

RAJYA SABHA

*Tuesday, the 14th September-, 1965/ the
23rd Bhadra, 1887 (Saka)*

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*581. [The questioner (Shri I. K. Gujral)
was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3900—
3902 infra.]

*582. [The questioner (Shri
Bhupesh Gupta) was absent. For
answer, vide col. 3902 infra.]

OFFICE OF THE PAKISTAN ASSISTANT HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SHILLONG

*583. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister
of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state
whether it is a fact that the High
Commissioner of Pakistan was asked to close
down the office of the Assistant High
Commissioner for Pakistan in Shillong with
effect from June 15, 1965?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON) : Yes, Sir.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, may I ask whether,
in view of the fact that the Pakistan High
Commission was asked to close its office in
Shillong on account of subversive activities,
the Government are going to take steps to see
that the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi is
closed down, especially in view of the
hostilities which are new in progress?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, the
Mission in Shillong was closed down as an act
of reciprocity. The hon. House will remember
that we were asked to close down the Rajshahi
office and as an act of reciprocity, we wanted
to close it down. At the same time we were
negotiating with the Pakistan Government to

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reopen our office in Rajshahi, because it
enabled people to get visas much more easily.
It is true that there were also allegations about
subversive and anti-Indian activities by the
personnel in the Shillong Mission. But I do
not think that calls for the closing down of the
Mission in Delhi.

SHRI A. D. MANI: In the note which the
Ministry of External Affairs addressed to the
Pakistan High Commission a definite allega-
tion was made that the office of the Assistant
High Commissioner was indulging in
subversive activities. I would like the Minister
to read the letter. There was no mention of re-
ciprocity there. Now, Sir, I would like to ask
the Minister whether she is satisfied that the
Pakistan High Commission in Delhi is not
continuing espionage activities and anti-Indian
activities at the present time.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: If it
comes to the notice of the Government that
the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi is
also indulging in anti-Indian and subversive
activities, suitable action will be taken.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is it a fact that the
office of our High Commissioner in
Rawalpindi is virtually closed because of
several restrictions put by the Pakistani
authorities and, if so, what action is being
taken in the matter?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I want
notice for that question with regard to
Rawalpindi.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Is it a
fact that the staff of the Indian High
Commission in Rawalpindi is not allowed to
have any contacts with foreign Missions while
the Pakistani staff in Delhi is having that
freedom? May I know whether the
Government will adopt a policy of strict
reciprocity in this matter?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir,
there is that policy of strict reciprocity with
regard to the movement of the personnel of
the Pakistan

High Commission in Delhi on the same basis as the curbs imposed on our High Commission in Rawalpindi.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister what are the curbs which have been imposed on the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi? May I ask her whether the Pakistan High Commission has been asked to restrict its activities to the building which it occupies? Can members of the Pakistan High Commission roam about at their own will all over Delhi? What are the curbs which have been imposed on them?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: The hon. Member has suggested the answer in his own question. There are restrictions with regard to the movement of the personnel of the Pakistan High Commission. It is restricted to seven places . . .

SHRI A. D. MANI: Let us know the seven places.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: . . . where they are living and where ' it is possible for us to have vigilance over their activities. They cannot move anywhere without police escort. They can go only to their office and they can come to the Ministry of External Affairs. Otherwise, they will have to have police escort.

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SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I want to know whether the Government of Pakistan has put any restrictions on the staff of our High Commission, namely, that they are not allowed to have any contact with foreign Missions. May I know whether similar restrictions have been put on the staff of the Pakistan High Commission also?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I have clearly said that the same restrictions that are put on our Mission in Rawalpindi have been imposed on the Pakistan High Commission here.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: Is it a fact that the Pakistan Embassy in I

Chanakyapuri is not caring to observe the blackout precautions?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: It is not so, Sir. Once it happened. But they were warned. Now they are observing these precautions.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister stated that the same restrictions which have been imposed in Pakistan are being imposed on a reciprocal basis. A report has come to Delhi that the Indian High Commission is not allowed to contact the Heads of other Missions or the personnel of foreign Missions. Is that news correct, Sir?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: It is correct, Sir.

*584. [The questioner (Shri Ram Singh) was absent. For answer, vide coU. 3902-3903 infra.]

COMMENTS ON THE WORKING OF INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

*585. SHRI M. p. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any arrangements in the Ministry to scrutinise the comments of the Indian nationals going abroad and sending their tour impressions of the working of our embassies and High Commissions abroad;

(b) if so, whether any action is taken on such reports; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, whether it is proposed to set up a machinery to deal with such comments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON) : (a) and (b) Comments received in the Ministry of External Affairs from Indian nationals going abroad are scrutinised and suitable action taken.

(c) Does not arise.