

LOK SABHA

Monday, June 1, 1964/Jyaistha 11,
1886 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

(Shri Shiv Sharan Mathur)

Mr. Speaker: Secretary may call out the name of the Member who has come to make and subscribe the oath or affirmation under the Constitution.

Secretary: Shri Shiv Charan Mathur.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs may introduce the Member to the House.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I have great pleasure in introducing to you and through you to the House, Shri Shiv Charan Mathur who has been returned to Lok Sabha from Bhilwara constituency of Rajasthan in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. K. L. Shrimali.

Shri Shiv Charan Mathur (Bhilwara).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indians in Burma

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- Shri P. K. Deo:
- Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
- Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
- Shri S. M. Banerjee:
- Shri Mohan Swarup:
- Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
- Shri Gokaran Prasad

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- Shri Gokulananda Mohanty:
- Shri A. S. Saigal:
- Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
- Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
- Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
- Shri Bishanchander Seth:
- Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
- Shri Dhaon:
- Shri P. C. Borooah:
- Shri Maheswar Naik:
- Shri Bishwanath Roy:
- Shri Bal Krishna Singh:
- Shri Hukam Chand Kachhaviya:
- Shri Indrajit Gupta:
- Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
- Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
- Shri Veerappa:
- Shri Dharmalingam:
- Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:
- Shri Kolla Venkalah:
- Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians so far migrated from Burma since the nationalisation of shops by the Burma Government;

(b) State-wise break-up of these Indians;

(c) whether they have been able to repatriate their assets from Burma;

(d) the arrangements made by the Government of India for their transportation; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to mitigate the genuine difficulties of Indians affected by the various measures undertaken by the Burmese Government?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Approximately 1,000 Indian nationals have returned from Burma to India since the nationalisation of shops by the Government of Burma.

(b) Exact State-wise figures are not available, but the large majority of them belong to the States of Andhra, Madras and Orissa.

(c) With the exception of limited quantities of personal effects and very small amounts of foreign exchange, Indian nationals leaving Burma are not permitted to carry with them jewellery, valuables, cash, etc.

(d) The Indian Airlines Corporation will shortly be increasing the number of flights between Calcutta and Rangoon. Two or three ships will ply, from about the middle of July, between the ports of Rangoon and Madras/Vishakhapatnam.

(e) The Government of India are actively discussing with the Government of Burma about expeditious completion of departure formalities, payment of fair compensation for nationalised property and transfer of assets to India.

Shri P. K. Deo: While some time back we got the heartening news that the Indian chancery at Rangoon acted as the custodian for the jewels and other valuable of Indian nationals coming away from Burma for good, may I know why this has been stopped since the visit of Mr. Gundevia, Foreign Secretary, to Rangoon lately?

Shri Dinesh Singh: This has been temporarily suspended, pending arrangements to be made to keep this jewellery. It is a large amount that is likely to be given over to the Embassy, and various arrangements have to be made in the vault of the bank there, and we are discussing it with the Burma Government.

Shri P. K. Deo: While the Chinese shops are not nationalised, is it a fact that the stores of various Indian motor spare parts dealers' shops and plumbers' shops have been nationalised, and their stores have been classified as scrap iron? Has the Government received any representation on their behalf?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The nationalisation affects all foreigners. There is no discrimination against Indians. It is true that large shops in hardware and motor parts are in the category of shops that have been nationalised. I do not know whether they have classified stores as scrap.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, it was reported, was to visit Burma. In this connection, may I know what stood in the way of her going there, and why only the Secretary had to go there? What are the major issues discussed by him and what is the outcome of the discussions with the Burma Government?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The visit of the Minister was only in newspaper reports. The visit was not finalised, and it was felt that the Foreign Secretary should go there to look into the problems of the people who were coming. The details of the talks he has had with the Burmese Government it would not be desirable to disclose at this juncture.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What are the major issues which are being discussed, and what is the outcome?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The major issues obviously are about the people of Indian origin in Burma and those who are Indian nationals, about their coming, compensation for the assets that have been nationalised, travel formalities, provision of exchange to bring back their money—these are the main points.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the total number of those who are likely to be repatriated or want repatriation has been ascertained, and if so the number, and the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate them in India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I mentioned the number that have already come back in the main reply. About those that are likely to come back, it is very difficult to give any exact number,

