

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 11 th November, 1970/ the
21th Kart ka. 1892 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of clock, MR.
CHAIRMAN in Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri N. K. Krish tan. (Kerala)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*181. [The questioner (Shri K. L.N. Prasad) Was absent. For answer, vide col. 28 infra].

**VISAS FOR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENTS OF TORONTO
GLOBE AND MAIL**

*182. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :†
SHRI K. C. PANDA :
SHRI SLNDAR MANI PA-TEL
:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special
Correspondent of Toronto Globe and Mail had
recently asked for a visa to visit India;

(b) whether th s visa has been refused by
the Government of India; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :
(a) and (I) Yes, Sir.

(c) There was an order prohibiting his
entry into India.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : May I
know what are the general criteria for
allowing foreign correspondents into India
and whether it is a fact that some foreign
intelligence agents get into India in the garb
of foreign correspondents? In this particular
case I would like to know what was the bar for
this particular representative of the Toronto
Globe to get his visa for India. He said

†The question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Lokanath Misra.

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something about some bar. What was the
particular bar?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, so far as
this gentleman is concerned, he is a US
national and he is the special correspondent of
the Globe and Mail of Toronto, Canada and
the Evening Star of Washington based in
Singapore and it is said that he is covering
this part of Asia also. There is a history of this
case. He was stationed in India as the
representative of these two newspapers for
about two years from 1967 to 1969. During
his stay in India he came to adverse notice as
his despatches were tendentious and heavily
prejudiced against India. He persisted in his
biased writing in spite of numerous warnings
by the Principal Information Officer of the
Government of India. In view of his persistence
in writing malicious and prejudicial reports on
India, it was decided by the Ministry of Home
Affairs, in consultation with the Ministry of
Information and Broadcasting and the External
Affairs Ministry, that he should not be
permitted to stay in India beyond May 1969.
Thereafter our External Affairs Ministry
officials got in touch with the Ambassador of
the United States of America and also with
the High Commissioner of Canada and all his
activities were explained to them. Then, our
officer was informed by the High
Commissioner of Canada in India that Mr.
Van Praagh would leave India voluntarily by
the middle of May 1969. Mr. Van Praagh
shifted to Singapore in May 1969. In these
circumstances, at that time it was decided not
to serve an expulsion order on him, but an
order prohibiting him from entering India was
passed by the Home Ministry and it was in
pursuance of that that the visa was refused to
him when he applied for one.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : What about
the general criteria ? There are some foreign
intelligence agents here.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I
thought, while giving this particular case, I
had spelt out the criteria. A person who
persistently sends tendentious despatches
surely is not entitled to it that the courtesy of
the host country should continue to be
extended to him.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I am not
interested in this gentleman getting a visa, but
I wanted to know whether other intelligence
agents of foreign countries are functioning in
this country