

17.04 hrs.

DISCUSSION *RE* : RACIAL RIOTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AFFECTING THE PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we go to item No. 19, Discussion under Rule 193.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao) : Mr. Chairman, how long is this discussion going to take? How much time is allotted? I am saying this because this is a very important issue and we are committed to this just cause. This should not be taken as a mere formality. We should have a discussion showing that Parliament is really concerned about this. It is not just a matter of formality.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Time allotted is 2 hours.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : Sir the despicable system of apartheid must be the starting point of any discussion of South African situation ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, the discussion is in the name of Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma. So, he has to initiate the discussion.

SHRI G.G. SWELL (Shillong) : There is no harm in hearing the statement from the Government. After that, we can discuss.

MR. CHAIRMAN : First of all, the hon. Member will move.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO : Maybe, procedurally there is something wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us go by the procedure.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : The statement can be made by me and then the discussion can take place.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Let the hon. Minister make the statement. There is no harm.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can make the statement after taking the permission of the House.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : It is quite regular for the hon. Minister to make the statement.

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : I beg to make the statement in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I put it to the House to give permission to the hon. Minister to make the statement.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes. The hon. Minister can make the statement.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister may now make the statement. Let us go by the procedure.

17.06 hrs

STATEMENT *RE* : APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : The despicable system of Apartheid must be the starting point of any discussion of the South African situation. Apartheid was devised by the White minority to perpetuate its supremacy over other communities, who form 85% of the population of South Africa. The United Nations has rightly described Apartheid as a crime against humanity. The rights and freedoms defined in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights are denied to non-Whites. Colour discrimination extends not only to employment and habitation, but to public transport, public places like cinemas, museums, sports stadia, restaurants and parks and gardens. People of different races may