because it will depend on how these formalities are completed, but it may run into six figures. We are making arrangements for the transport, as I mentioned. Regarding repatriation, that is a matter that is being looked into.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरवा : मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि जब बर्मा सरकार ने दूकानों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया था तो क्या उसने भारत सरकार को भी कोई ऐसी सूचना दी थी, और भारत सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में भारतीयों के बारे में कोई उपाय सोचा था ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : भारत सरकार को सूचना देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। यह उनका अपना मामला है।

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah : May I know whether it is a fact that an impression has gained ground after Mr. Gundevia went to Burma and had negotiated with the Burmese Government regarding the transfer of jewellery and other deposits that had been kept in our Embassy to the Bank of Burma, that matters have worsened further and that the interests of Indians are at stake; if so, what further steps are being taken?

Shri Dinesh Singh : I would not say the situation has worsened. It has improved.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti : May I know whether it is a fact that the Burmese Government has given an assurance to Mr. Gundevia that they will look into this question very carefully, and if so, the nature of the assurance?

Shri Dinesh Singh : As I mentioned, it would not be desirable to discuss the matter just now.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam : May I know how many applications have been received by the Indian Embassy from the people of Indian origin or Indian nationals who are very keen to come back, and what would be the property which will be left by them there?

Shri Dinesh Singh : I could not offhand give the number. As I mentioned, our estimate runs into six figures. I could not give any estimate of the property.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam : I want the number of applications, it is a very simple matter.

Shri Dinesh Singh : I have not got the figures here.

श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया : इस समय बर्मा में कितने भारतीय हैं और वहाँ पर भारतीयों की कितनी सम्पत्ति है। सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कर रही है। कैसे उस सम्पत्ति को ले कर वे यहाँ आयेंगे। इस पर सरकार क्या विचार कर रही है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वहाँ पर कितने भारतीय हैं और कितनी सम्पत्ति है।

Shri Dinesh Singh : It is very difficult to say how many Indians there are. People of Indian origin we estimate are about 5½ lakhs. Out of this, Indian citizens are only about two lakhs.

Shri P. C. Borooah : May I know whether it is a fact that at a time when the sufferings of the Indians living in Burma are extreme, the Ambassadorship of Burma is lying vacant and going abegging? May I know whether he is going to be posted soon, so that he can ameliorate the conditions of Indians there.

Mr. Speaker : At the most, it is a suggestion.

Shri Bishwanath Roy : May I know whether the Government of India has tried to ascertain the value of the property that has been seized by the Burmese Government, and if so, what might be the value?

Shri Dinesh Singh : I have not got the figures. Property has not been seized, but nationalised, for which claims will be filed by the people themselves.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यवाप : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो भारतीय बर्मा से आकर यहाँ पर बसे उन को बसाने का जो खर्च होगा उस के सम्बन्ध में बर्मा सरकार से कितना खर्च लिया जायेगा और जो बातचीत इस सम्बन्ध में चल रही है वह कब तक पूरी हो जायेगी ।

श्री विनेश सिंह : उन को बसाने का खर्च लेने का हमारा कोई इरादा नहीं है ।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is there any truth in the report that these nationalisation measures of the Burmese Government are affecting people who are Burmese nationals, who happen to be of Indian origin, and have any such representations come to the notice of the Government on their behalf?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am not aware of the laws affecting people who are Burmese citizens; these talks are mainly meant for these effecting foreigners.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Was there any impropriety in our embassy in Burma accepting the deposits from the Indian nationals whose properties were confiscated and, if not, why have the Government stopped accepting them further?

