

Question Hour by hon. Members for finding fault with the Government and for not having done a thing up till now.

Hon. Member does not want to elicit any fact. Next question. Shri Sarju Pandey.

Some Hon. Members: He is in jail.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Tangamani.

Indians in Burma

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*1323. (Shri Tangamani:
Shri Sarju Pandey:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wives and children of those Indian migrants to Burma, who have either applied to acquire citizenship of Burma or have obtained citizenship certificates of that place, are not regarded as Indian citizens;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of Burma have recently imposed restrictions upon those Indian immigrants who have accepted Burmese citizenship, that they cannot remit money to their dependents residing in India; and

(c) if so, the nature of restrictions?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) No. The wives of Indians, who have acquired Burmese citizenship, are regarded as Indian nationals until they themselves acquire Burmese citizenship. The minor children are, however, treated as Burmese citizens, but they can opt for Indian citizenship within a period of one year after attaining majority.

(b) and (c). While Indians who have not opted for Burmese citizenship are permitted to remit Rs. 20 p.m. to their wives and children residing in India, each case for permission to remit money by Indians, who have acquired Burmese citizenship to their dependents in India is decided on merits by the Government of Burma.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether it is not a fact that this reduction of Rs. 20 was enforced only three months ago? What was the amount that was allowed prior to that?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This reduction to Rs. 20 came with effect from the 1st June, 1958. Prior to that till the 31st August, 1955, Indian nationals were allowed to remit Rs. 50 and then it was reduced to Rs. 30 with effect from the 1st September, 1955.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that no family will be able to maintain itself with Rs. 20 a month, would the Government make representations to increase this?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: These restrictions were due to the low foreign exchange position of Burma and it affects not only Indians but all foreigners living in Burma.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Have representations been received by the Government from those affected by the restrictions, and if so, what steps Government are taking to relieve the distress of those families who are affected by that?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Representations have been received from time to time and in hard cases our Ambassador in Burma renders necessary assistance by approaching the exchange control authorities in that country.

Shri Thanu Pillai: May I know whether Government will give any aid to those dependents who are here and to whom money cannot be sent by the persons in Burma.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is not possible for the Government of India to give aid to the dependents.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India have been lending money to the Government of Burma, have they considered the advisability of requesting the Burmese

Government to stick to their earlier order of keeping it at Rs. 30 or Rs. 50 and meet their difficulties by themselves by paying to the dependents out of the loan advanced to Burma?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That question has been answered. These restrictions were imposed because of the foreign exchange difficulties of the Burmese Government. We cannot ask the Burmese Government to change what they have decided.

Mr. Speaker: They have taken the loan and are not willing to pay.

Shri Tyagi: How much can Burmese residing in India remit to their country from here?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I want notice for that.

Sixteenth Indian Labour Conference

*1324. **Shri Tangamani** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to summary of proceedings of the XVI Indian Labour Conference laid on the Table on the 11th August, 1958 and lay a statement showing;

(a) the steps taken for the implementation of the decisions regarding Employees' State Insurance Scheme;

(b) the number of insured persons whose families have been extended facilities so far; and

(c) the time by which the enhanced statutory rate will be applied to employers?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 106.]

(b) 50,000.

(c) No decision has yet been taken.

Shri Tangamani: In the statement I find that the nine recommendations of the Indian Labour Conference which

met in Naini Tal are mentioned. May I know when the recommendations about paying the confinement fees of Rs. 30 and the maternity benefit and revising the waiting period will be considered

Shri L. N. Mishra: Very soon.

Shri Tangamani rose—

Mr. Speaker: He said, it will be considered.

Shri Tangamani: One of the important recommendations is that the employers' contribution must be raised to the original statutory level of 4.75 per cent. May I know when that will be considered?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It was considered in the last meeting of the Corporation and it was decided not to put it into effect for the time being because the existing revenue is thought to be sufficient for the purpose.

Shri Tangamani: Has it come to the knowledge of the Government that under the present scheme with reduced contribution of employers, the employers contribute less than what the employees are contributing?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is a fact that at the present moment the employees have to pay more, but all the benefits go to the employees.

Shri Tangamani: May I know...

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed four questions. Next Question.

Tea Trade with Iraq

*1325. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of export of Indian Tea to Iraq; and

(b) the measures adopted to promote the export of common and medium grown varieties of Indian tea there?