

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to available information, Sewa Singh Mandla, a solicitor, had sought admission in 1978 for his son Gurinder Singh Mandla in Park Grove Private School in Edgabaston, Birmingham. The Headmaster of the school refused admission if the child were to attend school wearing a turban on the ground that the purpose of the school uniform is to minimise differences of Race, Class or Creed. Gurinder Singh, subsequently, has been attending another school. However, Sewa Singh Mandla has brought an action against the Headmaster for racial discrimination. The case is pending before the Birmingham Country Court. Both Sewa Singh Mandla and his son are Kenyan nationals.

Government hope that the matter will be settled amicably and that Sikhs in Britain of whatever nationality, do not experience any hindrance in pursuing their religion and customs.

Collection of Railway Freight

4587. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in case of some items of dried fish or fish meal, railway freight is compulsorily collected in advance at the time of booking goods; and

(b) if so, in view of the inconvenience to the trade, freight would be allowed to be collected at destination on delivery as done on most other items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes.

(b) Prepayment of freight has been made compulsory for fish dried and fish meal in some cases, as in case of other items which are perishable in nature and of low value mainly because these commodities cannot fetch even the freight amount legitimately due to the Railways, if sold by public auction in the event of their non-delivery at destinations. It would, therefore, not be desirable to make any relaxation in the existing conditions.

III-treatment of Indians at Heathrow Airport

4588. SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians visiting Britain on holidays or business are suffering harassment or humiliation from the Immigration officials at Heathrow Airport;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an average of 100 Indians in a month visiting Britain are refused admission at the Air port; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) The British Immigration officials have wide powers to satisfy themselves before allowing visitors to enter Britain. From time to time, complaints are received from Indian visitors about the questioning by the Immigration officials and refusal of entry. However, the number of such complaints is quite limited. Specific complaints are taken up with the British authorities.

(b) and (c). During 1979, 1,206 Indians were refused leave to enter the UK. against the total of 182,905 Indians given admission. In the first quarter of 1980, 270 Indians were refused entry against 36,000 granted admission.