

Indians in Ceylon

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*194. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Achar:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ceylon Government have recently approached the Government of India to discuss the problems of Indian settlers there; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). No.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the main difficulties which the Indians are experiencing in Ceylon, and which require solution?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The main difficulty is in regard to citizenship rights.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether at the request of the Government of Ceylon, the Government of India have fixed any tentative programme for discussing this problem?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether it is a fact that Mr. Bandaranaike who was assassinated recently has recorded all the issues with regard to this problem in his files, and if so, whether those views have been communicated to the Government of India as a preliminary for discussion of these problems?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. Mr. Bandaranaike did not give any de-

tailed views about it; he expressed repeatedly his desire to settle the problems. That is all that has been done to it.

Shri Nath Pai: May I know the latest number of persons of Indian origin who have been granted citizenship rights in Ceylon?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The number of persons granted Ceylonese citizenship up to the end of April, 1950 has already been indicated in an answer given on the 3rd of August in this House.

Shri Nath Pai: Since then, we understand that the lists have been revised.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have no figures after April, 1950. The figure up to that period is 1,03,570.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: My question is very simple, but I feel frustrated like an inventor who goes to a capitalist but who is not heard by him; I feel that our Prime Minister is acting as a capitalist in my case. I just want to know whether he will kindly consider my suggestion of Aryan which settles the question of Ceylon. You may kindly ask him to please reply.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Is there any likelihood of the two Prime Ministers meeting in the near future to discuss this matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, there is no such proposal.

Shri Tangamani: The hon. Deputy Minister stated that just over one lakh of persons have been granted Ceylonese citizenship. May I know the number of applications still pending?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: All these points were answered in reply to unstarred question No. 43 asked on the 3rd August, 1950.

Shri Tangamani: What is the number of applications pending?

Mr. Speaker: The answer has already been given, and the hon. Member may refer to that answer.

Shri Tangasani: Since then, what is the position?

Mr. Speaker: Next question

Export of Mica

*135. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Consul General in U.S.A has recommended certain specific steps to Government to spur the export of Indian mica;

(b) if so, the nature of the recommendations made, and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) and (b) The Indian Consul General in USA has forwarded to Government a 'draft programme' for popularising and increasing the consumption of mica in the United States drawn up by the Mica Importers Association in that country and has proposed that the programme be examined in consultation with the mica trade in India

(c) A Sub-Committee of the Mica Export Promotion Council is examining the programme in consultation with the members of the export trade

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know the position of mica export during the last two years, and what steps Government have taken during the last two years to promote the export of mica, and also the result of such steps?

Shri Satish Chandra: During 1958, the foreign exchange earned by the export of mica was more than what was earned in 1957, though the quantity was less; the quantity exported was less, but the price realised was more.

For 1959, I have got the figures for the first six months. Both the quantity

and the value realised have increased.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: What are the figures for 1957 and 1958? What steps were taken during those periods when there was a decline?

Shri Satish Chandra: I was talking with reference to 1957 and 1958. If the hon Member wants figures, in 1957 we exported 4,46,000 cwts. valued at Rs 8 66 crores, in 1958, we exported 3,88,000 cwts valued at Rs 9.34 crores

Mr Speaker: The Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Purchase of Studio at Poona

*133 **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 176 on the 6th August, 1959 and state the progress made in the purchase of a Studio at Poona?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr Keskar): No decision has yet been taken in the matter

Tobacco Trade in Andhra

*136 **Shri Kadiyan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level Conference was held at New Delhi in September, 1959 to consider the slump conditions in the tobacco trade in Andhra, and

(b) if so, the decisions taken at the conference?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo) (a) A meeting was held on 16-9-1959 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Commerce and Industry which was attended by the Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure, the Deputy Minister of