnitude of the task, we hope that everything will be done to restore confidence among the affectd communities.

श्री मुलियार सिंह मलिक : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस इंसीडेंट के बारे में आज का यह काल अटेंशन का सबजेक्ट है, बड़े शर्म के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इस किस्म के इंसिडेंटस इंग्लैंड के अंदर हुए। जिस ब्रिटिश रेस के बाबत यह कहा जाता था कि बड़े मुहमज्जब हैं और सिविलाइजेशन का एक माडेल उन को समझा जाता था लेकिन वहां पर सिविलाईजेशन और सभ्यता का जनाजा निकलता जा रहा है। किसी आदमी की बाबत समझा जा सकता है कि उसमें फेनेटिसिज्म आ सकता है, पागलपन आ सकता है लेकिन किसी मुल्क की हुकूमत में और उसकी जो एक मशीनरी होती है पुलिस की, उसमें भी इतना फेनेटिसिज्म और पागलपन आजाए तो उसको क्या कहा जाए ? यह पागलपन सिर्फ आदमियों पर ही नहीं दिखाया गया, उनमें जो औरतें और बच्चे थे उनके बाल पकड़ कर खींचा और मारा गया। ऐसी बातें हिन्दुस्तान में तो सुनने में आई थीं लेकिन इंग्लैंड में सुनने में नहीं आई थीं कि वहां पर भी औरतों के साथ इस तरह का सुलूक किया जा सकता है। एक हफ्ता पहले भी वहां पर इस किसम के अटैक्स हुए थे एशियन कम्युनिटी पर, इंडियन्स पर। इसलिए समय से पहले, चार दिन पहले ही हमारे हाई कमिश्नर ने ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट को इसके लिए इतला दे दी थी कि इस किस्म का इंसीडेन्ट वहां पर होने वाला है। नेशनल फ्रंट जोकि रेशियलिस्ट है वह इस किस्म की वायलेंस की प्रीचिंग करता है। इंडियन्स को खत्म करने के लिए फ्रंट प्रीच करता है कि उनका रजिस्टर मेनटेन किया जाए, कहां कहां इंडियन्स हैं उनके नाम दर्ज किए जायें। उनका एक टाइम बाउन्ड प्रोग्राम है कि इतने दिनों में वहां से उनको निकाल दिया जायेगा। जब इस किस्म की बातें वे करते थे और जब ब्रिटिश सरकार को इत्तला भी दे दी गई थी टाइम से तब फिर ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट को चाहिए था कि इस किस्म की मीटिंग को बैन कर देती। साउथाल में 60 हजार इंडियनस्म रहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा था कि हम इसको बरदाश्त करने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं कि इस किस्म की वायलेंस हमारे खिलाफ प्रीच की जाए। गवर्नमेंट के खिलाफ भी डिमांस्ट्रेशन किए जाते हैं और इस किस्म की मीटिंग के खिलाफ भी डिसास्ट्रेशन होते है लेकिन वह पीसफुल होते हैं परन्तु यहां पर तो पुलिस का पहले से ही इरादा मालूम होता है। 50-60 के करीब लोग मीटिंग होल्ड करने के लिए जा रहे थे, नेशनल फ्रंट वाले, लेकिन वहां पर पांच हजार पुलिसमेन का तैनात होना---इसीसे मालूम होता है कि यह एक साजिश थी इंडियन्स और एशियन कम्युनिटी को सबक सिखाने की। डिमांस्ट्रेशन में न्यूजीलैंड का एक टीचर भी था जोकि इनके साथ सिम्पैथी रखता था। यही नहीं, अगर देखा जाए तो इंग्लैंड में रहने वाले ब्रिटिशर्स भी रेशियलिज्म के बड़े सख्त खिलाफ हैं लेकिन उसके बावजूद जैसा कि वहां पर खयाल किया जाता है कि मिसेज थैचर टोरी पार्टी की तरफ से सरकार बनाने वाली हैं, ने भी रेशियलिज्म का प्रचार करती रही है। ऐसी हालत में अगर हमारी हुकूमत की इस किस्म की पालिसी रही और इस तरह की वीकनेस वह दिखाती रही और हमारे आदमियों के खिलाफ वहां पर इस तरह के इंसीडेन्ट्स और वायलेन्स होता रहा और इस तरह पुलिस ऐक्शन में आई तो एशियंस वहां पर कैसे रह सकेंगे ? कामनवेल्थ के मेम्बर हम भी हैं और इंग्लैंड भी है, कामनवेल्थ कोई उनकी जागीर नहीं है। अफसोस की बात यह है कि जब कांग्रेस हुकूमत थी, उस वक्त इतना तो सुनते थे कि हमने उलाहना दे दिया, प्रोटेस्ट कर दी लेकिन अब तो प्रोटेस्ट भी जाती रही। मिनिस्टर ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है उसमें कहीं एक लफ्ज भी इसके लिए नहीं है। उन्होंने कहा है We are having talks with the Government. हमारे एम्बेसेडर ने क्या किया ? We should have lodged a strong protest with the Government

