

and anti-social elements into our country. It is also a well-known fact that many citizens go out of this country without any proper travel document and they stay on there for years. They become anti-nationals. They are trained in many ways to work against this country. Some of them become terrorists. And, one fine morning somehow they manage to come back. Recently, Government have laid down rules that citizens who go out of the country without permission of the Government and stay on there for more than three years, should be deemed to have voluntarily relinquished the citizenship of this great country. These are the restrictions brought forward to protect the interests of this country; unity of this country; integrity of this country and the very existence of this country. I would strongly plead my friends on the other side to consider this country as a great nation and look forward to bringing this country prosperous and keep the integrity of this country, in tact. So wholeheartedly I support this Bill. I am not going through individual clauses. But one or two clauses are there which I feel that they are very essential because automatically a citizen should not be conferred citizenship by birth alone. Even in the case of non-nationals, whose parents and grand parents have been here, that does not mean by birth alone their children should be given citizenship.

I congratulate the Minister for bringing another clause for giving equal rights for men also. As per the existing Bill, only women who have been married to a citizen of India can, after a few years, get citizenship. That has been now extended to men also. I think that gives equal protection to men and women.

With these words I once again give my whole-hearted support to this Bill. I would plead that this Bill be passed unanimously in the larger interests of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao will now make a statement regarding demands of Junior Doctor' Federation of Delhi Hospitals.

16.44 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : DEMANDS OF
 JUNIOR DOCTORS' FEDERATION
 OF DELHI HOSPITALS

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : The Residency Scheme was introduced in the Central Government Medical Colleges and Hospitals in 1914 in replacement of the System of House Surgeons and Registrars. This system has been in force for the past 12 years. From a brief Review of its functioning, one can say that it has not been without problems. The Junior Doctors had been on strike in 1980 and are now on the threshold of another strike.

One feature of the Scheme is that as a result of the difference in the method of selection, there is a consequent hiatus between the emoluments being given to the Resident Doctors recruited under this programme on the one hand and those of the medical graduates possessing the same qualification who join Government service, on the other. Superintendents of the Hospitals and the Heads of Institutions are also not entirely happy with the Scheme as dissatisfaction among Resident doctors leads to disruption of work in the Hospitals.

Discussions with the heads of Medical Institutes and others well informed in the area of Medical care show that the time is opportune for reviewing the entire scheme with the objective of ensuring that its functions to the satisfaction of all concerned including the Resident Doctors, the heads of the Institutions and Governmental authorities. There is need to assure the medical graduates who join the scheme that the remuneration given to them would be on par with which they would be normally entitled if they enter Government service and also the safeguards and service conditions which should have been otherwise available to them. This would also mean

[Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao]

that the recruitment of doctors to this programme should have to be through the normal channels of Government recruitment (UPSC) and based on the principles adopted for similar recruitment. At the same time, there might have to be some measure of flexibility in the scheme to allow the students to acquire postgraduate qualifications and training and also serve in the various specialities with a view to help the Hospitals and colleges discharge their functions effectively and efficiently.

Keeping in view these aspects, the Government proposes to undertake with immediate effect, a review of the entire Residency Scheme. The review will cover the methods of recruitment, remuneration, service conditions and the needs of the Hospitals and educational institutions who have to render excellent medical care and facilities and the financial commitment involved in the total package. An exercise of this kind will necessarily require some time and consultation with the various authorities involved including the Residents Doctors' Organisations. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will get the review completed in a reasonable frame of time.

The Junior doctors have, however, demanded that their emoluments should be equated with the regularly selected General Duty medical officers straightway. This would obviously lead to several new complications which Government would wish to avoid. Government are aware of the need to devise methods to cover the Resident doctors who are already working in the Residency Scheme for whom a reasonable package, in consonance with the basic approach, would be made available. In view of the facts mentioned above, I appeal to the Resident doctors to withdraw their notice of strike and cooperate in coming to a satisfactory settlement of the issue and saving innocent patients from avoidable inconvenience and suffering.

16.48 hrs.

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1986—Contd.

[English]

DR. S. JAGATHIRAKSHAKAN (Chengalpattu): This Bill is really a welcome one as it prevents the unlawful entrance or migration of different nationalists which at a latter stage poses danger to the safety and security of the nation and also sometimes creates law and order problem for the respective State Governments where these migrants enter.

Secondly, this Bill also enables the the Indian Government to avoid economic problems arising out of mass scale migration into the border areas. Under the objects and reasons in the first paragraph it is mentioned that children born in India will be declared as Indian citizens only if either of the parents is a citizen of India.

A small lacuna of doubt remains unclear. That is, if a child is born in India to parents who are Indians settled abroad with foreign citizenship and who want to bring the child to India to their grand parents for higher education as well as to inculcate Indian culture in their blood, will this child be considered for Indian citizenship or will it remain as a foreign national?

The second para mentions a person who married an Indian becomes eligible for Indian citizenship only after five years of stay in India. If that is the case, if a woman gets married to an Indian citizen, has she to wait for five years to become an Indian citizen or what will be her citizenship during that period of five years? Will the Government of India permit her to stay in India with foreign citizenship?

Finally, the days have come when we ask for more powers for the State in the Centre-State relationship. It is unfair to take away the power of the District Collector to confer the citizenship and give that power to the External Affairs Ministry.