

want to give connection to any tribal village I would request him to bring down this figure to 500 only, if he wants to give connections to them I would like to know whether he would give connections to the tribal villages where the population is 500 or less. If he wants to give connections only to villages with a population of more than 2500 no village would get the connections.

**MR SPEAKER** In his written answer, the Minister has already said that even for villages with 500 population he would give the connections.

श्री रविन्द्र प्रताप सिंह अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप के माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ पिछले चुनाव के समय में सुलतानपुर और अमेठी का कनेक्ट किया गया था, लेकिन वह कनेक्शन अब ठीक से काम नहीं कर रहा है—क्या उसका ठीक कराने की व्यवस्था की जायगी?

श्री बृजलाल वर्मा आप ने जो जानकारी दी है मैं उसको देख लेता हूँ—अगर कोई अडचन होगी तो दुरुस्त करा दगा।

**MR SPEAKER** Question No 778

**SHRI SAUGATA ROY** Sir on a point of order. There are two Starred Questions in the name of Shri S S Somani. Is it permissible under the rules?

**MR SPEAKER** You are right but I cannot do anything now. There should not have been put in two questions on the same day.

**MR SOMANI** he has left and has solved the problem.

**DR KARAN SINGH** Sir if it comes in the ballot there is no objection.

**MR SPEAKER** Not more than one question, that is the rule.

### Settlement of claims of Indians evicted from Uganda

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\*780 **SHRI TARUN GOGOI**  
**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state

(a) whether all the claims of Indians evicted from Uganda have been settled

(b) if so, to what extent, and

(c) how far it has helped to improve our relations with Uganda?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE)** (a) No Sir

(b) Government of India preferred the claims only of Indian nationals with the Government of Uganda. Out of 1535 claims which had been filed by High Commission of India Kampala with the Government of Uganda 1038 claims were substantiated and considered for compensation. The Government of Uganda paid a sum of Rs 14488729.35 as compensation covering 628 claims. Some items remained to be resolved through normal diplomatic channels or established procedures. Full payments in case of 468 claims have been disbursed. The other admitted claims are being processed.

(c) This payment of compensation by the Government of Uganda to Indian nationals has resolved a major problem in Indo-Ugandan relations.

**SHRI TARUN GOGOI** May I know from the hon Minister, what were the reasons for delay in full payment of the claims and what steps are being taken for the payment of the amount to the persons concerned?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE** All the claims are to be processed by the Ministry. We have appointed a special officer to expedite this process. I hope that the compensation

will be paid to all the claimants as early as possible.

**SHRI TARUN GOGOI:** May I know from the hon. Minister whether the new Government is going to take some new steps to further improve our relations with Uganda?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** A number of steps have already been taken to improve our relations with Uganda. Some further steps are under consideration.

**PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:** I am happy that the Minister of External Affairs is back in the House from his tour of Africa.

May I know whether he knows that a large number of Indians of Indian origin and nationality and also some of them of British nationality have come from Uganda to India and quite a number of them have settled in Gujarat and whether he is aware of the fact further that the claims of some of these people, both of Indian nationality as well as of British passport-holders, have not yet been resolved and whether that is a continued factor responsible for some sort of an uneasy relationship between the governments of Uganda and India.

Lastly, with regard to (c) the Minister said that there has been some improvement in the relations between India and Uganda. But my question specifically is: whether apart from this, since he says that the relationship between Uganda and India is somewhat improving, is it not a fact that Mr. Idi Amin was absent from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London, and that in itself had created a lot of difficulties about the relationship not only between India and Uganda but about the Commonwealth as a whole?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** I am aware of the fact that a large number of Indian nationals who have come from Uganda are settled in Gujarat. I am also aware of the fact

that some of the claims made by Indian nationals have not yet been settled.

So far as the question of claims of British nationals or Indians holding British passports is concerned, the Government of India have transferred these claims to the UK High Commission and it is the responsibility of the British Government to look into the matter.

So far as the question of improving relations with Uganda is concerned, I have indicated that some steps were taken by the previous government and some new steps are being contemplated.

The House is aware that the joint communique issued at the conclusion of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference mentioned about the gross violation of human rights in Uganda and India has been a party to that joint communique.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Most of the Ugandans are from my District....  
(Interruptions)

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Ugandan Indians.

**SHRI D. D. DESAI:** Many of them had been sent away with hardly their clothing. Has the Ministry computed the extent of the amount that was left behind by Indians in Uganda and if so, what is that amount and who made this paltry amount settlement to give Mr. Idi Amin some sort of respectability?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** The agreement was arrived at by the previous government but, on the whole, the agreement has been satisfactory. Something is better than nothing. I would not like to say anything more on this question but, we have succeeded in getting some amount and we are trying to get something more.

**SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH:** Does the hon. Minister know that our

government has failed to protect the rights of Indians abroad whether it be Sri Lanka or Burma or African countries like Uganda or UK and they are facing a lot of hardship in those countries? Indians have played a very important role....

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is about Indians in Uganda.

**SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH:**.... and Indians are being driven out there. Has the Indian Embassy there played its role to protect the rights of Indians there and will the Government try to get back as much property Indians have left behind as possible?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** The Government is aware of the fact that Indian nationals are facing difficulties abroad. But Indian nationals had chosen to go out of their own will. If they want to come back, they are welcome to do so.

श्री हुकूम खेच नारायण यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय जो मानवाधिकार है, उसको सम्पूर्ण विश्व की सरकारें एक मत से मानती हैं और जहाँ कहीं भी उसका हनन होता है, तो मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन सबालों के ऊपर संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में, विश्व पंचायत में भारत सरकार की तरफ से बहस चलाने का इरादा है कि जहाँ भी इस तरह के अधिकारों का हनन होता है, उसको रोका जाए ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे विदेश मंत्री जी को जब से विदेश विभाग मिला है, उनको विदेशी भाषा से मुहब्बत हो गई है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं भाषा के विवाद को नये

सिरे से उठाना नहीं चाहता। मेरी इच्छा है कि मैं हिन्दी में उत्तर दूँ लेकिन मैं दक्षिण के सदस्यों की भावनाओं का ध्यान करता हूँ और यह चाहूँगा कि भाषा विवाद का विषय न बने।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहाँ तक मानवाधिकारों के सबाल का उठाने का प्रश्न है, भारत मानवाधिकारों की प्रतिष्ठा के प्रति जुड़ा हुआ है। इस सम्बन्ध में जो घोषणापत्र है, उस पर हमने हस्ताक्षर किये हैं और जब जब अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलनों में या मंचों पर मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन के सबाल आते हैं, तो भारत बड़ी निर्भीकता से अपनी बात कहता है। युगौंठ के सम्बन्ध में हमने लन्दन में जो कुछ कहा है, वह इस बात का प्रमाण है।

**SHRI P. K. KODIYAN:** What was the amount of compensation claimed by the Indian Nationals and what is the criteria for the settlement of the claims? Does the Government of India examine these applications for compensation and then decide the amount and forward it to the Government of Uganda? I would also like to know whether any Indian Nationals are still left in Uganda? If so, what is their position?

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:** During the negotiations with Uganda a total of 1,747 claims were filed by the High Commission of India. This was done on behalf of the claimants with the Ugandan Valuation Committee. Out of these claims, a total of 1,535 claims were examined. I am sorry I do not have the exact amount which was claimed by the Government of India.

A few Indian nationals are still in Uganda and we have not received any reports which might suggest that they are not being treated well.