क्या इसको करने के लिए हम तैयार हैं या नहीं ? क्या मिनिस्टर साहब ने हमारे आदमियों को और एशियन्स को कोई एश्योरेंस दिया that India stands by them and, Indian Government stands by them.

इस किस्म का आश्वासन उन को दिया या नहीं दिया। मैं फारेन मिनिस्टर साहब से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या इस किस्म की कोई साजिश तो आज इंगलैंड में नहीं चल रही है ? क्या हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने हमारे हाई कमिश्नर की मारफत यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि आया ब्रिटिश कम्युनिटी इन्डियन्स या एशियन्स को वहां से निकालने पर आमादा तो नहीं है ? ये सारी चीजें वजाहत के साथ, मैं अपने फारेन मिनिस्टर साहब से अर्ज करूंगा, हाऊस को बतांए ?

श्री समरेन्द्र कुण्डू : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य की जो मनोभावना है, उस से मैं बहुत हद तक सहमत हूं। इस में दो राय नहीं हैं कि यह जो घटना हुई है, यह बहुत दर्दनाक और दुखदायी घटना है। जब यह खबर मिली तो हमारे हाई कमिश्नर ने इस के बारे में तथ्यों को जानने के लिए फौरन कदम उठाए और हम ने भी अपने हाई कमिश्नर के साथ बातचीत की। माननीय सदस्य ने जो यह कहा कि हम यह एश्योर करें कि हमारे जो इन्डियन सिटीजन्स हैं, हम उनके साथ हैं, इसे सम्बन्ध में मैं उन को यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस में कोई एश्योरेन्स की जरूरत नहीं है। हम इन्डियन कम्युनिटी के हर अच्छे काम में

पूर्णत उनके साथ है । इसलिए उनको क्या-क्या हुआ है और कितने आदमी घायल हुए है, और वे कैसे हैं, इस बारे में हम पूरी खबरें ले रहे है । मै यह भी बताना चाहता हू कि उनका जो यहा पर हाई कमीशन का आफिस है, उसके साथ और लन्दन सरकार के साथ भी हमने सम्पक स्थापित किया है ।

एक बात यह कहना चाहता हू कि इस मे कोई भी दो राय नही है कि वहा जो नेशनल फ्रन्ट है, वह बहुत गन्दा सगठन है और जातीय घणा फैलाना उस का काम है और सभा, समिति कर के प्रचार करना और गोरे आदमियो और एशियन्स और हमारे यहा के लोगो के बीच मे विद्वेष भाव फैलाना उस का काम है । यह सुख की बात है कि नेशनल फ्रन्ट का जो आब्जेक्टिव है, उस के विरोध मे वहा के प्राइम मिनिस्टर मि० कैलाहन ने सख्त बयान दिये है और वहा के दूसरे नेताओ ने भी सख्त बयान दिये है ।

कामनवेल्थ के बारे मे माननीय सदस्य ने जिक्र किया है, हमारे न्यूज़ कामनवेल्थ के बारे में क्या है यह उन को पता है ।

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the happenings, to say the least, are the most deplorable and disgraceful. I am, however, very much pained to see that both the High Commission and the Government of India have taken the matter very lightly. Sir, in this statement that has been made by the hon. Minister, Shri Kundu, we are told that—

"We have noted with deep concern the reports...."

