

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : पिछले दिनों में समाचार पत्रों में इस बात का संकेत था कि फीजो भारतवर्ष आना चाहते हैं। मैं नहीं जानता कि हाई कमिश्नर से उनकी इस विषय में बात हुई या नहीं जिस के सम्बन्ध में आप सूचना नहीं देना चाहते। यहाँ पर जो शांति की वार्ता करने वाला ग्रुप है उसको हम प्रोत्साहित करना चाहते हैं। तो सरकार का इस मामले में क्या निश्चित दृष्टिकोण है और फीजो को भारत आने देने से शांति वार्ता करने वाले ग्रुप को बल मिलेगा या या उत्पात मचाने वाले ग्रुप को बल मिलेगा?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Mr. Phizo, as the House knows, has got a British passport. He does not require any visa to come to this country. I am not aware of his intention to visit this country, but I want to assure this House that Mr. Phizo does not now command the influence that he used to do in the past. It would be wrong to think that he is in a position to influence a large majority of Naga hostiles.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: I would like to know from the Government whether they are aware of the fact that the underground Nagas are now split into various groups and, if so, whether the Government would negotiate with the separate groups and come to some kind of settlement. Are there some groups which are prepared to see reason and, if so, may I ask whether the Government would negotiate only with such groups and give up negotiating with the extremist elements?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: We are negotiating with the group which wants a settlement, with the group which wants to talk to us, with the group which wants to see that something reasonable can emerge from this talk. We are not talking to those—shall I say?—Who are not in a position to see reason and they would not come to these talks. But our information is that the majority of the Naga hostiles belong to the camp which wants

to have discussions with us and which wants a settlement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

INDIANS COMING FROM ADEN

*38. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the total Indian population of about 4,000 will be leaving Aden shortly;

(b) whether any arrangements have been made to bring their properties; and

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

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

(a) Due to the disturbed conditions in Aden, 683 Indians, mostly women and children, who desired to leave, reached Bombay on the 14th July, 1967. There has been no occasion for Government to think of general evacuation of Indians from Aden.

(b) and (c) No restrictions have been imposed by the Aden authorities on Indians for taking their properties to India. Government has issued instructions to the Custom authorities to grant liberal customs facilities in respect of the properties, the repatriates might be bringing with them.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, If I remember aright, while hundreds of Indians were either leaving or preparing to leave Aden, the hon. Minister for External Affairs made a statement on the floor of the Lok Sabha, which indicated that he was not aware of this fact of development in Aden. Does it mean that our diplomatic representative in Aden did not apprise our External Affairs Minister of the latest developments there, and in that case what has been done to pull him up so that such callous indifference will not be subsequently repeated?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The statement I made in the Lok Sabha is absolutely correct and I adhere to that statement, and the statement was that, barring five hundred people, others did not want to leave Aden. And we had informed all the Indians that, if they wanted to leave, every facility will be given to them. And we have made all arrangements here for receiving the people coming from Aden, giving them the customs facility and so on. Any reports to the contrary that have appeared in the press are not authentic.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Sir, may I know what factors have been responsible for this anti-Indian upsurge in Aden? What are the factors?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: There is no anti-Indian feeling in Aden, far from it. Our Indian citizens are living in friendship with the people of Aden. The upsurge is against the British and the Israelis, but as far as our Indian citizens are concerned, we have been informed officially that they are living on friendly terms with the people of Aden, that they have not suffered any difficulty and that they do not want to leave Aden.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: May I know whether the hon. Minister for External Affairs tried and asked for the good offices of the Arab leaders to see that the condition in Aden should be such that the Indians may be persuaded to stay and settle there because, if a large number of Indians come from all parts of the world, then it will present a very difficult problem. Moreover, the Arab countries are our friendly countries and so any departure of Indians from that part of the world will be incongruous and create misunderstanding.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: Well, Sir I would certainly use my good offices with the Arab leaders, but the occasion does not arise. As I said, there is friendship between the Arabs and Indians. The Indians are happy and contented. There is no fear to their

security and they do not want to leave for India.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, there have been allegations in the press that Indians are subjected to harassment by the police authorities and that their life is insecure in Aden, and that is why they want to leave. Has any report been received from our consular representative on the subject?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, some reports that appear in the press from time to time regarding persecution of Indians are incorrect. On the contrary, there have been a large number of reports in our newspapers which actually support our own contention in this regard. The hon. Member may refer to this PTI report in the 'Statesman' of 15th July, 1967:

"Arabs in Aden were exceptionally friendly towards Indians".

