

श्री पी. वी. नरसिम्हा राव : जहाँ तक मुझे स्मरण है नेपाल की तरफ से ऐसी कोई बात उठाई नहीं गई, बल्कि खुली सीमा का फायदा उनको पहुँच रहा है। इस क्षण में यह बतलाने की स्थिति में मैं नहीं हूँ कि ऐसी कोई आपत्ति उठाई गई है, लेकिन मैं इस चीज की जांच करके आपको बता सकता हूँ। जहाँ तक मुझे स्मरण है, मैं अपने स्मरण से कह रहा हूँ कि ऐसी कोई आपत्ति उनकी तरफ से नहीं उठाई गई है।

श्री भारद्वाज राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि अंग्रेजों के जमाने में नेपाल और भारत की जो सीमा थी, आजादी के बाद उस सीमा में भारत और नेपाल के बीच में कहीं-कहीं कुछ एडजस्टमेंट हुआ, अगर हुआ था, तो वह किन जगहों पर और किस तरह का था ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न आप अलग सवाल देकर पूछिएगा।

#### New Rules for Issuing Passports

\*229. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules have been made or instructions issued to issue passports only subject to immigration check;

(b) if so, the reasons for such rules/instructions;

(c) the details of the rules/instructions;

(d) whether Government are aware of the hardship and inconvenience caused to the people and great corruption potentiality in getting the immigration check suspended while going abroad; and

(e) if so, whether Government would immediately terminate such rules/instructions?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA

RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A new system of emigration checks has been introduced with effect from November 1st 1980.

(b) A system of checking of all Indian overseas passengers at our international airports, to ensure that the requirement of Indian Emigration Act were not circumvented and that those who fell within its purview proceeded abroad on employment only after obtaining emigration clearance, was instituted during 1977-78. However, these checks were considered irksome by airlines as well as by passengers. The new system of checks was introduced to remove these inconveniences.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(d) According to the reports received the new system has been welcomed by the airlines as well as the general public. The Government is alive to the potentiality for corruption among the staff granting suspension of emigration check and is vigilant about it.

(e) There is no proposal at present to terminate this system.

#### Statement

*A Note on the New System of Check on Emigration introduced from November 1, 1980*

A system of checking of Indian overseas passengers at the airport to ensure that the requirements of Indian Emigration Act were not circumvented and that those who fell within the purview of the Act proceeded abroad on employment only after obtaining emigration clearance, was instituted during 1977-78. However, this check was considered to be irksome by Airlines as well as passengers. To remove this inconvenience a new system of checks has been introduced with effect from November 1, 1980.

2. Under the new system all passports of Indian nationals are provided

with an endorsement, at the time of issue of passports, indicating whether the person is exempt from the requirements of emigration clearance. Passports of those Indian nationals who ordinarily fall within the purview of the Emigration Act are given an endorsement to the effect that the passport holders require the emigration check before their departure for abroad. Such passport holders are required to obtain emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants, before they proceed abroad for employment. After emigration clearance is granted an observation is made on their passports that the emigration clearance has been obtained. Such passport holders whose passports indicate the requirement of emigration check but who might be going abroad for purposes other than employment require to obtain endorsement on their passport to the effect that emigration clearance requirement has been suspended for that specific journey.

3. All the airlines and the shipping lines operating in India have been advised not to allow passengers to board their flights unless the passports of the passengers bear one of the following endorsements;

- (i) Emigration clearance not required;
- (ii) Emigration clearance granted; or
- (iii) Emigration clearance requirement suspended.

4. Passports issued before the new system came into force are required to be presented at the passport offices for affixing appropriate stamp. The airlines, shipping lines and the travel agents have been advised to either forward the passports of the intending passengers to the Passport offices for suitable endorsement or to direct such passengers to obtain the required stamp directly from the Passport Offices. Such passport holders have to fill up a form giving necessary information to determine their status

from the emigration angle. This proforma is available from the Passport Offices, airlines, shipping lines or travel agencies.

5. This service is granted by the Passport Offices free of charge and emphasis is on rendering of this service in a prompt fashion without causing undue inconvenience or delays. For the convenience of Indians already resident abroad instructions have also been issued to authorities that such Indian nationals who come to India from abroad on return tickets or are transiting through India may be freely allowed to proceed abroad without any emigration endorsements on their passports.

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:** Will the Minister tell us how much time is stipulated for the granting of the necessary emigration clearance when the passports are presented for endorsements and whether there is also any machinery to see that the necessary endorsement is given without any delay whatsoever?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** The instructions are that the minimum necessary time should be taken and we have no reports, no complaints, that inordinate time is being taken. As I had submitted to this House when the question came up earlier in the last session, we have introduced this in the wake of complaints from the airlines as well as the general public. In any new method there are bound to be some risks. We have taken a calculated risk and I am glad to say that until now we have got only commendatory letters raising the new system and saying that it has obviated many of the difficulties. If there is anything to the contrary which is within the knowledge of the hon. Member, I would like to have it. But so far as the Ministry is concerned, we have not received any complaints either about the working of the system or about the time taken in granting clearance.

