

Shri Manubhai Shah: The hon. Member asks the same question which I answered before. This matter depends on demand and supply. There are hundreds and thousands of varieties of utensils, and Government does not maintain a price register of them, but we know that if the availability of stainless steel is good, prices adjust themselves. Unfortunately, in the last few months we have not been able to allow the import of as much stainless steel as required by the trade.

Shri Heda: Stainless steel is also required for industrial purposes. May I know whether industry is suffering because of the factories which manufacture utensils?

Shri Manubhai Shah: No, Sir. In industry stainless steel is allowed to actual users for specific purposes separately. This question is about stainless steel required for utensils.

श्री भक्त बर्बन : ये जो जगहिन फौलाद के बर्तन हैं ये काफ़ी लोक प्रिय होते जा रहे हैं और हम लगभग ३ करोड़ रुपये के बर्तनों का आयात भी कर रहे हैं। अतः मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अपने ही देश में इन के निर्माण के लिये क्या कोई व्यवस्था की जा रही है ?

श्री अनुभाई झाह : जी ५०,००० टन की कैपेसिटी की व्यवस्था की जायेगी। उस में से १०,००० टन स्टैन्लैस स्टील तीन या चार साल के अन्दर तैयार किया जायेगा। इस के तैयार करने के लिये पब्लिक सेक्टर में जो बोहो की फ़ैक्ट्रिया हैं उन में से किसी में व्यवस्था की जायेगी।

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the policy at present is only to allow imports for actual users or whether importers are also being allowed, and if so, what the proportion between them is?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The present policy is to allow some of the major stainless steel producers as actual users, but a greater quota is allowed to the established importers, depending upon their past imports.

Shri V. F. Nayar: What is the proportion?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The policy has been announced; it varies from 35 to 50 per cent. on the actual imports in the past.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could I have some idea of the margin of profits which the importers take?

Mr. Speaker: This question is coming up again and again in the same manner.

Shri V. C. Shukla: Mr. Speaker, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Member wait. He made representation to me. Let me finish with the Short Notice Question first.

Short Notice Question

Indians in Singapore

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S.N.Q. No. 2.	}	Shri N. E. Munisamy:
		Shri Snnbliah Ambalam:
		Shri Tangamani:
		Shri D. C. Sharma:
		Shri Raghunath Singh:
		Shri Shree Narayan Das:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of Indian residents in Singapore have now been rendered stateless;

(b) if so, what action Government of India propose to take to remedy this issue;

(c) whether any urgent appeal has been received by Indian Government from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore;

(d) if so, the nature thereof;

(e) whether the Indian citizenship Act provides any protection to the Indian residents in Singapore in case of such contingency; and

(f) whether the Indian passports would be restored until Singapore citizenship is accepted on the basis of

Commonwealth citizenship Act to be passed hereafter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). A letter has been received from the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Singapore, listing certain difficulties and asking clarification on certain points. The main hardship appears to be due to the Singapore Government's delay in issuing Singapore passports, and issuing provisionally Identity Certificates instead to those who want to go abroad. The other point on which clarification has been sought relates to the reacquisition of Indian citizenship by those who have already acquired citizenship of U.K. and the Colonies.

(e) No.

(f) It is not possible to issue Indian passports to persons who are not Indian citizens. Pending issue of Singapore passports, Singapore citizens of Indian origin can travel on Identity Certificates which are issued by the Singapore Government.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: As a result of certain advice given by the High Commissioner at Kuala Lumpur the residents in Singapore have been wrongly put into this situation of making themselves Stateless. Would the Government of India offer easy conditions in case they express a desire to acquire Indian citizenship, and if so, what action would Government take?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Our High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur has not given any wrong advice to the Indians there. All those people who wanted to acquire Singapore citizenship were allowed to do so of their own free will without any kind of pressure or any kind of wrong advice being given to them by our High Commissioner, and they did it; they acquired citizenship for their own advantage either because they wanted to have some facilities for their children's education or because they wanted to be enrolled as voters.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: During the latter part of 1957, the High Commissioner had offered certain encouragement to the Indians residing there to get themselves registered as citizens of Singapore with a view to get the right to vote. As a result of it, some of the Indians there have got only rights for internal purposes and not for international commitments, and they are not given any facility to come to India, because visa is refused.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There is no restriction on anybody coming to India from Singapore. They have got the right of free entry and the right of residence in India. The question is only the difficulty of securing passport, and in the answer I have stated what the difficulties are.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is not possible for anyone to have it both ways, to have the advantages of, let us say, Singapore citizenship and the advantages of Indian nationality. Sometimes, an attempt is made to have it both ways. Now, in Singapore, during this changing period, these gentlemen or ladies decided to opt for Singapore citizenship. They have ceased to be Indian nationals thereby. Now, apparently, they say that 'You advised us to become Singapore nationals, and that is wrong advice', as the hon. Member has said. I see nothing wrong. I still advise them, all Indians abroad, insofar as they can, to associate themselves with that place as nationals. That is our advice to them. But we welcome them as Indian nationals if they seek to remain there.

Shri Tangamani: I would like to know whether the Prime Minister is aware that as many as thousand repatriates arrived in Madras by a specially chartered steamer on 19th November, 1958 because of this uncertainty, and most of them happen to be old men, women and children?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This question has already been answered

that those people who had returned in large numbers from Malaya are people who were entitled to return under the contract under which they went to Malaya. It is the backlog of that number which had returned recently. Owing to the inadequacy of shipping facilities, they had to stay there longer, and now they have come back.