There is also this UNI report in the 'Hindustan Times' of 15th July, 1967:

"The repatriates said that snipping and burning of houses were not directed against Indians. By and large both the Arabs and British soldiers did not harass or trouble Indians."

Now I may also draw the attention of the House to another letter which appeared in the 'Times of India' today, on behalf of Mr. Bharatkumar J. Shah who is Secretary of the Indian Association at Aden, and this is what he has to say about this:

"Of the 700 passengers at Aden who went aboard the s.s. 'Muzaffari', 400 mostly women and children, were returning to India permanently. The remainder were South Arabians proceeding to India on short vacation and due to return sooner or later."

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Minister is referring to various statements in some newspapers. If something is said by some hon. Members here based on the reports in newspapers, it is taken for granted that the reports

should not be taken as true and they should not be referred to by way of evidence. May I know why the hon. Minister should refer to these reports? The hon. Minister can definitely refer to the reports from our own High Commissioner or from some other officer, but why should he refer to these other reports? He should not be allowed to refer to them like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not refer to all those reports.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I did so because the hon. Member, who put the question, referred to some allegations in some sections of the press that Indians were subjected to maltreatment in Aden.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For that all these reports need not be quoted.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We are very happy to learn that there is a Minister who reads the morning papers carefully. Now may I know, Sir, whether he has any information to the effect that many Indians have been persecuted at the hands of the British? If so, in what manner have the Government taken it up with the British? If so, in what manner have the of this kind have come to the notice of the hon. Minister either through newspaper columns, letters to editors or otherwise?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Yes, Sir, we have ascertained from our own Commissioner at Aden that there has been no persecution of the Indian community at the hands of the British police. It is true that they had to undergo certain difficulties on account of the disturbances that occurred in the Crater in Aden where most of the Indians live. But such difficulties were experienced by the entire population and it is not that only Indians suffered there. The British were quite co-operative. In fact they allowed the property and personal luggage of Indians to come out of the Crater without any difficulty.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it any answer to my question? As we allow the British to take out personnel luggage from India, they also allow Indians to take out their personal luggage from Aden. Since the hon. Minister seems to read the reports in the newspapers—or his Secretary reads them out for his information—has he come across reports that Indians have been persecuted in Aden by the British authorities?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The information we have through our own source is more authentic than the newspaper reports.

श्री गोड़े मुराहरि : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि ये जो 500 हिन्दुस्तानी वहां से वापस आना चाहते हैं उन्होंने क्या कोई कारण बताया है कि वे क्यों वापस आ रहे हैं और अगर कोई कारण बताया है तो वह क्या है। साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार अदन में जो अरब लोगों की अंग्रेजी साम्राज्यवाद से अलग होने की लड़ाई है उस में मदद करने की कोई व्यवस्था कर रही है।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : यह जो अभी हिन्दुस्तानी आ रहे हैं और बाकी वहां से आए हैं वे इसलिए भेजे गए हैं क्योंकि वहां डिस्टर्ब्ड कन्डीशन्स हैं, लड़ाई, झगड़े वहां की अरब पापुलेशन में हो रहे हैं। उन में वाज वक्त यह होता है कि उनको भी नुकसान पहुंच जाता है। यह नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तानियों के खिलाफ कोई तहरीक हो रही है। जो डिस्टर्ब्ड कन्डीशन्स है उन में उन का भी नुकसान पहुंच जाता है, इसलिए यह सामूली बात है कि ऐसे हालत में लोग अपने बीबी-बच्चों को अपने घर भेज रहे हैं जहां वे ज्यादा महफूज हों।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.