Further, he says:

"We are in touch with the British Government." This shows only the weakness on the part of the Government. There is no expression of pain, no expression of anguish, no expression of resentment, no expression of condemnation, especially also in view of the police brutalities.

Sir, I put it to the Government that it has been very weak in this particular mater of upholding the honour of the people of India and even about the Prime Minister the remark has been made that he is a filthy person. I therefore put it in a categorical manner to the Government to let us know how the Government has adequately and appropriately communicated to the British Government the strong feelings of the people here throughout the country.

Sir, not only has the matter been taken lightly, but, I put it to the Government that the High Commissioner has been rather lethargic No doubt, a few days before the incident, he came into contact with the British Government and informed them of the delicacy of the situation. But we are told that it was the hon. Minister, Shri Kundu, who contacted the High Commissioner as soon as he heard the statement, on the 24th April. Sir, the incident took place on the 23rd April. Let the Government clarify whether our Commissioner informed the Government of the incidents having taken place, or whether it was the Government here that heard in the news the whole thing and then informed the High Commissioner over there. We are told that it was the Government here that contacted the High Commissioner the next day, that is, the 24th April. Sir, the incident took place on the 23rd April and it was after two contacts of the Indian Government with the British High Commissioner that on the 25th April, the High Commissioner chose to visit the area and reach the people. Let us therefore know whether the Government has taken up with the High Commissioner this point about its lethargy and the light manner in which it has been proceeding in the matter.

Sir, we are told by the hon. Minister Shri Kundu and I quote—

> "We are in touch with the British Government both here and in London regarding the follow-up measures."

This is a very vague sentence. 'We are in touch' means what?

[Shri G. M. Banatwalla]

What are the steps which have been taken? Has any strong note been filed with the British Government? There is a report in the newspapers today that the British Government has been asked to hold an enquiry into the matter Is it true that an enquiry has been asked for by this Government? What is the nature of the enquiry? Is it a mere enquiry under the Police Act over there? Sir, I understand that the Home Secretary has made a statement that if any enquiry is made, then, the contents of its report will not be made public. Has our Government made any comments on this particular remark of the Home Secretary that an enquiry which will be held in secret will not appropriately and adequately deal with such a situation?

I would like to know from the Government whether they propose to raise these matters in the Commonwealth forum and what would be our attitude in totality with respect to these matters I hope, categorical and specific replies to the points that I have raised will come from the Government.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Banatwalla is not happy with the words that have been used here in the statement; he says that we should have used much more stronger words. He might have seen reports in the newspapers that two days back I had stated in the Rajya Sabha that we look at these matters with deep anguish and I had said that this matter was indeed very unfortunate If the problems could be solved by use of strong words, perhaps the Government and some of us would not stop using these words. I would request the hon. Members to bear in mind that an election campaign has been going on in U.K. and on 3rd they are having their poll. We should not do anything or cause to do anything that it would appear that we are going to side with this group or that group, this party or that party. We agree that we have the duty and resposibility to look after welfare of the Indian citizens abroad, but when a matter become a law and order problem, we have also certain limitations. Therefore, in certain very difficult times, we have to be in touch with our High Commissions to find out the actual facts, circumstances etc. If you would kindly see the statement, we have given versions of both the sides. We have said:

> "The police blocked access to people approaching the Town Hall from the afternoon of 23rd April. Serious clashes between the police and the demonstrators occurred during the evening. It was not only the Asians in Southall but also British people opposed to the fascist policies of the National Front who took part in the demonstration to express their feelings. The police alleged that the demonstrators had launched unprovoked attacks on them On the contrary, the Asian and other organizations blamed the police for their high-handed use of force.