Shri Joachim Alva: Do we have a co-ordinated plan in regard to citizens both in Burma and in Singapore, that is, Indian citizens who are domiciled citizens, who are in serious trouble, to help them to remain there, or to help them to register themselves as Indian citizens so that they could come over to India and we can help them by rehabilitating them, for otherwise, they just cannot come to India and find a job or habitation?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: People who come from Singapore do not need any rehabilitation at all. In fact, the difficulty that is suggested by the Chamber of Commerce is because, if they acquire Singapore citizenship, they cannot transfer their assets to India. On the other hand, if they remain Indian citizens, they can. That is the difficulty that the Chamber of Commerce was complaining about. The hon. Member has raised two entirely different questions, namely, Burmese citizenship and Singapore citizenship.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: May I know whether the Indian residents affected by this citizenship question are only confined to the Indian residents in Singapore or also to Indian residents in Malaya?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The question refers to Indian citizens in Singapore.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether all the Indians settled in Singapore have accepted Singapore nationality or whether some of them have not, and in the case of those who have not, what is going to happen to them under the new Singapore Citizenship Act?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Some of them are registered under the U.K. and Colonies Citizenship Act; those who are registered under that Act cannot relinquish their citizenship unless they are adopted as citizens by some other country. That is, even if they want to relinquish their citizenship, they cannot do so, unless they are adopted by another country. Some of them are registered under the Singapore Citizenship Act, and they also remain as Singapore citizens. There are certain complications regarding their relinquishment and their coming back to us. That needs a lot of explanation, and if you wish, I shall explain.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: May I know whether any advice was given by our Government, that is, by our High Commissioner in Malaya, on the basis of which a number of Indian residents have acquired this dual citizenship?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just now stated that it is not a question of any special advice to anybody. Our policy is to inform Indians abroad, that is, those people who have lived there for some time, for some generations, that it is for them to decide whether to remain Indian nationals or accept the nationality of the other country. Previously, this decision was not necessary when we were not an independent republic. Then, some kind of—broadly—British nationality applied to everybody in law. Now, that cannot happen. They have to choose. They have to balance the advantages and disadvantages. If they want to remain Indian citizens, they are welcome to do so, but then they do not get the advantages of citizenship, voting and many other privileges of the countries they live in, whether it is East Africa or Malaya or other places. Our advice to them has been: 'You can choose as you like; if all your interests are in that country, it will be advantageous for you to function as citizens of that country and not as aliens living there.'

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Prime Minister has said that they have to

choose either the one or the other. But, with great respect, it is not so simple as that, because a number of them who have stayed there have got either their relations or others in India also. I would like to know what is the advice which our High Commissioner has given to those Indian residents in Singapore, where some of them are holding British passports and some even Indian passports. Has he advised them to accept Singapore citizenship or retain Indian citizenship?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is going on dinning it. There is no meaning in labouring this point. The hon. Prime Minister has just said that in the changed circumstances we would certainly welcome their settling down there. There is no question of special instructions.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If they want to become Indian nationals, they are welcome to do that too.

Shri Tangamani: I would like to know what was the advice given by our High Commissioner there?

Mr. Speaker: No advice was given. I heard it as much as the hon. Member. The hon. Prime Minister has said twice that no special instructions have been given except to tell them generally: 'Let them settle down there. It will be welcome. But if they want to come back, let them come back.'

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a question of coming back. That may or may not arise. It is a question of remaining Indian nationals. If they remain Indian nationals, then, if I may use the word, they are at the mercy of the other Government. They can be sent back. They need not come back as soon as they decide. After all, Indian nationals live elsewhere. But in every country, including, if I may say so, India, nobody likes aliens in large numbers to settle down. They become a problem. So if they do not accept the nationality of the place, they are likely to have continuing difficulties, and may even be asked to leave. We have no logical reason to protest.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I would like a further clarification of the general policy statement the Prime Minister has made. Would that advice, or rather the general policy, apply to hundreds and thousands of persons who are in Ceylon now where the Government of Ceylon refuses to give them Ceylonese nationality? What is the position there? Are we trying to tell them: 'Come back; we welcome you'? Is that the position?

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of the main question.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That question is entirely different. They have not been, and are not, Indian nationals. There is no question of choice at all there, except. . . .

Shri Jaipal Singh: What are they now? They are not Ceylonese.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a question which the hon. Member might address to the Ceylon Government. The position is that they are not Indian nationals, but in certain circumstances, if they so freely wish, a number of them can become Indian nationals, if they satisfy our conditions, and it is a free wish, not an imposition on them by any party. In that sense, it would be true to say that. But it is not true in the case of Singapore; to call these people Stateless is not quite correct. But it is true—and that is the major problem with Ceylon—that several hundred thousand people who live in Ceylon, —many of them have been born in Ceylon, sometimes even their parents were born in Ceylon—have been denied certain normal rights of citizenship. This question arose before there were two nationality laws. It arose 30, 40 or 50 years ago—I forgot the exact time. Now it has taken another shape in that there are two independent countries. According to us, the vast majority of them are, or ought to be, Ceylon nationals.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: We can advise them to become world citizens.