

among themselves the measures to be taken for the recognition of trade unions, and what should be the method for going on strikes and declaring lockouts. The three trade union leaders discussed these matters. Although there were divergent views, they reached some sort of a limited accord. In those discussions we have come to know that the INTUC leaders preferred that there should be no strike at least in essential industries, although they thought that the list of essential industries must be a limited one. But the AITUC and HMS did not agree with the INTUC leaders. The INTUC also preferred that, even in respect of non-essential industries, there are certain sections where strikes should not be resorted to and their working should be continued. The AITUC and HMS leaders desired that only through collective bargaining they should decide upon the sections where the strikes and lockouts should not be resorted to.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : There are other trade union leaders.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question, Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon. Minister has made a statement on which the President of INTUC here wants to make a clarification. He is rising up and you should call him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have called the next question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Is it permissible ? The hon. Minister is suppressing facts. He knows the position. The HMT Manager is not even talking to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

PROBLEMS OF INDIANS OVERSEAS

*242. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : t SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR : SHRI V. B. RAJU: SHRI J. S. TILAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

(a) whether Government are in touch with the problems of overseas Indians;

(b) if so, what are these problems, country-wise ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to solve them ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (c) The Government of India keep in touch with the problems of Indian nationals and people of Indian origin abroad. Government provide normal consular protection to Indian nationals settled overseas.

The problems of overseas Indians vary from country to country. Their principal problems concern the pursuit of their vocations. The Government of India render such help to them as enables them to pursue their vocations, in accordance with local laws.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: That is all right, but I wanted him to give the position country-wise. In part (b) I have asked : "if so, what are these problems, country-wise; and (c) what steps are being taken to solve them ?" Uganda came up. Now, Kenya may be coming up. We had earlier Ceylon and Burma. What I wanted was a catalogue of all these things and the hon. Minister has given a complete sweep of the whole thing. I do not know how he can give that. The hon. Minister of External Affairs, Sardar Swaran Singh, said that we should not put emphasis on what is happening in Kenya. It may be that Kenya is a friendly country, but may I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn particularly to the statement of a Kenyan Minister regarding the problems of Kenya, Kenyan Indians and Kenyan Asians and, if so, whether the Government of India is in touch with the Government of Kenya particularly on this subject and what explanation has been given by them ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do accept that the reply is not sufficiently indicative of the conditions in each country. And from the very nature of the question asked, it was not easy to do so. I myself went into it with a great deal of care because persons of Indian origin are today present in large numbers of countries ; they are present, for example, in the United States of America, about a hundred thousand also in the United Kingdom, in Canada, in several west European countries, in several Asian countries, in several

African countries, and it becomes very difficult to say that such and such is their problem. Their main problem is what has been mentioned in the reply, namely, the pursuit of their avocations. And all these problems, if the hon. Member also analyses them in his mind, really relate to the pursuit of avocations, whether it is work permits or trade permits or matters of that nature. Particularly in these developing countries, in the African countries, the problem is entirely different. So it was not easy to pin point them.

Secondly, I would like to suggest for the consideration of the hon. Members as to whether we should really prepare a catalogue for being advertised in all those countries that persons of Indian origin in Uganda are facing this problem, that in Kenya they are facing another problem, and so on. There are about five hundred thousand persons of Indian origin in South Africa. Their problem is entirely different. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Member that whereas I am prepared to discuss with him or with other hon. Members problems relating to a particular country it will be very difficult, and I would suggest that it would not at all be in our national interest to bring forward a catalogue that so many hundreds of thousands of persons of Indian origin are present in this country or in that country and that this is their problem. I would appeal to the hon. Member to view it in this perspective.

Now, a specific question about Kenya has been put. I have already answered that. And the problem there is different. Already, as the House is no doubt aware, from Kenya there has been a movement of persons of Indian origin to Britain and Britain has already introduced a quota system that annually they will permit so many of the British passport holders of Indian origin to enable them to go the United Kingdom. Persons who are holding Indian passports, if they want to come, they can come here. But at the present moment, the problem there is a limited one, and this relates to the extension of the work permits of a limited number of people. So, it is an entirely different problem as compared to the rather difficult problem that we have to deal with in relation to Uganda.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : While appreciating what the hon. Minister has said, may I draw his particular attention to the fact that when the Uganda problem came up, the British Government wanted to raise this question

problems may rise again. Are you trying to tackle this problem on an international scale in consultation with the Asian and European countries so that such problems do not rise again and again ?