I hope, a very distinguished Member of this House, Shri Banatwalla would appreciate that sitting in this House, one could not sit on judgement on certain incident that took place at Southall. We are certainly entitled to know facts about the arrest of Indian citizens there; how many are injured and what are the losses that they have suffered. We are going into these aspects of the problem.

I strongly refuse the charge that our High Commissioner has been lethargic. On the contrary, he has been very active. The news comes from there. The hon. Members know that there is a time gap of five hours; London time is behind of us by five hours. We are very anxious to get more news and the hon. Member should have welcomed the fact that we have been keeping in touch on telephone with our High Commission. It does not mean that he has not sent any report to us. I do not think, we should look into these problems in this manner: rather, he

should appreciate that quick steps were taken to collect more facts and to decide what action we were going to take.

The hon. Member wanted to know whether we would raise this matter in the Commonwealth forum These matters are always discussed in the Commonwealth meetings and we use this forum to discuss certain matters of multi-racial and other such problems

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो उत्तर दिया है मझे उससे ज्यादा निराशा हुई है । जिस प्रकार का बरबरतापूर्ण कार्य वहा हुआ है और जिसके अन्दर एक शान्त मीटिंग जो की जा रही थी रग भेद के आधार पर एशिया मूल के निवासियो को वहा से कैसे निकाला जा सकता है, इस बात का प्रचार करने के लिये, और उसके विरोध मे शातिपूर्ण जब प्रदर्शन किया जा रहा था तो पुलिस ने बरबरतापूर्वक उन पर हमला किया, पुलिस ने वहा पर महिलाओ को बालो से पकड कर घसीटा एक वहा का न्यूजीलैंड का रहने वाला शिक्षक, जो वहा का न्यू नाजी सगठन है, उसका विरोध करने के लिये आया था, उसकी पुलिस की मार से हत्या हो गई और उसको मार दिया गया और 300, 400 व्यक्तियो को गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया । इस प्रकार का भीषण आतक, जितने वहा एशिया मूल के और भारतीय मूल के निवासी है, उन सब मे फैला हुआ है । इस सब कायवाहियो के बाद मत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वहा पर चुनाव हो रहे है, हम कही ऐसा न कर बैठे जिससे यह इम्प्रैशन चला जाये कि हम किसी की साइड ले रहे है । वहा दो पार्टिया है, एक श्रीमती थैचर की पार्टी, जो ज्यादा स्ट्राग है और दूसरी 'मि०पावेल की । यह सारे लोग जो है, चाहे नेशनल फ्रट है, उन सब का रवैया भारतीय मूल के और एशिया मूल के निवासियो के प्रति उचित नही है । इस बात को सब जानते है ।

आजकल तो वहां चुनाव हो रहे है । परन्तु जब गुरदीप सिह चग्गर की हत्या हुई थी, तब तो वहा चुनाव नही थे । जब वहां पर कौमार्य परीक्षण की बात चल रही थी, तब तो वहा चुनाव की बात नही थी । वहां पर भारतीयो के प्रति जो अपमानजनक बातें हो रही है, सारे देश और पूरी लोक सभा को जोरदार शब्दो मे उनकी निन्दा करनी चाहिये और इस सवाल पर देश के जन-मानस का पूरी तरह से प्रतिनिधित्व करना चाहिये ।

जिस तरह से यह वक्तव्य दिया गया है, उस पर भी मुझे आपत्ति है । इसमें कहा गया है :

"Our High Commissioner has repeatedly advised restraint on the part of the Indian community in the interest of racial harmony."

