

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: His ambitious plan appears to be hardly satisfactory when he says that it will take ten to fifteen years to provide family accommodation to married couples. Many of them will become oid in fifteen years and will be on the verge of retirement. So, the Government should do something more about it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Sir, the next question is a very important question.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : May I know whether any discrimination is being practised in the matter of providing accommodation as between the officers and the jawans, because generally the jawans are very shabbily treated in this respect? Secondly, as regards the persons who died in the Indo-Pakistan war, their families have been compensated and the compensation has increased. But as regards those who died in the Assam encounter with the Naga underground activities—may I know whether the Government would also consider increasing their compensation?

MR. CHAIRMAN : What has this question to do with that?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : It is very important. The first one is whether there is any discrimination practised in providing accommodation as between the officers and the jawans..

SHRI L. N. MISHRA : So far as accommodation is concerned, no discrimination is made. The jawans are governed by their own rules and the officers by their own rules.

RESULT OF ENQUIRY ON FORGED LETTER OF THE LATE LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

*628. SHRI ABID ALI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the result of the enquiry conducted by Government with regard to the alleged forged letter purported to have been written by the late Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri on the eve of his departure for Moscow, published recently in 'March of the Nation' and 'Blitz'; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (DR. (SHRIMATI) SARAJINI MAHISHI) : (a) No enquiry has been conducted, as none was considered necessary.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI ABID ALI: Is it not a fact that the Blitz has claimed that there are huge files having investigation papers in the Defence Ministry, External Affairs Ministry, the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and other Government Departments? I never saw a denial on the part of the Government. When such an important issue has been mentioned—*(Interruption)* there are Government files about this investigation, that is what has been mentioned in the Blitz — this being such an important issue when it is alleged that when Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri left India on the 3rd lanuary, a day before that he wrote a letter to the Blitz editor and when it has been stated in AL ZAMAN, an Arab newspaper that rhere is a forgery, is it not a fact that two photographs of the same thing have been published in the Blitz itself, one on the 8th of January where in the signature of Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri, the letter 'L', starts under 'r' of "yours sincerely" ? And here is the issue of the 22nd of July of the Blitz which purports to show the photograph of the same letter wherein Shri Lai Bahadur Shastri's signature, the letter 'L', starts under 'o'. In one it starts under 'r' and in the other it starts under a different letter 'o'. Here are the copies. The hon. Prime Minister may see. It has also been alleged that the Russian Secret Society is involved. So far as the Prime Minister of Russia is concerned, he is not involved. I have respect for him,. But so far as the K. G.

B. is concerned, the counterpart of the C. I. A., may I know from the Prime Minister whether there has been an enquiry ? If there is no enquiry, may I now why they do not contemplate an enquiry when it has been mentioned that there has been a forgery ? Lastly, is it not a fact that there is no copy of this letter in the Prime Minister's Secretariat, that there is no mention in the Despatch Book about the issue of this letter? The Prime Minister did not know typing. Is there a copy showing that this letter was typed ? Did the Prime Minister hand over the letter personally to the gentleman ? Is there in the list of persons interviewed by the Prime Minister that day a reference about the name of the particular gentleman being present?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : The Deputy Minister has already said that no enquiry was conducted because we did not think that an enquiry was necessary. Some doubts have been expressed by the hon. Member, and by some other people who had approached me earlier regarding the authenticity of the letter. The first person to raise the question was Shri U. N. Trivedi, then Member of Parliament. He drew attention to the report published in the Arabic paper to which the hon. Member has referred just now. He suggested that Shri Karanjia should be asked to produce the original letter for expert scrutiny. This is a matter regarding which I cannot say any thing. Of course if Shri Karanjia shows the letter to those who doubt its authenticity, it would be a good thing. But it is up to him to consider whether he does that or not.

SHRI ABID ALI : Will the Prime Minister be kind enough to ask for this letter at least? My claim is that it is in five pieces, different pieces collected from different places and having been put together. It has been claimed that the letter contains the despatch number. Will it be possible for her to refer to the records and compare whether it has at all been issued ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is **over**.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He took exactly five minutes to put the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Members must note.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U.K.'S ACTION ON INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

*629. SHRI N. SRI RAMA RED-DY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of the United Kingdom has started a witch hunt for Indian illegal immigrants into Britain; and

(b) if so, whether any cases of illegal immigrants into Britain have come to the notice of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b) Government are not aware

of any such witch hunt. However, whenever any such cases of Indian immigrants are brought to the notice of our High Commission in London, these are dealt with in accordance with our Consular Rules.

VISIT OF INDIANS TO PAKISTAN

*630. SHRI JAG AT NARAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan do not allow Indians to visit Pakistan in connection with their business connections in that country;

(b) whether after the 1965 Indo-Pakistan conflict, some new restrictions have been imposed by Pakistan to grant visas to Indians to go there; and

(c) the categories of Indians who are allowed by the Government of India as well as the Government of Pakistan to visit Pakistan these days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :

(a) to (c) Before the conflict of August/September 1965, the grant of visas for travel between India and Pakistan was regulated under the Indo-Pakistan Passport and visa Scheme. At the time of the conflict, as a result of the hostilities, the check-posts were closed and normal travel between the two countries came to a stand-still. The position, however, changed after the signing of the Tashkent Declaration, when the Government of Pakistan again resumed grant of visas to Indian nationals for visits to Pakistan. As far as the Government of India are aware, the Government of Pakistan are granting visas to Indian nationals on a very restrictive basis. Only short-term visas are being granted in cases of emergency or for seeing relatives etc. Government of India are not aware of any Indian businessman having been granted visa specifically in connection with his business affairs in Pakistan.

The Government of India are allowing all categories of Indians to visit Pakistan except in cases where it is not possible to grant a passport to them on the grounds mentioned in Sub-section 2 of Section 6 of the Passport Act of 1967.