

INDIAN EMPLOYEES IN AMERICAN FIRMS

*268. SHRI K. C. PANDA :

SHRI CHANDRA-
MAULI JAGARLA-
MUDI :†

SHRI M. K. MOHTA:

SHRI SUNDAR MANI
PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U. S. Embassy and its various agencies have terminated services of a large number of Indians employed by them in India;

(b) whether the Indian employees have formed a staff union and have represented to the American Embassy and to the Government of India against termination of their services; and

(c) whether the Government of India have received any report in this regard from the American Embassy; and if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :

(a) The number of Indian employees whose services have been terminated between 1-1-1972 to 1-8-1972 is given below:—

U.S.I.S.	20
U.S.A.I.D.	186
American Peace Corps	36

(b) It is understood that the Indian employees already had, in the past, three Associations, representing the Department of State (*i.e.* the Embassy), U.S.I.S. and U.S.A.I.D. respectively. The American Embassy have been discussing the terms and technicalities of the retrenchment programme with the elected officers of the Employees' Associations. Government of India have not received any representation from the Indian Employees' Associations against their retrenchment.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandramouli Jagarlamudi.

(c) Information in this regard was called for from the Embassy. The retrenchment in U.S.I.S. is said to be due to the American Government's decision to economize in all posts overseas. The reduction of staff in U.S.A.I.D. is a sequel to an understanding reached between the Governments of India and U. S. A. regarding curtailment of AID activities and projects in India. The staff requirements of the American Peace Corps are determined by that Agency from time to time depending on the size of the American Peace Corps programmes in India.

SHRI CHANDRAMOULI JAGARLAMUDI : Sir, nearly 250 people have been retrenched by the U. S. Embassy in their various departments. Now, did the Government of USA give the reasons for such retrenchment ? Then, did these unemployed people make a representation to the Government of India and, if so, what does the Government propose to do as regards their employment ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, the reply to these questions were contained in my reply to the question.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : श्रीमन्, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह रिट्रेचमेन्ट अमरीका सरकार का धन बचाने की नीति के कारण हुआ है या भारत और अमरीका सरकार के पिछले दिनों में बिगड़े हुए संबंधों के कारण हुआ है और यदि बिगड़े हुए सम्बन्धों के कारण हुआ है तो क्या भारत सरकार का यह अपनी जिम्मेदारी समझती है कि उन कर्मचारियों को कोई आल्टर्नेटिव कार्य दिया जाए ?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : सभापति महोदय, इसकी दो वजहें हैं जिससे रिट्रेचमेन्ट हुआ है। एक वजह यह है कि अमरीका सरकार यह चाहती है कि अपना खर्चा कम करे बाहर। दूसरी वजह यह है कि उनकी कुछ एक्टिविटीज यहां कम होने जा रही हैं। हमने भी उनसे इस सिलसिले में बातचीत की है कि ज्यों-ज्यों

हमारी एक्टिविटीज सेल्फ रिलायन्स की तरफ बढ़ती जा रही है, उसमें लाजमी है कि उनकी एक्टिविटीज यहां पर कम हों और उसके अनुसार उन्होंने रिट्रेन्चमेन्ट किया है। जहां तक जिम्मेदारी का सवाल है, मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ उनकी जिम्मेदारी हमारे ऊपर नहीं है, लेकिन इतना जरूर है कि इस मामले में फाइनेन्स मिनिस्ट्री डोल कर रही है, वह इस पर सोच विचार कर रही है कि किस किस की सहायता हमारी तरफ से दी जा सके।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : मेरे सवाल का उत्तर रह गया कि क्या भारत और अमरीका के बिगड़े सम्बन्ध के कारण तो नहीं हो रहा है ?

श्री सुरेंद्र पाल सिंह : सभापति महोदय, यह भी एक वजह हो सकती है। माननीय सदस्य को मालूम ही है कि पिछले साल में हमारे देश में जो डेवलपमेंट्स हुए उससे हमारे तालुकात खराब हुए। उसके बाद यू० एस० ए० ने ऐड देना बन्द कर दिया, उनकी यहां एक्टिविटीज कम हो गई, साथ ही साथ हमने भी महसूस किया हमको सेल्फ रिलायन्स में आना चाहिए। इस दमियान अमरीका सरकार से हमारी बातचीत हुई और दोनों के मश्वरे से यह तय हुआ कि यू० एस० ए० ऐड के जरिए एक्टिविटीज कम होनी चाहिए और जब कम होंगी तो जाहिर है सम्बन्धों में कुछ न कुछ कमी आएगी।

SHRI B. K. KAUL : May I know whether it is a fact that in view of the day in and day out criticism of the U. S. A. Administration by some Members of the political parties in Parliament the U. S. Embassy has decided to abridge their various units working in India and as a result thereof the retrenchment has taken place and whether the Government has any proposal to meet this challenge ?

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : What is the challenge ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I do not know what challenge the hon'ble Member is referring to. These employees were recruited by these various agencies under their own terms and conditions and regulations. The Government of India does not come into the picture at all.

SHRI B. K. KAUL : Is it not a challenge ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Challenge in what sense ? Sir, the foreign missions are free to recruit people in this country in any manner. The Government of India only come into the picture if there is any report of any contract not being fulfilled; otherwise the Government of India does not come into the picture. However, as I said earlier, the Finance Ministry is giving thought to this matter, whether they can evolve some ways and means to help these people.

SHRI B. K. KAUL : If there is vindictiveness, is it not a challenge for the Government to accept ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down. No other question now.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : May I just add one word to clarify the position? If there was vindictiveness at the back of it and the retrenched personnel had any grievances they should have come to us. But they did not.