यह शायद सिद्ध करता है कि वहा पर भारतीयो ने कोई रेस्ट्रेंट नही रखा, और नही रख रहे है । दूसरी बात इस वक्तव्य म यह कही गई है कि पुलिस ने ऐलेज किया कि उन पर हमला किया गया । प्रश्न यह है कि हमारे हाई कमिश्नर ने क्या रिपोर्ट दी है । क्या उनकी रिपोर्ट है कि लोगो ने पुलिस पर हमला कर दिया था ? अखबारो में ऐसी कोई बात नही है । सब अखबारो मे साफ तौर पर लिखा गया है कि पुलिस ने कुछ गोरे लोगो के साथ मिल कर शान्तिपूर्ण प्रदर्शनकारियो पर हमला किया । मै यह जानना चाहता हू कि हमारे हाई कमिश्नर ने क्या रिपोर्ट दी है, यह बात इस वक्तव्य मे क्यो नही बताई गई है, जबकि पुलिस क्या कहती है, यह बात इस वक्तव्य मे शामिल कर ली गई है ।

क्या इगलैंड के इलैक्शन ला के मुताबिक रेशल डिसक्रिमिनेशन, रग रगभेद की नीति, के आधार पर चुनाव लडना अपराध है या नही, अगर है, तो ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट ने इस बारे मे क्या कदम उठाये है और नैशनल फ्रट के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की है ? क्या सरकार ने ब्रिटिश गवर्नमेंट से इस बारे में पूछा है ?

मत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि हमे इस बात की खुशी है कि ब्रिटेन के प्रधान मत्री और श्रीमती थैचर दोनो ने इस बात की निन्दा की है । उन्होने किस की निन्दा की है ? उन्होने नशनल फ्रट की निन्दा की है, परन्तु यह जो काड हुआ है, जिसमें लोगो पर बर्बरतापूर्ण हमला किया गया, जिसके कारण भारतीय और एशियाई मूल के लोगो मे भयकर आतक है, उन्होने उसकी कोई निन्दा नही की है । किसी ने भी यह नही कहा है कि पुलिस की कार्यवाही गलत है । वहा पर जो रेशल डिसक्रिमिनेशन के आधार पर चुनाव लडा जा रहा है, उसकी कोई निन्दा नही की गई है । हम तो यह जानना चाहते है कि उस काड के बारे में क्या कहा गया है और वहा पर जो कानून को तोड़ा जा रहा है, उसके खिलाफ ब्रिटेन की गवर्नमेंट ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ।

पिछली बार कहा गया था कि हम कौमार्य परीक्षण के सवाल को यू० एन० ओ० मे ले जायेंगे । मै यह जानना चाहता हू कि वहा के लोग कौमार्य परीक्षण और अन्य सवालो को य०एन० ओ० में ले जायें, इस बारे मे हम क्या कदम उठा रहे है ।

जहा तक कामनवैल्थ का सवाल है, मै यह नही कहता हू कि हम उसको छोड दे, परन्तु कामनवैल्थ में नान ब्रिटिश लोगो की मैजारिटी है । क्या हम उसके साथ मिल कर वहा पर यह मामला नही उठा सकते है ? अब ये बाते कैनेडा में भी पहुच रही हैं । पिछले दिनो मे कैनेडा गया था । वहा पर बड़े जोरो से यह कहा जा रहा है कि

[श्री विजय कुमार मलहोत्रा]

भारतीय मूल के लोगों को निकाल दिया जाये । स्कूलों में डिसक्रिमिनेशन हो रहा है, स्कूलों में बच्चों को गालियां दी जाती हैं । ब्रिटेन और कैनेडा में स्किनहेड्ज और दूसरे लोगों के द्वारा एशियाई मूल के लोगों के विरुद्ध आतंकपूर्ण कार्यवाहियां की जा रही हैं । क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि अन्य नान इंगलिश स्पीकिंग देशों के साथ मिल कर ब्रिटेन तथा कई दूसरे कामनवैल्थ के देशों में हो रही इन भयंकर घटनाओं के विरुद्ध कामनवैल्थ में आवाज बुलंद करने के बारे में गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया क्या कर रही है ?

वे लोग ब्रिटेन के नैशनल्ज वोटर्ज और नागरिक हैं । उनके साथ इस तरह की जो डिसक्रिमिनेशन की जा रही है, वह एक बहुत ही गलत बात हो रही है । उसके कारण इस देश के सब लोगों में एक बहुत बड़ा असंतोष है । ब्रिटेन की गवर्नमेंट भी इसमें पार्टी बन रही है ! क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बारे में हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों के सैंटीमेंट्स ब्रिटेन की गवर्नमेंट को पहुंचायेंगे ?