And also in India, are you trying to set up a separate cell or a bureau in your Ministry so that the problems of those Indians whenever they come back legally, if they want to set up industries, they are helped because they are facing a lot of difficulties ? They have to go through very great difficulties because they do not get any reply from the Ministry of Foreign Trade or the Ministry of External Affairs. Are you trying to do this at these levels ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: With regard to the first part, we are conscious of the fact that this matter, taken in a proper form at the international level, can mobilise enough of persuasion and pressure which is helpful, and that was precisely what we did in the case of Uganda, and a certain slight change in the attitude of the Ugandan Government was the outcome of that international action. And this will also be continued in the case of other situations. Inside the country the expression is "to deal with persons of Indian origin settled abroad" or a bureau with catchy phrases. But on careful analysis if you go down to the bone there cannot be a sort of bureau to deal with all these different problems in relation to persons of Indian origin. Certainly, in different parts of the world this matter has been engaging our attention and we find that it is much better to entrust this work to the Desk which is in charge of the territory in which those persons are settled. I admit there are some general problems but we are trying to co-ordinate and we always take up such problems either with the Ministry of Foreign Trade in the matter of imports and customs duty, with the Ministry of Industrial Development in the matter of issuing licences, with the Ministry of Finance in the matter of foreign exchange and the rest. So this is a matter with which we are trying to deal. I would like to assure the hon'ble Member that this matter is very much within our consideration and we have initiated several steps in the direction—which the hon'ble Member suggested.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : मैं युगांडा की बात नहीं करता; क्योंकि वहाँ कोई हुकूमत नहीं है मगर मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इंडिया के जो लोग वहाँ जाते हैं उन्हें क्या मदद मिलेगी ?

उनकी प्राबल्य बढ़ रही है और उन पर ज्यादा पाबन्दियाँ लग रही हैं और अगर मेरी यह इतिहा ठीक है, तो इसका कारण क्या है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I would not subscribe to the general proposition that restrictions on their functioning are increasing in all countries. In some "Yes" but not in all countries. This problem in the form in which the hon'ble Member has mentioned is more, I think, in Africa and the reasons for the new policy also have been enunciated by these Governments. If I may say, very broadly this is in pursuit of the policy which many of these developing African countries are adopting, namely, Africanisation of certain types of trade and such activity, and it is in pursuit of that policy that some of our people engaged in that type of activity are feeling the pinch. This is the essence of the whole problem.

SHRI ABU ABRAHAM : May I know whether it is the Government's policy to encourage overseas Indians who hold Indian passports to take up the citizenship of the countries where they are settled ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : We leave it to the individuals concerned. It is a matter of individual judgment for the persons concerned. We do not want to pursue it as a policy that any Indian who goes abroad should take the citizenship of that country. But we do expect that so long as he functions in that country and he holds our passport he should be in tune with the aspirations of the people there and he should also abide by the laws of the Government of that country.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I would like to bring to the notice of the Government two very recent developments. One is that the Uganda Government has already appointed a Board to deal with the abandoned property and to see to it that at least the industrial plants which have been left behind by the Asians are run properly. There is no question of any compensation. The second thing is, it has been reported by the press to-day that the Heath Government suffered a defeat in Parliament on their immigration policy so far as Asians are concerned, and that some of his own members, i. e. members belonging to his own party voted against it and some of them absented themselves. This is a new trend that is becoming apparent in Great Britain. Taking these two things into consideration—that a new trend is visible in Africa and that