Shri Dinesh Singh: No impropriety at all is there. It is within the international conventions that they were accepted. We have not stopped it; We have suspended it pending finalisation of the arrangements.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Have the Government of India enquired why the Government have suddenly put a ban on Indians leaving Burma and what steps have Government taken to bring to the notice of the Government of Burma to lift this ban in order that the Indian nationals who are dispossessed shopkeepers can leave Burma?

Shri Dinesh Singh: There is no ban as such; they have got to complete

certain formalities such as P form and D form and income-tax clearance.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: To what extent are the reports correct that the Chinese Government and its agents are whipping up anti-Indian feeling and sentiment in Burma?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I could not say but this applies also to the people of Chinese origin there.....(Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: The order applies equally to all.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The order may apply but my question was different.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: The Minister is aware that a large number of Indians have been thrown out of their houses after their properties had been seized and their business had closed down. These men are on the streets. That was witnessed even by the delegation that went to Andamans when they went there. These men are being chased by the police on the streets and they are in acute suffering. What is their number and what is the Government doing to alleviate their condition?

Shri Dinesh Singh: Government is making arrangements for all these people who are destitutes. I cannot give the number offhand.

Shri Nath Pai: Has Government's attention been drawn to editorial comments in two Burmese dailies that, since the Indian Embassy is accepting jewellery of the Indian nationals that embassy itself should be nationalised and whether the seriousness of these suggestions and this kind of propaganda has been taken note of and whether this matter had taken place when the Secretary was there and what was done to bring it to the attention of the Burmese Government?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I believe it has stopped now.....(Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker: It could not be believed that the embassy would be nationalised.

Shri Nath Pai: It was an editorial comment.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that Government have promised during the last session that they were making arrangements for more ships and more planes to be made available for these people to be brought over here, how is it that the Government now says that these things would be available only in July while they were suffering during the whole of May and they will be made to suffer during the whole of June? Why is it that they had not taken more expeditious steps to help these people to go over here earlier?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The sending of ship has to be co-ordinated with the number of people that will be coming back. Unless the formalities are completed and they are able to come, there is no point in sending ships to come back empty.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Would Government give us some idea as to the number of people who are actually yearning to come back to India and the number of people whom Government can provide facilities for bringing back to India in the near future?

Shri Dinesh Singh: We are hoping to bring back all those Indian nationals who wish to come back. It is impossible to give the number precisely because there may be cases of people who want to come today and tomorrow when the situation may change suddenly they may wish to stay back. It is difficult to give the number. But as I said earlier, it will be running into six figures—about a lakh or so.

Illegal Occupation of Assam Village by Pakistan

*63. **Shri N. E. Laskar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of repeated representations by the

State Government as well as by the Central Government to Pakistan, the Pakistan Government have not handed over Boriabari village in Assam which has been in their adverse possession since partition; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to regain this undisputed territory of ours?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Demarcation in the Goalpara-Rangpur sector of Assam|East Pakistan Border was completed in 1956 and the boundary pillars in the sector are in position. The delineated boundary shows the village of Boriabari on the Assam side of the border. Efforts have been made with the Government of Pakistan, at State level and also at the Diplomatic level, to persuade them to agree to the transference of Boriabari village to India, since demarcation in this particular sector has been completed. Pakistan has taken the stand that areas in adverse possession of India and Pakistan could be exchanged only after the entire Assam|East Pakistan boundary has been demarcated and the strip maps etc., properly signed by the plenipotentiaries of the two Governments. Pakistan's view is untenable. The Assam Government and the Government of India continue to press the Pakistan Government to implement the Ground Rules in this regard and agree to the transfer of Boriabari village to Assam.

Shri N. E. Laskar: From the statement I find that the State Government of Assam and the Government of India have tried their best to get this territory back to us, since 1956 but it seems that the Pakistan Government are not willing to do so. There has been no positive response till now. In view of this, I would like to