श्री समरेन्द्र कुन्डू : जैसा कि मैं ने पहले कहा है यह बहुत दुखदायी घटना है और इसके बारे में हमने अपनी गहरी चिन्ता व्यक्त की है माननीय सदस्य ने जिस गुप्त मीटिंग की बात कही है उसकी खबर हमारे पास नहीं है । खबर यह है कि नैशनल फ्रंट, जिसका वहां इलैक्शन में कैंडीडेट चुनाव लड़ रहा है, एक स्कूल में मीटिंग कर रहा था ।

श्री विजय कुमार मलहोत्रा : जिस मीटिंग में कोई प्रैस वाला या कोई पब्लिक मैन नहीं जा सकता है, क्या वह गुप्त मीटिंग नहीं है ? कोई प्रैसमैन या पब्लिकमैन नहीं वहां जा सकता था । चारों तरफ पुलिस ने घेरा हुआ था ।

श्री समरेन्द्र कुन्डू : हमारी खबर यह है कि वह पब्लिक मीटिंग थी । और उस मीटिंग के होने के पहले वहां केवल हिन्दुस्तानी और एशियन ही नहीं बल्कि जो वहां के नागरिक हैं, वहां के आदमी हैं, और जो नाजी टैन्डेन्सी का विरोध करते हैं, उन सब ने इकट्ठे होकर कहा कि यहां पर मीटिंग होना ठीक नहीं है । तब जाकर वहां उस समय में गोलमाल शुरू हुआ, यह लड़ाई भी हुई । उसके बारे में जो कुछ खबर आई है, उसके बारे में ब्रिटिश सरकार भी डिटेल से इन्क्वायरी कर रही है ।

जैसे कि मैंने कहा कि यह बहुत दुखदायी घटना है, इसके लिये हम भी वहां से रिपोर्ट ले रहे हैं और उनकी भी रिपोर्ट क्या है, यह भी देख रहे हैं । इसमें कानून के बारे में भी बात उठाई गई है —वहां दो कानून हैं एक वहां रेस रिलेशन्स एक्ट है और दूसरा पब्लिक आर्डर एक्ट है । मैं यहां पर साफ साफ कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर कुछ आदमियों का यह अभिमत है कि इस रेस रिलेशन्स एक्ट और पब्लिक आर्डर एक्ट में ऐसी मीटिंग और मार्चेज को बैन किया जा सकता है, लेकिन उनके होम सैक्रेटरी का मत है कि इलैक्शन के समय पर मीटिंग्ज बैन नहीं कर सकते हैं, यह कानूनी पाबन्दी है, मार्च को बैन कर सकते थे । तो उनका डिबेट चल रहा है और एक अच्छी घटना उसमें यह हुई कि उन्होंने कहा है कि यह जो कानून है उसे रिव्यू करेंगे और भविष्य में देखेंगे कि किस को फायदा देकर, पीपल्स रिप्रेजेन्टेटिव एक्ट को फायदा देकर, जो ज्यादा नेशनल फ्रंट के माफिक है, रेसिस्ट आर्गेनाइजेशन है, वहां विद्वेष के भाव पर जाति और रंग के आधार पर विद्वेष भाव न फैले ।

दूसरे इन्होंने बताया है कि मि० कैलहन ने जो स्टेटमेंट दिया है, उन्होंने इस घटना के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा । मैं उन से सहमत नहीं हूं जो मेरे पास उनका कोटेशन है, उसमें यह लिखा है :—

"I think that everybody, of all parties, should deeply deplore what happened yesterday." Then he has said something else and then comes the relevant part: "The doctines of the National Front are pernicious, provocative; they are reminscent of Nazism....."

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What about the police?

SHRI SAMERENDRA KUNDU : I read that out.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR (Gandhinagar): When did he say this?

SHRI SAMERENDRA KUNDU : On 24th. The incident took place on 23rd.

I have already answered the question about Commonwealth.

