

Shri Goray: Is it a fact that in the meanwhile some people have been arrested in the U.K. and thousands of passports were found with them?

Mr. Speaker: United Kingdom?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, Sir. That is a newspaper report. I have no information about people being arrested in the U.K. But, we have arrested some people here.

Shri Nath Pai: Have the investigations indicated if there is any connection with the large-scale forging of passports in Punjab for helping people to cross the border in Pakistan or whether they were being manufactured only for travel to the U.K.?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: All these matters, the police is looking into. Certain things have come to light. I should like to tell the House that one Darshan Singh was first of all arrested and then it was discovered that there is another gentleman by name Balkishen Sehgal of Delhi, supposed to be the leader of a gang and along with these 12 other associates were taken into custody and the police is carrying on investigation and trying to find out how they are connected.

Shri Goray: Is it a fact that these people who were apprehended in Delhi are now out?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Twelve of them have been released on bail.

Shri Nath Pai: Some time back, six passport officers in Bombay were arrested for being associated with this racket. Has any connection been found between this and that?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I am unable to say. The matter, as I said, is under investigation.

Shri Jadhav: Has this fact come to the notice of the Government that newspapers in England have prominently published news items criticising the behaviour of Indian immigrants in Britain?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes. We have seen those news items.

Shri Jadhav: May I know the number of immigrants?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I want notice.

Shri Ansar Harvani: May I know whether any official of the External Affairs Ministry or any employees of the External Affairs Ministry are also involved in this case?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Not to my knowledge.

Indian Commissioner in Nairobi

*1327. **Shri Manabendra Shah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government have decided to recall Indian Commissioner in Nairobi?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Yes. The Commissioner is coming home on leave.

Shri Manabendra Shah: Does the Ministry know of some financial irregularities done by him and may I know what action the Government is taking?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The Ministry knows all that has happened. They will take appropriate action at the appropriate time. Just now the officer is still in Nairobi and he will be coming home on leave.

Shri Manabendra Shah: Is the Government aware of his having transferred or remitted all his pay to India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I want separate notice for that.

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: When an Indian Commissioner is actually recalled, surely there must be something more than just coming on leave. What is the exact reason why he has been recalled?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have said that he is coming home on leave. I did not say that he was recalled.