

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Ministry looks into it and no doubt the Inspectorate goes about it through.

Shri Kelappan: May I know if this report would be available to the Public Accounts Committee?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I should think not, Sir.

PASSPORT OFFICE

*2729. **Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that arrears have accumulated in that office; and

(c) if so, whether Government are taking any steps to clear the arrears?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) At present there are about 500 applications for passports and other services awaiting disposal in the Regional Passport Office, New Delhi.

(b) and (c). Heavy arrears did accumulate in the Delhi office as a result of taking over of the passport work from the States of the Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, PEPSU, Ajmer and Himachal Pradesh. The Government of India have taken the necessary steps to have these arrears cleared within the quickest possible time and it is expected that the work of the office will be up-to-date within this month.

Shri Ramananda Das: May I know whether it is a fact that only those applications were attended to which came through the Travel Agents, brokers and commission agents and direct applications have not been cared for and, if so, whether this is the reason of accumulation of arrears?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: All applications were attended to without any qualification.

पाकिस्तान में तीर्थ स्थान

*२७२९. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५५ में अब तक कितने हिन्दू और सिक्ख यात्री पाकिस्तान के तीर्थ स्थानों की यात्रा करने के लिये गये ?

बैदेशिक-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल कंठ चन्दा) : १ जनवरी, १९५५ से १६ अप्रैल, १९५५ तक ४७२ तीर्थयात्री पाकिस्तान गये ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इसमें हिन्दू यात्रियों की संख्या कितनी होगी ?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There were no Hindus in the figure given here.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : हम यह जानना चाहते हैं कि क्या सरकार को ज्ञात है कि पाकिस्तान सरकार साधु विलास आश्रम के टापू को सांस्कृतिक रूप देने के लिए ले लेना चाहती है ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा बैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : वह उसको ले कर कहां ले जायगी ? वह तो टापू है, उसको वह कहां ले जायगी ?

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : पाकिस्तान टाइम्स में एक समाचार शायद हुआ है, जिससे जाहिर होता है कि पाकिस्तान सरकार आश्रम के टापू को सांस्कृतिक रूप देना चाहती है ।

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They have denied it.

लंका आमवासी अधिनियम

*२७३२. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि लंका की सरकार ने लंका आमवासी अधिनियम के संशोधन के सम्बन्ध में भारत की प्रार्थना को ठुकरा दिया है ?

बैदेशिक-कार्य उपमंत्री (श्री अनिल कंठ चन्दा) : भारत सरकार ने लंका की सरकार को लंका इमिग्रान्ट्स एण्ड एमिग्रान्ट्स एक्ट १९४५, के संशोधन के लिये बिल पर विचार स्थगित

करने की प्रार्थना की थी, क्योंकि भारत सरकार के विचार से वह बिल जनवरी १९५४, के समझौते के अनुकूल न था। लंका की पार्लियामेंट के दोनों भवनों द्वारा वध बिल अब पास किया जा चुका है और गवर्नर जनरल की स्वीकृति के लिए रुका हुआ है।

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether the Government of India has expressed that the Ceylon Immigrants Act should not be passed unless and until a register of Indian nationals in Ceylon had been compiled and what replies, if any, have the Government of Ceylon given?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: In our *aide memorie* to the Government of Ceylon we had suggested that before the register of unregistered adults had been prepared, it would not be proper for them to proceed with this Bill. However, they have gone through the Bill and the Bill has been passed by both Houses of the Ceylon Parliament.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether the compilation of this register of Indian nationals in Ceylon is continued?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The register has not yet been compiled.

Shri Joachim Alva: If worse comes to the worst, has our Government got a clear-cut programme by which we could receive and lodge the stateless persons who will be thrown out of Ceylon?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No. It is not the responsibility of this Government to look after stateless persons.

Shri Kasliwal: When this Bill was under discussion in the Ceylon Parliament, certain allegations were made against the conduct of the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon, saying that he was obstructing the Indo-Ceylon agreement. May I know how far those allegations are true and may I know whether the Government is in

a position to contradict those statements made by the Education Minister of Ceylon in the Ceylon Parliament?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The allegations are entirely baseless. Our High Commissioner has given every help and co-operation to the Ceylon Government in this regard.

Shri Thanu Pillai: What happens to the Indian nationals who are deported from Ceylon to India and will they be taken care of by the Government of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as the Indian nationals are concerned, of course such help as we can give is given.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Have the Government of Ceylon called for a conference or have convened a conference of the officials of the Ceylon Government with our High Commissioner's office to discuss this question of stateless persons or rather the registration of Indian nationals and whether our Government has accepted the invitation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no formal conference so far as we know, but our High Commissioner has been just recently invited to come and have a talk with some of the officials there. He has not been told what the agenda is, and we do not know. Naturally he has accepted and he will go and take part in the talks.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ORGANISATION AND METHODS DIVISION

*2727. { **Shri S. N. Das:**
Shrimati Ganga Devi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 1154 on the 21st September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the working of the **Organisation and Methods Division** has been reviewed and examined;