

Shri L. N. Mishra: We have got some figures, and we feel that there is need to improve the situation, and we expect that very shortly some more mines will have vans.

Persons of Indian Origin in Ceylon

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 *977. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri N. B. Munisamy:
Shri Mahanty:
Shri Sampath:
Shri Siddananjappa:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Ceylon Government have abolished special electorates reserved for persons of Indian origin registered as citizens of Ceylon; and

(b) if so, the reactions of the Government of India thereto?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The manner in which a particular class of Ceylon citizens should be represented in their legislature is of domestic concern to the people and Government of Ceylon.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether all such special electorates have been abolished or only those special electorates for persons of Indian origin in Ceylon have been abolished?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I could not catch the question.

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether all electorates have been abolished. How can all electorates be abolished?

Shri D. C. Sharma: I wanted to know whether all such special electorates reserved for certain persons have been abolished or only those special electorates reserved for persons of Indian origin have been abolished.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I cannot with any certainty say, but my own impression is, that

there are no separate electorates there. In fact, what happened was that, some five years ago, when the then Prime Minister of Ceylon came here, there were some talks on this question, and it was a suggestion by him, on behalf of the Government of Ceylon, that for certain people of Indian origin, who were registered as citizens, they should have a special electorate for ten years to give them a chance; it was not our proposal. Since they proposed it, we said, certainly if you so wish it, we shall agree. And later, a provision to this effect was introduced in that Act, but in effect, it was never given effect to. And recently, they have removed that provision.

Apart from the reason given by my colleague that it is a domestic matter, we can hardly stand for separate electorate; we have not normally done so anywhere. So, when the Prime Minister of Ceylon informed me that they were going to do it, I merely noted that fact; I did not object to it nor did I commend it.

Shri Sampath: In view of the fact that the conditions of life of the people of Indian origin are already becoming very much worse, may I know whether this step taken by the Ceylon Government will not deteriorate their condition still further, and if so, what steps Government contemplate to tackle this situation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This particular step by the Ceylon Government has no effect at all on the deterioration or amelioration of the life of persons of Indian origin there. They have never had that facility given to them; if it had been given, it meant very little, because, as far as I remember, about 12,000 to 13,000 persons got the vote. That is, about 1,00,000 people have been registered under the new Act. Of those, 13,000, who were adults and who would have got the vote under this, were spread all over Ceylon in little groups. It has really no effect—no electoral effect, I mean,—they never had it, and now they have removed it from the Statute-book. So it has really no direct result now.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: This is not a suggestion. But I just want to explain that Ceylon in my plan is within 'Aryan'. Culturally Ceylon is a Buddhist country. Therefore, I ask whether the Prime Minister has approached the Ceylonese Government from this viewpoint, because when we ask them as foreigners 'we, Indians, and you, Ceylonese', they do not listen to us, but if we approach them as Buddhists having common culture and as Aryans within 'Aryan', I think that will settle this question.

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

श्री रामेश्वर टांटिया : पांच बरस पहले सीलोन के प्रधान मंत्री ने हमारे प्रधान मंत्री को कहा था कि हम इस इलेक्टोरेट के सिस्टम को दस साल तक रखेंगे लेकिन वह अब उसको इतनी जल्दी बदलना चाहते हैं। क्या इस बारे में उनसे कोई लिखापढ़ी नहीं की गयी ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मैंने श्री आपसे प्रश्न किया कि उन्होंने एक तजवीज की थी जिसको हमने न मंजूर किया था और न नामंजूर किया था। वह एक चीज करना चाहते थे, तो करें। अब वह उसको हटा रहे हैं। हमारी राय में उससे किसी को बहुत फायदा या नुकसान नहीं होता है।

Shri Thanu Pillai: The terms of the agreement contain many clauses, of which one relates to this electorate. In view of the fact that the Government of Ceylon is changing it, will our Government consider abrogating other clauses wherein we are obliged to register citizens who continue to be residents of Ceylon to become Indian citizens?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member suggests.....

Mr. Speaker: Retaliation.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Was he suggesting retaliation?

Shri Thanu Pillai: Not retaliation. We are obliged to do certain things as per the agreement. They are now giving the go-bye to that agreement.

Why should we alone carry the baby and continue to fulfil the obligations?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I can appreciate the hon. Member's feeling about it. But this supplementary has got no relation to this question. There are problems between India and Ceylon about the people of Indian descent. According to an agreement arrived at, they were to register them, those who fulfil their qualifications as their citizens, and we were to register those who fulfil our qualifications as Indian citizens. There is no question of our saying—and it would be improper for us to say—that we will not register a person whom we think is an Indian citizen. That is not retaliation. We cannot say that at any time. What we have laid stress is that we will only register such persons as qualify and as decide to do so without compulsion, that is, compulsion in Ceylon. That is our position and we hold by that, regardless of what the other party may do. Anyhow, that has no relation to this particular question.

Fertilizer Factory in Andhra Pradesh

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*978. { **Shri Rami Reddy:**
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government have made repeated representations for the establishment of a Fertilizer Factory in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have come to a decision in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The proposal for the establishment of a fertilizer factory in Andhra Pradesh will be considered alongwith other suitable sites when additional fertilizer factories are planned.

Shri Rami Reddy: May I know when a decision is likely to be arrived at in this matter?