

INDIA

Mr. Gurbax Singh Malhi (Bramalea—Gore—Malton, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Recently several Canadian citizens have been arrested or harassed while travelling in India.

There is evidence that the Indian authorities are detaining individuals without charge. Coincidentally this harassment and unfounded police interrogation are directed particularly at Canadians of Sikh origin.

Will the minister on behalf of the Government of Canada send a strong message to the Indian government to put an end to this practice and human rights violations with minorities in India?

Hon. Christine Stewart (Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa), Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian government is very concerned about the detention of some Sikh Canadians who have been travelling to India.

To be more specific, recently there was a case in which a Canadian was held for about a week and others recently for shorter periods of time.

Our high commissioner in New Delhi has followed up on every case of detention that he has been aware of and through him and other officials here in Ottawa we have relayed to the government in India our concern about this issue and hope that it will be dealt with.

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LABOUR

Mr. Dale Johnston (Wetaskiwin, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour.

A strike is now looming between CP Rail and two unions. Negotiations could break down by Monday and CP has said that in that event it would use replacement workers.

What is the minister doing to ensure that negotiations do not break down, thereby avoiding a potentially bitter labour-management dispute?

Mr. Maurizio Bevilacqua (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Human Resources Development, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, following the release of the Hope report the parties were urged to resume negotiations and settle their differences through collective bargaining.

I am pleased to report that bargaining has resumed at all three railways with intensive talks being held at CP Rail in an effort to conclude an early settlement.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

THE BUDGET

Mr. Jean-Paul Marchand (Québec—Est, BQ): Mr. Speaker, we learned from the budget that allocations to Canada Mortgage and Housing will be cut by almost \$215 million in 1995-96. More than half this amount, over \$105 million, was earmarked for public housing.

My question is for the acting prime minister. Would he not agree that, by cutting public housing subsidies this way, the government is directly attacking the basic needs of the most vulnerable families in our society, contrary to the promises made in the red book?

• (1200)

Hon. Alfonso Gagliano (Secretary of State (Parliamentary Affairs) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to confirm, in this regard, that the federal government will continue to support and subsidize public housing, at a cost of \$2 billion a year. This is for some 660,000 public housing units occupied by over a million families including many natives living on and off reservations.

However, deficit reduction requirements dictated cuts in this sector as in all other sectors, departments and services. The Minister of Finance acted responsibly, and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation had to accept these cuts.

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[English]

LOW LEVEL FLIGHTS

Mr. Len Taylor (The Battlefords—Meadow Lake, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

The federal environmental review panel has recommended that the Department of National Defence be allowed to double the number of low level training flights over Labrador and Quebec. However it has imposed a number of conditions, including the early settlement of land claims, the establishment of an institute to study and monitor the effects of the flights and the establishment of a joint management board for the George River caribou herd.

The minister is aware that the panel refused to listen to issues raised by aboriginal people relating to their land. Is he prepared to recommend rejection of the report? What steps is he willing to take to ensure that the conditions are met as established by the panel?

Hon. David Collenette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the report of