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो स्टैंड रिलेशनम बताए जाते हैं और जो माननीय मंत्री जी ने स्वीकार किया कि वह भी एक कारण हो सकता है, जिससे यहां के दूतावासों में रिट्रेन्चमेन्ट हुआ है और जो कुछ और दूसरी संस्थाएं हैं उनमें किया गया है, साथ ही यह भी बताया गया है कि ऐसा प्रयास है कि हम इन्डिपेन्डेंट बनें, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, भारतीय दूतावास जो अमरीका में हैं, उसमें अमरीकन लोग कितने

है, अर्थात् हमारे दूतावास की सेवा में कितने अमरीकन नागरिक हैं और उनके प्रति हमारा क्या रुख है ?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : सभापति महोदय, इसका इससे क्या सम्बन्ध है ? कितन आदमी अमरीका में हमारी एम्बेसी में काम कर रहे हैं, इसका इस सवाल से क्या ताल्लुक है ?

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर : श्रीमन् अगर इस आधार पर एक दूसरे से सम्बन्ध स्टेन होते हैं और भारतीय नागरिकों को वे रखना पसन्द नहीं करते, तो इसके प्रति हमारी कोई प्रतिक्रिया नहीं है, यह बात मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : इसमें पसन्द का सवाल नहीं है, बल्कि जरूरत का सवाल है । वे अपनी जरूरत के हिसाब से यहां के नागरिकों को नौकरी में रखते हैं और जरूरत के हिसाब से निकालते हैं । (*Interruption*) अब भी वहां पर काफी भारतीय नागरिक काम कर रहे हैं ।

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Will the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House as to which type of activities of the American Embassy the Government has been able to persuade them to curtail and what type of activities they have curtailed ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, there are a number of projects which the U.S. AID and the U.S. Embassy are financing in this country. I have not got all the details here, but I understand that out of the 11 or 12 projects which they have in hand...

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : What kind of activities has the Government persuaded the American Embassy to give up. The hon. Minister has said that they themselves want to give up certain activities. What are those activities?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the question is clear.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, there are a number of projects which are being financed and run by the U.S. AID. Now we have begun to feel that the time...

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Are they industrial projects ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Yes, industrial projects. The Government of India feels that the time has now come when in pursuance of our policy of self-reliance and because we have gained a certain amount of experience and expertise in these things, we should take over the projects ourselves and ask the Americans to leave them. I think under that decision five or six or seven projects have been asked to be stopped and they are to be taken over by India.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : यह जो आपने बतलाया कि बहुत से प्रोजेक्ट्स उन्होंने बन्द कर दिये हैं, तो क्या उनमें से कलचरल और इंडस्ट्रियल प्रोजेक्ट्स बन्द करने के लिए आपने कहा था और क्या उनकी जगह पर रूसी प्रोजेक्ट्स यहां पर लगाये जा रहे हैं ? यह एक छोटा सा सवाल है, जिसका उत्तर मैं जानना चाहता हूँ ।

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, round about May 1972 there were 11 U. S. projects in the country with a total of 92 American field experts working in these projects. The projects were like Nutritional Food Development Project which had a number of experts; all the details are not with me now. A critical review was carried out by this department in close consultation with the concerned Ministries, of the need for continuation of each of the projects and each of the exports by the strictest application of the criterion of essentiality. It was decided as a result of this review that only six projects with 26 American field experts need to be continued beyond the end of September 1972.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : मैं मंत्री जी से आपके द्वारा यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीकी दूतावास से कुछ हिन्दुस्तानियों को हटाया गया है, परन्तु जो अमरीकी लोबी हिन्दुस्तान के बहुत तेजी से चलतो है, उसको हटाने के लिए आपकी ओर से कोई प्रयत्न हो रहा है या नहीं ?

(No reply)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA

*269. DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee consisting of London based diplomats of 31 Commonwealth countries had recently met in London to consider the measures taken to impose economic sanctions against Rhodesia;

(b) if so, what were the decisions taken at the meeting; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Commonwealth Sanctions Committee met on June 19 and 29, 1972, to review developments following the publication of the Pearce Commission Report on Rhodesian Opinion, the effect of sanctions against Rhodesia hitherto, and to consider suggestions for rendering sanctions more effective. Diplomatic representatives in London of 28 Commonwealth States took part in the meeting. A copy of the Press Release issued by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the meeting which sets out the decisions reached is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The Government of India have consistently advocated the effective implementation of sanctions against Rhodesia. They endorse the recommendations in this regard of the Commonwealth Sanctions Committee.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

Marlborough House,

London SW1Y 5HX

Tel. No. 01-839 3411

72/40

29 June, 1972.

Press Release

COMMONWEALTH SANCTIONS COMMITTEE

The Commonwealth Sanctions Committee today completed its review of developments following publication of the report of the Pearce Commission on Rhodesian Opinion. It welcomed the British Government's acceptance of the findings of the Pearce Commission and the decision to continue to maintain the sanctions policy.

The Committee considered that the findings of the Pearce Commission vindicated the need for upholding the principles laid down by successive meetings of Commonwealth Heads of Government regarding the settlement of the Rhodesian question; these include the principle that the basis of a settlement must be acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole. In this regard they noted the opinion expressed by the British Foreign Secretary that in any future negotiations the initiative must come from the different races in Rhodesia acting in concert.

The Committee stressed the need for all member states of the UN and its specialised agencies to show greater determination and political will to support—by positive action—the implementation of the sanctions policy.

The Committee viewed with gravity the violation by some member states of the mandatory sanctions against Rhodesia agreed on by the Security Council. In reiterating its view that it was incumbent on member states to comply with the Security Council mandatory sanctions, the Committee discussed again the lifting by the United States of the ban on the import of Rhodesian chrome. While expressing appreciation of the support which the United States had hitherto given to the