

(b) if so, why; and

(c) the number of people rendered unemployed as a result of the closure?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

12.00 hrs.

RE. MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
(QUERY)

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Before you proceed to the next item, may I make a humble submission regarding the adjournment motion that I submitted? It is a very dangerous matter, Sir. The pro-Pakistani Kashmir Plebiscite Front has started demonstrations in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and they have hoisted a green flag.

Mr. Speaker: I will request Shri Hem Barua that he should not just stand up like this and raise it.

Shri Hem Barua: I would like the Home Minister to make a statement on that.

Mr. Speaker: That would be a different thing, but it should not be raised in this manner. I certainly think like that.

Shri Hem Barua: And that flag is akin to the Pakistani flag, Sir, with a crescent moon and a star....

Mr. Speaker: Will he stop there?

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाय (देवास) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में पहले ही यह सूचना दी जा चुकी है कि काश्मीर में इस प्रकार की योजना चल रही है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं ने पहले भी माननीय सदस्यों से यह विनती की है

कि वे इस प्रकार खड़े हो कर कुछ न कहा करें। मैं माननीय सदस्य से फिर दरखास्त करूंगा कि वह ऐसा न करें।

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाय : पहले सूचना देने के बाद भी मंत्री महोदय उत्तर देने के लिए तैयार नहीं हुए। अध्यक्ष महोदय, आखिर हम जनता को क्या जवाब दें ? सरकार क्यों नहीं बताती कि वहाँ पर ऐसी घटना होने वाली है ? जब हम बताते हैं, तो उस के बारे में उत्तर नहीं दिया जाता है। यह बड़े महत्व की बात है।

श्री बड़े (खारगोन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कार्लिंग एटेंशन नोटिस—श्री रंगा।

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) NON-RENEWAL OF RESIDENCE VISITS
TO INDIANS IN CEYLON

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

Reported decision of the Government of Ceylon not to renew existing residence visas issued to Indians for stay in Ceylon.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): The Government of Ceylon is finished now. There is no Government there.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): The Government of India

[Shri Dinesh Singh]

have seen Press reports regarding the reported decision of the Government of Ceylon not to renew existing residence visas issued to Indian nationals for stay in Ceylon. However, there has been no official announcement to this effect. It has also been reported by our High Commissioner in Ceylon that there has not been any abnormal non-renewal of the existing residence visas.

2. Residence visas are granted for a year on payment of visa fee of Rs. 400 a year. These visas are renewable. The number of Indians holding residence visas is approximately 16,000. These visa-holders are generally in urban areas and are either employees or businessmen. Since residence of non-nationals in Ceylon is governed by stay permits specified in the visas, non-renewal would mean that visa-holders will have to leave Ceylon after the expiry of their visas. Though the continued stay of these visa-holders is not covered by the recent Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 30 October, 1964, any decision of the Government of Ceylon to suddenly stop renewal of all residence visas would obviously be against the spirit of the Agreement.

Shri Ranga: In view of the resignation of the earlier government and the presence of only the interim government there, may I know whether the Government would take advantage of this interregnum, send for their Ambassador and ascertain the actual position there as to how many people are likely to be affected and, in the light of the present state of political atmosphere there, what steps could be taken by him to safeguard the interests of our people especially those who are affected by the question of these visas?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The High Commissioner was here recently and only the other day he has gone back. We have discussed all these matters with him and we shall continue to discuss them.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the fallen government honour or stick to its commitments?

Shri Dinesh Singh: How can we say what Government will come and what they will do.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is a fallen government now.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) : अपनी सरकार के पतन के बाद श्रीलंका की पिछली प्रधान मंत्री, श्रीमती भंडार नायके, ने रेडियो सीलोन से अपने देश के नाम एक सन्देश प्रसारित करते हुए उस समझौते की भी चर्चा की, जोकि उन के और भारत के प्रधान मंत्री के बीच में हुआ था। उन्होंने कहा कि उस को व्यावहारिक रूप देने में कठिनाइयां पैदा होंगी। यों भी श्रीलंका में जो भारतीय रहते हैं, उन्होंने समझौते को स्वीकार नहीं किया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन सब परिस्थितियों में भारत सरकार उस समझौते पर फिर से कोई विचार करेगी ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : समझौते पर तो फिर से विचार करने का कोई सवाल नहीं उठता। जब तक सीलोन सरकार वह समझौता मानती है, तब तक हम भी उस को मानेंगे।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय, शायद मैं अपने प्रश्न को स्पष्ट नहीं कर सका।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बात यह है कि वह सरकार गिर गई, लेकिन हमारी तो कायम है। हम ने जो समझौता किया है, हम तो उस पर कायम हैं। जो नई गवर्नमेंट आयेगी, हम उस को एटीट्यूड दे कि वह क्या करती है।

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : मेरा कहना तो यह था कि जिन लोगों के बारे में हम ने यह समझौता किया है, जिन की किस्मत का फ़ैसला हम कर रहे हैं, उन्होंने ने कहा है कि भारत के प्रधान मंत्री को हमारी समस्या के बीच में पड़ने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है, हम यहां के नागरिक हैं। भारत सरकार की इस बारे में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो नया सवाल है।

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : जी नहीं, मैं ने यह प्रश्न पहले भी पूछा है।

श्री दिनेश सिंह : इस सवाल के बारे में मैं इतनी जल्दी आप से क्या अर्ज़ कर सकता हूँ ? यह तो एक पालिसी का मसला है, जिस को माननीय सदस्यों ने पिछले डिस्कशन में भी उठाया था और हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने उस का जवाब भी दिया था।

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : यह तो कोई उत्तर नहीं हुआ।

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I know if these 16,000 Indians whose visas the Ceylonese Government have refused to renew.....

