

arrested at Gauhati. There was no danger of his having been dropped by a parachute in between. So may I know, Sir, why the Indian Airlines Corporation did not take the discomfort and the inconvenience of the other passengers in view, and why did they not tell the police to send a wireless message to Gauhati to arrest him at Gauhati if they liked. The other passengers were also brought back and their time was wasted. They were put to severe inconvenience merely because some officer of the C.B.I. who was at Calcutta, wanted to get the credit of having arrested him there. He could as well have been arrested at Gauhati.

DR. KARAN SINGH : As I have submitted, the C.B.I. had informed various stations and the security police. This gentleman arrived at the airport just before the plane was leaving, got in and left. Now, the security police came to know only after the plane had become airborne that he had left. They were not sure whether it would be possible for them to contact Gauhati in time and contact the police. After all, this honourable House knows that there have been cases earlier—I do not wish to mention names—in which people have escaped. I think, in fact, the honourable House should appreciate the abundant precaution which was taken and the vigilance which was shown in recalling the plane.

INDIAN DELEGATION TO CASTASIA

*634. SHRI R. P. SINHA :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT † :

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether one of the members of the Indian delegation to Castasia spoke in his individual capacity and not as a member of the delegation ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of such incidents ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN) : (a) Perhaps, the reference is to a member of the Indian delegation who was also an observer on behalf of an international body.

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

(b) There were a number of Indians who were delegates to CASTASIA representing various international organisations. It would not be advisable for the Government to bar Indians being nominated on behalf of international bodies in International Conferences. On the contrary, it should be welcomed.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Sir, the concerned person was a member of the Indian delegation. He might have been representing some international organisation. But that member, Prof. Mahalanobis, was speaking something contrary to what the other Indian delegates had said and when the leader of the Indian delegation at that time, Dr. Gadgil of the Planning Commission, contradicted him and said that he did not represent the views of the Indian delegation, then he said "Now I am speaking as a member of an international delegation." The main question is, Can a person be a member of two delegations at the same time—the Indian delegation and the international organisation—and give two views on the same subject ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Perhaps it is not proper, but surely a member representing an international organisation can express the viewpoint of that organisation.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, can a person represent two organisations at the same time ? If he was representing the International Statistical Institute, then he should not have been representing the Indian delegation. If he was representing the Indian delegation, then he should not have been representing the International Statistical Institute. Why did the Government of India appoint a person as a member of the Indian delegation who represents other delegations. Secondly, when the whole thing happened, we know the international delegates were laughing at what the Indians were saying. May I know whether it is also a fact that when the committees were to be formed, one of the Indian delegates said that committees should be formed of such scientists who were above the age of 40, and this remark of the Indian delegate was also derided and laughed at by the CASTASIA conference? May I know the average age of the Indian delegates and the average age of the delegates from the different foreign countries ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Sir, the hon Member has asked several questions. But, as I said in the beginning, it is unfortunate, if a member expresses a view different from that of the delegation of a Government, to my mind it is not proper. But we give facilities if a member represents another international organisation to represent its viewpoint. But you will be very happy to know that at the end, all the recommendations of the conference, though there were differences of opinion, were unanimously approved by the participating member States and the consensus of opinion was that it was a success. That is number one.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Not because of Prof. Mahalanobis.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : It is a personal question. Number two, I want to make it clear to this hon House that this conference of CASTASIA took place in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO, with the various Ministers responsible for the application of science and technology to the development of Asia taking part. This conference was an inter-governmental conference whose composition was decided by the Executive Board of the UNESCO. So all the 25 States were represented by delegations which were Government-nominated. It was not a scientific conference. Regarding the question about the average age of the delegates of the different countries, unfortunately that information is not with me as to what the ages of the different delegates of the other countries were. So far as our delegation was concerned, I do not know the birth-dates of the members may be most of them are above 40.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : Prof Mahalanobis is 74.