These matters are also taken up the meetings of the Commonwealth.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): Let me take this opportunity to pay my tributes to the very brave non-Asians who participated in the anti-Nazi demonstration; particularly, let me pay my homage to the great New Zealander who laid down his life in the face of severe police bhutalities to support the anti-Nazi cause. The problem of racialism in

Britain has been growing from year to year. First, we had the skin heads in Britain, people with shaved heads who used to beat up the Indians. Such incidents became very common in the last few years. Then the racialist National Front was set up under the racist pig, Enoch Powell, and led by Martin Webster and John Tydall. They raised a new anti-Indian and anti-black hysteria in the country. It is a wonderful thing that though Britain had a Labour Government, under the pressure of the new extermist National Front the British Government has been making its immigration laws tighter and tighter. The fact that there are virginity tests against Indian women immigrants in Britian now is proof of how much pressure these racialist wield on the British Government. They have laid down the strictest laws today for immigration.

The whole question is how our Indian Government looks at this whole problem because the seriousness of the situation has not been brought out by the statement of the Minister of State for External Affairs. I am very sorry that a former fire-brand socialist like Samarendra Kundu came out with such a wishy washy statement giving both version of the incident. Of course, now he is a Janata man. (*Interruption*).

A week before this incident, there was another incident in Leicester where another racialist meeting was held by the National Front, where the local people had protested and where there had been massive police reinforcements to protect the raualist Front meeting. When this meeting took place in Southhall, as the Minister has pointed out, the Indian High Commissioner pointed out that this meeting would disturb the public peace in Southall. The Ealing Council, which had earlier refused permission to hold the meeting, suddenly gave them permission this time. A 5000 strong contingent of policemen surrounded the meeting to protect 59 supporters of the racist National Front. The anti-Nazi demonstrators were standing outside. The police prevented journalists from going inside the meeting. This was the incident that led to the conflagration. What happened? 59 people stood on the steps of the Southhall public hall and they chanted abuses at the Asians—3000 of them who were outside. It is no small wonder that in spite of all this provation, violence did not break out in a bigger way. After all, the main victims of violence were the Asian people who were demonstrating, including Tariq Ali, the Pakistani firebrand, a very piquant situation is obtaining in the U.K. today. Though the official posture of all the parties is that they are against racialism, the administration is acting totally in collusion with the racists. James Callaghan has denounced the National Front as a racist organisation. We have also heard Mrs. Thatcher condemining this incident. But what does the British Home Secretary Mr. Merlyn Rees say? He said in an interview that these incidents were unprovoked incidents by Asians and that caused violence. Worse still is the statement made by the Scotland Yard Chief, Sri David McNee who said:

> "The incidents were unprovoked attacks against the police and property by groups of people determined to create an atmosphere of tension and hatred."

This is the statement of the chief of the official police and of Britain and this shows the attitude of the administration. In spite of what the leaders are saying, the attack is mainly against the Indian people. The people have protested in Britain also. To protect a few people, 5000 policemen had to be brought at a cost of a quarter million pounds. This is the trouble the British Government is taking to protect the racists. They say that in order to have full democracy election meetings should be held. But is it the right of anybody in any country where there is democracy to have racist

[Shri Saugata Roy]

organisations hold election meetings? This is a point which we have to seriously consider. I am sorry that the Government has at stage condemned the brutalities of the police against the defenceless Asians, it has not protested that so many people have been injured The High Commissioner did not go to the cremation ground and nobody went to the hospital This is situation that is prevailing. I would urge upon the Minister to make a serious study of the situatron.

It is high time that Indian abroad cease to be whipping boys. Indians go abroad because we do not give them jobs They go abroad, get employment and sent remittances, which our Government utilise for their foreign exchange requirements. Now these people are beaten up and our Government do not stand by them The Indian people abroad have been the whipping boys of Idi Amin, in Sri Lanka, in Burma and now in Britain. It will spread to France also. Then with what face will you send Indians abroad and with what face we shall ask them to send remittances to our country? It is high time that the Government take a firm stand in this matter.