Mr. Speaker: He said that they have not refused to renew. There is no official confirmation that they have refused it and the information received from the High Commissioner also is that there is no unusual rejection.

Shri Hem Barua: I will put it in a different way. If these 16,000 Indians who are in a difficult position because of the reported refusal of the Government of Ceylon to renew their visas are included within the 5.25 lakhs negotiated upon very recently, may I draw the attention of our Government to the statement made by the Prime

Minister of Ceylon wherein she has said: "The defeat of our Government has threatened the Indo-Ceylon Agreement recently arrived at". This is what she has said. If that is so, may I know, in that context, what is the reaction of our Government to this difficult situation?

Shri Dinesh Singh: They are not included.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi (Dharwar North): Even at the time of the Indo-Ceylon Agreement the future of 1,15,000 people of Indian origin living in Ceylon was not decided. In addition to that this question of renewal of temporary residence visa-holders has arisen. I would like to know whether this matter was thought of at the time of the agreement between the two countries that these people should be included as among the first to be repatriated to India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: As I mentioned earlier, no peculiar situation has arisen. So far as these people are concerned, they are Indian citizens. They are not included in the settlement about the category of people who were supposed to be stateless. These people are our citizens. They are staying there on visas granted by the Ceylon Government and we hope their visas will not be cancelled. They are our citizens and we have to take responsibility for them.

Shri Hem Barua: Are we to understand that we are taking them back?

Mr. Speaker: If such a situation arose.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : जिस वक्त प्रधान मंत्रियों की बातचीत यहां हुई उस समय इस मामले पर भी डिस्कशन किया गया था और अगर किया गया था तो हमारे जो विशेष अधिकारी लंका में इस समझौते के मातहत भेजे गये हैं, उन की राय क्या है ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : इस के बारे में कोई बातचीत नहीं हुई । ये तो हमारे नागरिक हैं, हमारे पासपोर्ट होल्डर हैं । इन के बारे में क्या बात करनी थी ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कद्वनाय (देवास) : लंका सरकार का जो पतन हुआ है उसका क्या यह एक मुख्य कारण है कि हमारे साथ उस ने यह समझौता किया ? यदि हाँ तो शासन क्या करने जा रहा है ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : यह हम कैसे कह सकते हैं कि किस कारण . . .

Shri Swell (Assam—Autonomous Districts): Sir, on a point of order. Can we interfere in the internal matters of another country?

Mr. Speaker: We are not discussing the internal matters of another country.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy (Koppal): May I know whether as a result of this agreement some Indians who are now in Ceylon may return to India and if so, has any plan been drawn up to rehabilitate them here?

Shri Dinesh Singh: We are looking into this question. It will depend upon how many people will be coming here each year. As soon as that question is settled, we will draw up the plan.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): The hon. Deputy Minister has stated just now that so far as the information went and so far as the information he has received from the High Commissioner went there had been no undue rejection of visas so far. May I know how many persons of Indian origin applied for visas so far, how many of them have received visas and how many visas have been rejected so far, according to his information?

Shri Dinesh Singh: With all due respect to the hon. Member, I think he has confused the issue. This mainly relates to the question of people of Indian origin. So far as the number of renewals or rejections is concerned, I could not give them off hand because a large number of them are pending and they keep on renewing them from time to time.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, I rise on a point of order. This question is figuring in the minds of so many persons, which means that this concerns all parties in this Lok Sabha and they have been feeling about it. The Government had ample time to collect information. The hon. Deputy Minister says that he does not know how many persons who are Indian citizens had applied for visas, how many visas have been rejected and how many applications are pending for confirmation or approval. This is a very serious state of affairs. The hon. Deputy Minister is giving us vague replies to very specific questions even though the question has been with him all these days. It is a very depressing state of affairs.

Shri Dinesh Singh: May I mention with all due respect again to the hon. Member that there is a certain procedure that has to be followed? These applications do not come to us. We do not know how many persons have applied for visas. Any citizen is free to go and apply for a visa. It does not come to our notice whether the visa applied for has been granted or rejected. It is only when there are large-scale rejections without reasonable grounds that we take up the question with that Government on their behalf.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What is the High Commissioner of India in Ceylon doing? What is he meant for? What are his duties there?

Mr. Speaker: Now Papers to be laid on the Table.