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:** We very much appreciate the anxiety to see that no inconvenience is caused in granting the necessary emigration clearance but this new system has become complicated. Three types of endorsements are there and I must tell the Minister that it is my personal knowledge that a roaring business is going on in granting these necessary endorsements. Therefore, will the Government take necessary steps to create a proper vigilance cell to check whether proper endorsements are granted by the various Passport Officers and to curb malpractices? Also is it possible to have any sample checks or surprise checks carried out?

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** I had already stated that the Government are vigilant about this. This vigilance can be exercised in many forms. We are exercising it in some forms. If there are any more suggestions from hon. Members, we will certainly look into them.

**SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL:** We very much appreciate the steps taken by the Government. But in the Passport offices at Cochin and Calicut the workload is very heavy. But some L.D. and U.D. clerks are being transferred from there. I had written to the Minister that this is not the time to transfer them. I want the Minister to consider the suggestion that no Class III employee or L.D. and U.D. clerks be transferred at this time as it is detrimental to the work there.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** I have already stated and I have written to hon. Members in a very large number of cases that this entirely depends on the work in a particular office at a particular time. The only relevant factor in regard to this question is, and the hon. Members will appreciate this, that in this new endorsement system involves accumulated work of many years; those who had taken passports previously have to go and get them endorsed. Once these arrears are cleared com-

pletely, it becomes maintenance work only and not accumulated work.

**SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:** Just now Mr. Banatwalla has stated that a roaring business is going on. I also agree, but it is for the benefit of the countries concerned and most of the people who are going abroad are earning a lot of money. (Interruptions) And the Minister has stated that the workload is heavy in Bombay, Madras and Hyderabad. I want to know whether the Minister is going to issue commendatory letters to the staff for the excellent work they are doing. (Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is all right. Mr. Swamy. (Interruptions).

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** Here is a roaring example in support of the measures taken.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** The world over passport rules are being liberalised and made easy. In fact, in some countries, you can get it from post offices. I am surprised at the Minister's answer... (Interruptions). If you really want to leave the country, you do not need a passport. I have tried it twice and been successful. (Interruptions).

वाचार्थ भयवान् शेष : मि. स्वामी ने जो बात कही, क्या यह कानून का उल्लंघन नहीं ?

उप्यक्त महोदय : आप लिख कर देंगे, तो पता चलता ।

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I am surprised to hear from the Minister that they have only received words of appreciation. I have, on the contrary, heard the opposite. I would like to know from the Minister which are the airlines which have written to the Ministry to say that they support the present system, because my impression is, all of them are opposed to it.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** No, Sir. There had been a default-

recommendation from our own Ministry of Civil Aviation complaining against the long queues and the long time taken in getting these stamps affixed on the spot when the passengers queue up for their departure. In such a situation there is hardly any possibility of exercising any judgement. We have travelled in those circumstances and we know. However when a passport is presented at an office, there is at least some possibility of exercising some check as to whether a particular person needs any clearance under the immigration Act or not. So, that is the added advantage. I do not know of any airlines having complained against this procedure, because the airlines do not come into the picture. In the application of the new rules, airlines become irrelevant. They have only to see the endorsement on the passport and give admission to the passenger. So, there is no possibility of any airline having found any difficulty in this. It is in fact, quite to the contrary. That is the position.

#### Capacity of emergency wards of hospitals in Delhi

\*230. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4369 dated 18th December, 1980 re: capacity of Emergency Wards of Hospitals in Delhi and state:

(a) whether on an average, 1415 emergency cases per day are attended by the hospitals in Delhi whereas the available capacity of beds was 541 in emergency wards; and

(b) in view of the daily increase in accidents and other emergency cases, what concrete steps have been taken by Government to increase the capacity of the beds in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR: (a) and (b).

A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

In the eight major Government hospitals in Delhi, on an average 1415 emergency cases are seen daily. Not all the cases require hospitalisation and are discharged after needed treatment. Emergency cases relate not only to accidents but to other causes as well. The cases requiring hospitalisation are accommodated, as appropriate, either in emergency wards which have 541 beds or in other wards as the case may be. It is not, therefore, necessary that the capacity of emergency wards should match the number of emergency cases. Nevertheless, the beds strength of the hospitals, including those in the acute care areas, are kept under constant review and augmented from time to time, subject to availability of financial resources.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: The Minister has stated in the statement the daily 1415 emergency cases are seen in the hospitals and only 541 beds are available. I would like to know as to whether by seeing the emergency patients, the hospitals are doing their jobs properly and whether in his opinion the emergency cases and ordinary cases are identical or there is any difference between the two?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. member perhaps has not read the statement laid on the Table of this House.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: I have read it and I have taken the word 'seen' from that statement only.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: For the benefit of this House, I will read it:

"In the eight major Government hospitals in Delhi, on an average 1415 emergency cases are seen daily. Not all the cases require hospitalisation and are discharged