I would like to remind the hon. Minister that not only are we still in the Commonwealth, maintaining our umbilical card with our historical British masters, but today the British investments in India exceed the British investments before 1947. There are more British personnel working in this country today than there were in 1947. There is so much remittance going out of the country. Yet, the Government at no stage showed that it has guts to stand by the Asain community abroad. to give them confidence by taking some strong stand. so that people abroad understand that if the interests of Asians are hampered, if Indians are hit, if Indians are insulted, if Indians are discriminated against, the Government of India is there to protect the Indian interests abroad and that inside the country we will take such steps so that the racist pigs do not repeat such incidents abroad.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): There should be a full-fledged discussion on this.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU: I listened to the speech made by my most esteemed, distinguished and ebullient friend; whether I should cal lhim firebrand, I do not know. If one has to be a firebrand or one loves to be firebrand, a firebrand has to be responsible.

AN HON. MEMBER: So, you are irresponsible.

SHRI SAMERENDRA KUNDU : I have never been irresponsible. I have only said that a fire brand has to be responsible.

Government have to act according to the information they get. I have already shared with the House whatever information I have got. I entirely associate myself with the feelings and sentiments expressed by the hon. Member about racial discrimination and the difficulties encountered by Indian citizens abroad. Whenever there are any incidents, we have always gone to their rescue, within the various constraints to our approach; we have always gone to the help of Indians abroad.... (*Interruption*) There are many examples. We have acted promptly whenever such cases have come to our notice. Our High Commissioner to the spot and discussed the matter with the people. It is not true to say that nobody has gone to the hospital. I can say that one of our officers has gone and visited the hospital. My information is that none of the injured are now in the hospital Three or four persons had gone to the hospital and some of them have been discharged also.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the High Commissioner?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU : I can check up whether the High Commissioner has gone there or not. Further, the High Commissioner cannot go everywhere, as you cannot expect the Minister to go everywhere. As I said, the High Commissioner has gone to Southhall and had a meeting with the Indians.

The High Commissioner had gone to the spot and had a meeting with the Indians and Asians also there I can say that no other Ambassador or High Commissioner had gone to the spot This is one thing which Mr. Saugata Roy must also appreciate, to give the devil its due. You can criticise, but to criticise blindly without giving the devil its due is not constructive.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: On a point of order. Referring to the High Commissioner, the hon. Minister has said, "give the devil its due" Does he take him to be a devil?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a devil's point, it is not a point of order!

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : He has second hand information. If the went *in cognito* and tried to find out, he will see that he has the most unhelpful and unsympathetic people abroad. It is a waste of money to maintain these missions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him finish his answer.

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU : Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu's views on this are very well known.

The last part of the question is about strong action. We are taking appropriate action, and we are in constant touch with the Government there and also with our High Commission and whatever is necessary to tackle this problem we will certainly do.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor): I learn that the Indians wanted a ban on the racist meetings in Southhall. Why have they not been banned? I am told that four meetings are going to be held up to 3rd May. The National Front is a racist organisation. They are abusing Indians, they are saying so many things against Indians, and they are instigating people against Indians and creating an atmosphere which generates violence. Therefore, I want to know from the Minister whether he has asked the British Government to ban such meetings in the area where Indians are concentrated.

We are not able to protect them. Is it possible for the Government to protect them or not, we want to know What are the steps they are going to take to protect them? Suppose in future such violence errupts, then what action are Government going to take? When we wanted India to come out of the Commonwealth, our External Affairs Minister said that it was quite necessary for us to be in it because the British Government was not going to do anything, and we were in a majority there. Are you going to censure the British Government through the Commonwealth? Can you give that assurance?

SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU : These questions have been answered. I can give my personal opinion, but being a Minister I am prevented from giving it. If I had been there, I would have said many things.

About banning this organisation, I have said that it is one of the most dirty racist organisations. It foments racial hatred, and is a Nazi type of organisation. It has no love for Indians, Asians and almost all the parties ,the Liberal Conservative and Labour party leaders, have condemned this incident. I think the British Government are examining the law whether they can ban it or not, they will decide.