Asians, beyond which they cannot go—will the Government try to evolve a certain policy to meet the situation ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, if I may say, the two things are completely unconnected. The happenings in Uganda and the setting up of a Board to look after the properties, have got nothing to do with the immigration policy of the British Government. I would also like to recall that the main argument for defeating the immigration Bill of the British Government was that it hit the Australians and New Zealanders as compared to the European in the context of Britain's decision to join the European Economic Community. That is entirely in a different context.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : No, no, my question has not been answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You did not put any question. You mentioned two points.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I only want to point out that it is not true ; the report is something else.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given his view on both the points mentioned by you.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : If it is wrong . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Whether it is wrong or right is not a point of order. Everyone can have his own views.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : Sir, the Government of Kenya has taken a decision to send off Indians who are settled there for a long time to the U. K. and some of them are coming from the U. K. to India. I would like to know why this decision has been taken by the Kenyan Government ? Our diplomatic mission is there. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any information has been received by our Government regarding the sending of Indians from Kenya to the U. K. and from the U. K. to India ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have already given the information about the Kenyan situation. There is nothing more to add, Sir.

श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार बतला सकेगी कि विदेशों में रहने वाले कितने भारतीय हैं और उन भारतीयों की संख्या कितनी है जो इन देशों में स्टेटलैस अवस्था में हैं ? वे भारतीय

नागरिक भी नहीं हैं और वहाँ के नागरिक भी नहीं हैं और इस तरह से उन्हें किसी देश की नागरिकता प्राप्त नहीं है। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह के भारतीय, जो स्टेट-लेस अवस्था में हैं, उनकी संख्या कितनी है और उनकी सुरक्षा तथा भलाई के लिये सरकार की क्या नीति है ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I have not got the figures about the persons whose status is 'Stateless' and who are of Indian origin in the various countries. I do not have any information about it. The persons of Indian origin who are Stateless in any country are primarily the responsibility of the country of residence because they are physically present in another country and irrespective of their status, it is the responsibility of that Government to ensure their safety and to permit them to function in accordance with the laws of that country. When any difficulty arises and they find it difficult to stay on, then a different situation arises as it did arise in Uganda. And the United Nations Organisation generally steps in to help the Stateless persons of whatever origin they may be, and they stepped in Uganda and they took charge of persons of Asian origin whose status was Stateless.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF CULTURAL RELATIONS

*243. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that one of the chief objects for which the Indian Council of Cultural Relations was set up, was to promote cultural contacts with foreign countries ;

(b) if so, what specific steps have been taken so far by the Council for the fulfilment of this object;

(c) whether the Council has so far sponsored any cultural delegations to bring home the excellence of the Indian classical music and dance to any foreign countries ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In pursuance of its objectives, the ICCR has undertaken a large variety of activities such as establishment of Chairs of Indian

Studies abroad ; inviting scholars, artists and leaders of opinion from other countries to visit India and sending Indian scholars, artists and specialists in various fields to visit other countries on goodwill-cum-lecture tours ; sending of exhibitions of Indian art, books and handicrafts ; organisation of international conferences and Seminars ; publication of books and journals in foreign languages with a view to making the various aspects of Indian life and culture better known abroad ; award of research grants and scholarships to foreign scholars for further studies and training in different aspects of Indian culture ; opening of Indian Cultural Centres abroad etc.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

During the last three years the ICCR sent out the following cultural delegations :

1969-70

A delegation including Begum Akhtar (vocalist), Pt. Ram Narain (Sarangi), Kumari Damayanti Joshi (Kathak) and Shrimati Sonal Mansingh (Bharat Natyam) to Afghanistan.

A delegation including Shrimati Rani Kama (Kathak), Shrimati Sanjukta Panigrahi (Odissi) to Sikkim.

Sachin Shankar's Ballet troupe to Nepal.

A delegation including Shri Debatra Chaudhury (Sitarist) and his accompanists to Afghanistan.

A delegation including Acharya K. C. D. Brahaspati (Musicologist), Smt. Sulochana Yajurvedi (Vocalist), Shri Sisirkana Dharchoudhury (Violinist) and Shrimati Meena Kapur (Vocalist) to Nepal.

A delegation including Shri Sunil Mukherjee (Sarod) and Shri Nirmalendu Choudhury and party (folk singers) to Sikkim.

A delegation including Kumari Yamini Krishnamurti (Bharat Natyam) and party to Nepal.

1970-71 A delegation including Kumari Uma