

SHRI A. M. THOMAS : Apart from allegations, an enquiry has been made into the altercation by the D.G.O.F. himself. Cases are pending before the court, which have been instituted at the instance of the West Bengal authorities. There are cases of bustee dwellers as well as the employees. Therefore, it is not fair on my part to venture to make any suggestion regarding the causes or to deny or confirm the allegations made by the hon. Member there or the allegations being made by other Members.

COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE

38. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY:†

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister has conveyed to the Government of United Kingdom her inability to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference proposed to be held in September, 1966; and

(b) whether Government have drawn the attention of the Government of United Kingdom to the fact that an early Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers was decided upon at Lagos to take note of developments in Rhodesia ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY : May I know, Sir, if the date for the convening of this Commonwealth Conference has been fixed at the instance of the United Kingdom or the member countries ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : This meeting has been fixed in consultation with other members.

SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY : The countries near Rhodesia have not been very effective in solving the problem of Rhodesia. Could

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri N. R. M. Swamy.

I expect the Government of India, Sir, to take some initiative to solve this problem ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : I have already said about that in the earlier question.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : From the reply given it appears the hon'ble Prime Minister would be attending the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. Now, we know who are her advisers on the United States of America, Mr. Asoke Mehta and Mr. Subramaniam. Has she found the right type of advisers also for the Commonwealth meeting before going to England because I should like to know who will be advising her on Commonwealth matters ? Advisers on America we know.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I am not quite sure whether the hon'ble Member is right in presuming about the advisers. Sometimes he presumes a little too much. But, all these questions, Sir, are important. Naturally, nearer the time the Prime Minister will take into consideration the situation as it prevails there depending on other pressures on her time and the attitude of other countries, particularly African countries. All these factors will be taken into consideration.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Who are the advisers ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : At the moment we are concerned with this question, not the advisers.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I ask a question ? The Prime Minister has decided to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in September. May I know, Sir, if she will raise there the question of the independence of Rhodesia, and if she has already decided to raise the question, can this House know in what form will this question be raised ? The question which the House may like to know is if Rhodesia's independence is not consented to by the British Government, whether this Government and the Prime Minister will tell Britain pointedly that unless independence is granted to Rhodesia, she will not attend any further meetings of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, or will boycott the Prime Ministers' Conference

held under the auspices of Britain? These are the three questions which I am asking.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : The Prime Minister, as we have indicated, has not decided whether she would attend the conference or not. As for the other questions, some of them are suggestions for action. Others are hypothetical questions and it has not been customary in the House to go into hypothetical questions.

TASHKENT DECLARATION

*39. **SHRI ABDUL GHANI :**

SHRI ARJUN ARORA :†

SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN :

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :

SHRI RAM SAHAI :

DR. M. M. S. SIDDHU :

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :

SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :

SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 13 in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 1966 and state :

(a) the progress so far made in the implementation of the Tashkent Declaration; and

(b) by when the Indo-Pakistan Conference is expected to meet to implement the remaining clauses of the Declaration?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) :

(a) Since the 3rd May, 1966, the only material progress in implementing the Tashkent Declaration has been the Pakistani agreement with the donor countries that seized aid-cargoes destined for India would be handed back to the donor countries, and her agreement with the shipping underwriters that three seized ocean-going vessels belonging to India would be released. India had already agreed to return all seized

assets and properties on reciprocal basis. India's unilateral decision announced on May 26, 1966, to remove the ban on Indo-Pak trade and her decision announced on July 4, 1966, to release all Pakistani cargoes, except military contraband, has so far drawn no response from Pakistan.

(b) India had proposed to Pakistani that a meeting should be held in accordance with the Tashkent Declaration and to ensure that it is fruitful we had suggested that it should be at officials' level, which would prepare the ground for a subsequent Ministerial meeting. Pakistan's response to this proposal has just been received and is under consideration.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know, Sir, if Pakistan has actually released and handed over to India the aid material which it has agreed to release?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : As I have mentioned, the agreement was to release the material to the donor countries on either side who will hand it over to the respective countries. I am sorry I have not got the particular details which the hon'ble Member is asking for.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know why the Government preferred a meeting at the official level rather than at the ministerial level?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : To prepare the ground for the ministerial level meeting.

SHRI A. D. MANI : I am surprised at the answer of the hon. Minister to Mr. Arora's question. He says that he does not have the facts at his disposal, when the papers have published that Pakistan has not released in spite of that agreement. Is that a fact? He should be in a position to answer this question.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Those reports were of an earlier date and that agreement has already been entered into now. Those reports were prior to the entering of the agreement.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : The hon. Minister said a little while ago that he made a proposal for a meeting at the official level and the Pakistan Government has sent a reply and that is under consideration.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.