PROF SAIYID NURUL HASAN : I would like to know why the Government appointed a person as a member of the Indian delegation to a conference which as the hon. Minister was pleased to state just now, was an inter-governmental conference where distinguished private scientists were not invited. Why did the Government appoint a person who was going to represent some other international organisation ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Firstly, as I said, it was the Director-General of UNESCO who sent invitations to different international organisations and different Governments. The Government of India, when the invitation came, constituted a committee to represent the Government of India in which, I presume, Prof. Mahalanobis was included. And UNESCO had also invited certain other international organisations to be present as observers, and in that capacity this particular gentleman came to attend as an observer. If he had given an opinion different from what the Indian Government had in mind, as I said before, it may be improper. But I think we should be elastic enough to accommodate such things.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : May I know from the Government—I am not concerned with the names because the persons concerned, Prof Mahalanobis, Dr. Gadgil and so on are all eminent persons, intellectual persons—whether in future at least they will see that in such international gatherings there are no discordant voices among the intellectuals at least. I can understand about others, but the intellectuals are supposed to be high up in maturity as well as in intellect. So there should be no two opinions. Will the Government give them some in-plant training as to how to behave in conferences ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : The hon. Member has given a suggestion and I will bear it in mind. But if I may say so, he should also agree that the experts do never agree. They always differ.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : We cannot agree because we are also experts.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN : Sir, we have discussed this matter at great length with many of us not having the slightest inkling of what was said by Prof Mahalanobis which has created this storm in the tea-cup. Knowing Prof. Mahalanobis, I personally think that he could have said nothing derogatory to India. What was it that really happened.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : May I make it clear

SHRI C. D. PANDE : He is a fellow-traveller of the first type.

DR. TRIGUNA SEN :.. that there was nothing derogatory in what he said ? It was only difference of opinion...

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN : On what ? What was the subject on which a discussion took place which has created all this furore ?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : It was only a CASTASIA model on brain drain. There was difference of opinion. Every member has got different views.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : think this was a conference, not a seminar where learned people go to express their personal views.

May I know whether any other Government or governmental delegation was placed in the same unenviable position in which our delegation was placed. One member of our delegation was Jekyll representing the Government of India and then he was Hyde representing an international organisation. Did any other governmental delegation have such composition of Mr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde : Is it going to be the standard practice of the Government of India in their craze for search of liberty and toleration that delegates talk at cross purposes in such international conferences?

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : The hon. Member is perhaps—what should I say—exaggerating the whole thing. It is not the correct position. When the whole thing was discussed in the General Council of CASTASIA which I had the honour to preside over, there were no two opinions amongst the members of the Indian delegation. What happened was, at the group meetings, while the groups of different countries met to discuss various points, one of the points was a model made by CASTASIA to consider the problem of brain drain and there differences of opinion were expressed. And here, unfortunately—the name has been mentioned—Prof. Mahalanobis had a different viewpoint as to the model that was framed for that purpose, whereas the other members had another view. This was discussed in a group meeting. But I think experts may have different views amongst them. But I want to assure hon. Members that when we met in the General Council, with all the delegates of the States there was not a single note of dissent

from anybody or any controversy whatsoever.

MR. CHAIRMAN Question Hour is over.

12 NOON

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

REFUGEES RENDERED HOMELESS IN MATIA CAMP IN GOALPARA DISTRICT, ASSAM

7. SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA†:
SHRI CHITTA BASU ;
SHRI D. L. SEN GUPTA ;
SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA ;

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner of the Government of Assam visited Matia Camp in Goalpara District, Assam, on the 6th December, 1968;

(b) whether on the same date a fire broke out in the camp which destroyed most of the houses of the refugees there; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to rehabilitate those refugees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Assam, the Rehabilitation Commissioner of the Assam Government visited Matia refugee camp in Goalpara District on 6-12-1968. According to the report of the State Government, one of the huts of the Matia Group of Camps was set on fire by some miscreants, believed to be migrants. The fire was put out immediately by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Assam State, with the help of local police.

(c) In view of the Assam Government's inability to find land for the rehabilitation of more than 12,000 migrant families in Assam, steps have been initiated to resettle, outside the State, about

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. Purkayastha.