

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, March 30, 1962/Chaitra 9,  
1884 (Saka).

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### British Enactment on Immigration of Commonwealth Citizens

\*301. Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased  
to state:

(a) whether Government have  
considered the recent British enact-  
ment restricting immigration of  
Commonwealth citizens into Britain;  
and

b) if so, Government's reaction  
thereto?

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

(a) Yes.

(b) We have been assured that this  
Bill will only affect Commonwealth  
citizens who enter the United King-  
dom after the Act is enforced and  
that students, tourists, bonafide busi-  
nessmen and certain categories of  
dependents will be permitted to enter  
the U.K. without difficulty. Only those  
going there for employment will be  
required to obtain employment  
vouchers before being allowed entry.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: In this  
Bill it has also been stated that when  
it becomes law and comes into effect,  
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anybody harbouring such people  
knowingly will be prosecuted and  
will get into trouble. The immigrants  
will find great difficulty in finding  
any kind of housing if this clause is  
there. What is the reaction of the  
Government of India to this?

Shrimati Laskshmi Menon: I do not  
know which clause the hon. Member  
is referring to.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I  
know if this Bill makes a sort of  
racial discrimination among the  
Commonwealth citizens as it is quite  
discriminatory against the coloured  
citizens of the Commonwealth and  
not against the whites?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Sir, it  
does not.

Shri P. G. Deb: Will the Govern-  
ment of India impose similar restric-  
tions on British nationals coming to  
India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This can  
be decided only after the Act comes  
into force and its working. It is true  
that the immigration authorities are  
armed with enormous powers, but  
unless we know something about the  
working of the Act we will not be  
able to decide anything. And if any  
discrimination is made against our  
people, certainly the Government will  
consider the suggestion made by the  
hon. Member.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: The hon. the  
Deputy Minister just now stated that  
it does not discriminate between  
different classes of Commonwealth  
citizens. In the course of the debates  
in the British Parliament, as far as  
I remember, the Minister there had  
stated that the Irish citizens, that is  
citizens of the Republic of Ireland,

would not be affected by this Bill and, therefore, *prima facie*, acceded that white nationals seeking to enter the United Kingdom would not be affected while coloured people would be. Is this a correct statement of facts?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Probably, in practice that would be so. They deny that this has anything racial to do about it, but I fear that in practice it is likely to be applied in that way.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an editorial in *The Manchester Guardian* of the 12th March to the effect that this Bill "will be used almost exclusively against coloured immigrants"? If so, in that context of it, do Government propose to re-think our relations with the Commonwealth?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know if the hon. Member is suggesting that we should leave the Commonwealth because of this. We may or may not leave it; that will be due to wider reasons, not to this particular matter.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Quite apart from the question of leaving the Commonwealth, which has many implications, is not Government contemplating some sort of measure to counteract what is implicit in the practical effect of this legislation which the Prime Minister said would be to exclude coloured citizens of the Commonwealth, so to speak, from entering the United Kingdom?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** All this depends so much on the rules made. The Bill itself does not indicate anything special to show that it will be applied to the so-called 'coloured' people. But it is quite possible that in the rules to be made and the application of it, it might. The principal people who have been pouring into the United Kingdom have been from West Indies and, to a somewhat lesser

degree, from Pakistan. No doubt we shall have to watch how this develops and how it functions and take such action as we consider proper.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Is there any suggestion of forming some sort of an advisory body to look into the welfare of these people, and what is the reaction of the Government of India to that?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** What people?

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** The immigrants, the coloured people who may be going to the United Kingdom.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Well, they are looked after by their representatives there. The West Indies have a High Commission there, and others have High Commissions, apart from non-official bodies. They are looked after, adequately I think.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Are we by implication accepting the stand-point of so many of the politicians in Great Britain that coloured people, Indians and Pakistanis and such other "undesirables" are pouring into Britain, so to speak, while as a matter of fact the Indian nationals who have gone there are playing a very creditable part in the economic life of the community there and on the whole behaving very well?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We are accepting no such thing. What I merely stated was that Indians have gone there in far lesser numbers, partly, of course, because we have not encouraged them to go there. In the other places we have encouraged them and facilitated them, and therefore they have gone in large numbers. The problem has therefore arisen because of their numbers, more than anything else.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Are Government aware of a poster campaign in Britain to the effect "Get out Blacks"? And if so, may I know whether in view of this Government are going to bring this particular matter to the attention of Britain?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know what the hon. Member expects me to reply. All those things are correct. There are all kinds of campaigns and misbehaviours taking place there. The Government there is not responsible for those campaigns or misbehaviours; in fact, they have tried to put a stop to them. But in the circumstances the Government have taken some steps to limit the number of people coming from abroad, specially from the West Indies and some other places.

In fact, this is bound, we feel, to be based on colour, although they do not say so; and it is a bad thing for the Commonwealth to have this kind of colour division. I cannot say what we shall do. It will depend on the circumstances.

**Shri Tyagi:** Are these restrictions proposed to be brought into effect after the passing of this Bill, or would they be given any retrospective effect affecting those who have already migrated?

**Mr. Speaker:** The answer read out by the hon. the Deputy Minister is clear: it does not affect the existing people.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** They will not apply to existing people there. They will apply to those who come later, and even there they will not apply to students and the like.

**Shri Tangamani:** This question was raised during the last session of Parliament itself. I would like to know the nature of the representation made to the U.K. Government when the Bill was published and when this matter was brought to the notice of the Government.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** We did bring to the notice of the U.K. Government the possible effects of the Bill on intending immigrants. The representatives of the U.K. Government had also had visited India and we had discussions with them, and we have received the assurance that it is not based on any colour prejudice.

### Effect of Goa Action on Foreign Assistance

**\*302. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign assistance to India for development has been affected in any manner as a result of Goa action; and

(b) what reactions have been registered and noted by this country?

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

(a) and (b). There is no reason to believe that foreign assistance to India for development has been affected as a result of the Goa action.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know whether the meeting of the Aid India Club had to be postponed consequent on this Goa action?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It was postponed. I do not think it was due to the Goa action; it was due to various factors and the people concerned advised us to have it a little later. We agreed.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** May I know whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a remark made by Senator Russel of U.S.A. after the Goa action about our own Prime Minister calling him a demagogue and hypocrite?

**Mr. Speaker:** Why should these words be repeated here?

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** It has been repeated in the Press; and that is why I draw the attention of the Government of India to it and ask what is our reaction.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Our attention has been drawn to that. The Government of India do not attach very much importance to what an odd Senator says or does not say.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** The answer to (b), "what reactions have been registered and noted by this country" has not been forthcoming. And I wish