

[Shri Hem Barua]

are being arrested after their landing in Bombay.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: First of all, they are Indians according to our knowledge and secondly forged passport is not forged any way in the official place of issue. Naturally, the Consul's Office does not forge passports; a forger does it. He may exist anywhere. I understand that they have been arrested.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the Prime Minister's statement, I do not give my consent to the adjournment motion.

(iii) CLOSURE OF ORISSA TEXTILE MILLS
AT CHOWDWAR

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of another adjournment motion from Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi:

"The immediate need to discuss the closure of the Orissa Textile Mills at Choudwar in Orissa resulting in the unemployment of five thousand workers".

I was appalled at the number; otherwise I would not have brought it here.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): For the last two months, this mill has remained closed and the number of workers rendered unemployed is 5,000. All these 5,000 have now been dismissed. They remain unemployed. The Labour Department of the Orissa Government tried to settle this dispute but because the Chief Minister of the State is the owner of the mill, settlement becomes difficult and I request that the Commerce and Industry Minister and also the Minister of Labour in the Centre should intervene in this matter and should see that the mill starts working.

The Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri Nanda): I do not understand how it arises here. This matter came to my

notice only a few minutes ago, and I enquired whether we had any information about this. It appears that the workers concerned resorted to a sit-down strike. Their demand for a 3½ months' bonus was taken up by the conciliation machinery, and still, not content with that, the trouble continued, and therefore there was a stoppage. Of course my information is limited as it is, and I cannot vouch for everything because there has not been enough time for me to secure all the facts. The matter is in the States' sphere. We do not presume to know everything from moment to moment, but it appears that some people would not allow others to go back. When the authorities of this establishment wanted to work the mill, they were not allowed to do so. That is the little bit of information that I have in my possession. I can find out if there are more facts, if they are relevant here.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They cannot possibly close down; unless they obtain sanction from the Central Government, they cannot do it. The fact that it is owned by the Chief Minister does not make a difference. He cannot do it *suo motu*.

An Hon. Member: Lock-out.

Shri Nanda: For a lock-out there is no permission required. Closure is another matter, but it is not a matter of closure as I know. (Interruption).

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed sufficient number of questions, and an opportunity for the Government to give its statement before the House. It is for the parties to come to a settlement.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Can we get the full information from the hon. Minister? Now, the hon. Minister of Labour and Employment and

Planning is not in the possession of sufficient information on the matter. May we have it later?

Mr. Speaker: It is purely a local matter. They will settle all the difference. I do not give my consent to the Adjournment Motion.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS BILL OF
U.K.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

The Commonwealth Immigrants Bill of the United Kingdom and its likely effect on India and the Commonwealth link.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): As the House is aware, the British Government have introduced in their Parliament on the 2nd November, 1961, the Immigration and Deportation (Commonwealth Citizens) Bill which assumes wide powers for restricting the entry of Commonwealth Citizens into the United Kingdom which has so far been free. The intention of the British Government to impose these restrictions was first conveyed to us in an *Aide Memoire* handed over to us on the 14th October, 1961. It was stated that British Immigration Officers would be given wide discretion in not allowing Commonwealth citizens entry into the U.K. and also to lay down conditions regarding the period of their stay. The entry of persons seeking work in the United Kingdom would be limited to those holding employment vouchers issued by the British authorities. Powers would also be assumed to deport Commonwealth citizens on conviction by a court of law.

2. The British proposals were considered by the Government of India and our preliminary views were conveyed to the British Government in any *Aide Memoire* dated the 28th October, 1961. We stressed the absence of previous consultations before taking the decision to impose very drastic curbs which would affect the considerable traffic of persons between India and the U.K., the likelihood of the restrictions resulting in discrimination between the various member countries of the Commonwealth on the basis of colour and the further possibility of the proposed restrictions rendering the position of a Commonwealth citizen even worse than that of citizens of non-Commonwealth countries. This matter has also been discussed by our Acting High Commissioner with the British Home Secretary in London.

3. As the House is aware, we ourselves are against illiterate or semi-literate Indians going to the United Kingdom or to any other country in search of employment. In fact, we have, for some years past, been exercising fairly severe restrictions against the issue of passports to such persons desiring to proceed to the United Kingdom. The British Government have, on the other hand, in some cases, allowed Indians, whose passports have not been endorsed by us for the United Kingdom, to land there

4. The British Government have assured us that the restrictions which are now proposed to be imposed will not operate on the basis of colour. We hope that the actual operation of the restrictions the British Government may finally decide upon will bear out this assurance. The British Government have also assured us that those Indians who are already in the United Kingdom will not be affected by the proposed restrictive measures. We shall await the final form of the enactment and also study the administrative directions issued to British Immigration Officers. As seen at