

17.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—contd.

- (ii)
- ANTI-INDIA DEMONSTRATIONS IN NAIROBI AND THE SECURITY TO INDIAN NATIONALS IN STANLEYVILLE, CONGO.**

Shri Bade (Khargone): 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 recent anti-Indian demonstrations in Nairobi and the security of Indian nationals in Stanleyville, Congo, in the context of recent developments.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): Hon. Members are aware of the landing of Belgian paratroopers in Stanleyville on 24th November. This move has evoked a sharp reaction from many African Capitals. In Nairobi, the Kenya African National Union Party organized a protest demonstration on 26th November outside the Embassies of Belgium and the U.S.A. Slogans protesting against Western interference in the Congo were raised and many demonstrators carried placards against Belgium, the U.S.A., Mr. Tshombe and others. One of the placards exhorted the Indian High Commissioner in Nairobi to quit Kenya.

The demonstration was primarily a reaction to outside interference in the Congo. No undue significance need be attached to the single placard against the Indian envoy. The demonstrators however, in the course of their march through the streets damaged four cars bearing CD plates including those of Swedish Ambassador, British Information Secretary and the personal car of our High Commissioner in Kenya. The Ambassador's car bore a CD plate but had no marking to indicate its ownership.

2. The Indian High Commissioner has lodged a strong protest with the Government of Kenya on these incidents and has personally called on some Ministers of the Government of Kenya in the same connection.

3. In regard to events in the Congo, Belgian paratroopers after landing in Stanleyville have evacuated the Europeans and some other people of various nationalities. Among these are included 43 Indian nationals and 4 children.

According to reports received there were 43 Indian nationals and 415 people of Indian origin in Stanleyville. Of these, 455 have been flown out to Leopoldville. One person of Indian origin is presumed to be killed and two others are missing; these three are not Indian nationals.

The Indian nationals or people of Indian origin were not treated as hostages nor were ill-treated either. The danger to them may have grown with the panic which seized the Stanleyville troops and from which even the Congolese civilians were not exempt. The Indian refugees who are in destitute condition are receiving necessary assistance through our Embassy in Leopoldville.

Shri Bade: Looking to the present disturbances, has the Government of Congo assured us about the safety of Indians in that country; if not, what other measures do we propose to adopt?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The difficulty has arisen because the Congo Government does not have full control over all the territory of Congo. There is no point in asking for guarantee for the safety of Indians in areas which are not under their territory.

Shri Bade: My question is whether we are in contact with the Congo Government, about this.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Of course, our Ambassador is there, but I was only pointing out the difficulty. If there is a territory which is not directly controlled by them at the moment, what guarantee can they provide?

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): It is in the interests of the House he should answer.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When he himself does not want the answer?

श्री दुषम चन्व कलुवाय (देवास) :
 मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि चूँकि भारतीय राष्ट्रियों को वहाँ पर इस प्रकार का संकट हो रहा है, तो क्या सरकार उनको यहाँ बुलाने के सम्बन्ध में कोई विचार कर रही है। जिन भारतीयों को वहाँ पर कैदी बना कर रखा गया है, क्या उनके सम्बन्ध में कोई कठोर कदम उठाया जा रहा है; यदि हाँ, तो क्या ?

Shri Nambiar: Now it is in the possession of the House. The House wants it.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I heard his question, but I thought it was so contradictory that I wanted a clarification. Now he himself realises the contradiction.

Shri Kapur Singh: It is not that.

श्री दिनेश सिंह : कोई ऐसा विशेष संकट उन पर नहीं है। मैंने अभी अर्ज किया कि जो स्टैनलेबिल में थे, वे कैदी की तरह नहीं रखे गये। थोड़े से भारत के नागरिक स्टैनलेबिल में तो नहीं, लेकिन पूर्वी यूरोप में बचे हैं। वे आसानी से आ सकते हैं। उन्होंने अभी तक हम से कोई मांग नहीं की है।

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): I have a little protest to make before I ask my question, that the clubbing of my Calling Attention which was limited only to the events in Stanleyville with happened in Nairobi is unwarranted. We do not want this kind of clubbing together of absolutely different matters.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): In view of the growing phenomenon that the more anti-Western postures we adopt, the more hostile these newly emerging African countries become to us, and in view of the fact that the Belgian paratroopers' operations have rescued a considerable number of Indians, who otherwise might have been clubbed to death by black fury, why have we found it necessary to deplore this Belgian action as foreign intervention?

Having registered the protest, may I proceed to ask my question as to whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement allegedly made by Indian nationals who have been, I do not like the word, rescued from Stanleyville, to the effect that but for the intervention of the Belgian paratroopers, their lives would have been jeopardised? If their attention has been drawn to this, what is the Government's over-all assessment with regard to the paratroopers' intervention in Stanleyville?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am afraid I have not quite followed the question.

Shri Kapur Singh: Since the hon. Minister has not followed my question, I have a feeling that he will not be able to follow it till he reads it in the script. So, I do not press for an answer.

Shri Dinesh Singh: We are not aware of this statement which the hon. Member has referred to in the sense that no such statement has been made to our Embassy. Maybe, they have made it to some journal in which it has appeared, but as I mentioned, these people have been living there in reasonable security. When the situation in the town deteriorated

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

very much, maybe they were in danger, but earlier they had made no representation to us to enable them to come out.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : क्या सरकार ने कभी इस बात पर गौर किया है कि जितनी हम अफ्रीकन कंट्रीज़ से मुहब्बत बढ़ा रहे हैं, उतने ही ये लोग हमसे खिंचते जा रहे हैं, इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : मुझे खुशी है कि दूसरे मेम्बर साहब ने माननीय सदस्य के

स्टेटमेंट को सही कर दिया। ऐसी बात तो नहीं है। मैं नहीं समझता कि हम अफ्रीका के लोगों के साथ जितनी दोस्ती बढ़ा रहे हैं उतनी हमारी दिक्कतें बढ़ रही हैं। हमारी दोस्ती बढ़ने से हमारी दिक्कतें कम हो रही हैं।

17.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday December 2, 1964/Agrahayana 11, 1886 (Saka).