

have happened very recently. It is expected that they will certainly go into these facts and fix responsibility.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : The hon. Defence Minister just now stated that if the U.N. Observers are fired upon, it is not our concern; it is the concern of the U.N. and it is the U.N. who should take it to the Security Council. May I know whether it is not our concern also? They are here to safeguard or at least observe the sanctity of the border between Pakistan and India. When these neutral Observers are fired upon, is it not our duty also to take it to the U.N. and see that the U.N. takes up the issue and decides it one way or the other?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : Their representatives are seized of the matter. If it is a question of merely taking physical care of it, certainly when they come to our territory, we can fire upon them. That is what we can do.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : The hon. Defence Minister said about recent happenings but this has been going on for a very long time. What steps have the U.N. people taken regarding the previous incidents of this character?

DR. D. S. RAJU : There were not many instances where U.N. Observers were fired. Of course violations have taken place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

INDIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER-DESIGNATE TO
CEYLON

*92. { **SHRI A. D. MANI :**†
 SHRI I. K. GUJRAL :
 SHRI ABDUL GHANI :
 SHRI S. C. DEB :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Bhimsen Sachar, India's High Commissioner-designate

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. D. Mani.

to Ceylon, has expressed his inability to accept the assignment; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for his refusal to accept the office?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Shri Bhimsen Sachar has raised certain points in connection with his appointment which are under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Since considerable publicity has been given to the point of view of Mr. Bhimsen Sachar, may I ask the Minister for External Affairs whether Mr. Bhimsen Sachar demanded that he should have direct dealings with the Minister of External Affairs and not through the officials of the Ministry? Was it one of the points that were raised in his correspondence with the Government?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, he did raise certain points of procedure about the manner of correspondence. These points are being examined and I request the hon. Member to wait till we take a final decision.

SHRI A. D. MANI : What is the present practice of correspondence between the Ministry of External Affairs and Ambassadors? Is it a fact that Ambassadors have to send their correspondence to the officials of the Ministry, namely, the Joint Secretary or the Secretary, and then only the papers are forwarded to the Minister of External Affairs?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, the Ambassadors can write to the officers of the Ministry, Secretary or Joint Secretary. They can also write to the Minister. There is no bar on their writing to the Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That way they can also write to me, I know that. But that is not the point. The point is whether in this particular case the controversy has arisen because the procedure is this that the Ambassador there or the High Commissioner there should communicate with

the Government of India by writing letters at the Secretariat level and they may or may not be dealt with by the Minister. May I know whether it is not a fact that Mr. Bhimsen Sachar demanded that he be put on the same footing as any other Ambassador, shall we say, in the United Kingdom or the United States of America or the Soviet Union, that he should correspond with the Minister concerned? May I know whether this is the main point and whether it involves certain status? This point should be made clear.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I have already said that certain points have been raised and I have already said that one of the points is about the level of correspondence. But I have made it clear that the Ambassadors or the High Commissioners can write to the Ministry, they can write to the Minister also. There is no fixed procedure settled on that issue and there are no specific instructions.

The other point that the hon. Member, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, has raised is whether he has made any suggestion that his status should be the same as that of the Ambassadors posted to the three countries that he mentioned.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Or the same category.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : There is no such suggestion at all. There is no special status of any Ambassador who is posted to any particular country. But so far as Service officers are concerned who are posted as Ambassadors, they carry their own seniority in the Service itself, and there is no special privilege as such attaching to a particular place of importance of the type that was mentioned by the hon. Member. It is true that those are important posts and they carry higher responsibilities.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU : What is the practice so far as Cabinet Ministers are concerned in the United Kingdom when they are appointed as Ministers to foreign countries? Take, for example, Lord Halifax or the Marquess of Crewe who was Ambassador to Paris or the Marquess of Lothian

who was Ambassador to the United States. Did they have the right or did they not have the right of going direct to the Foreign Minister and, if that is so, why cannot this practice be followed in this country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do not know what is the practice with regard to the distinguished names that have been mentioned by the distinguished Member, and I have no intention to follow the practice that might be followed by the United Kingdom or any other countries. We must have our own practice and our own procedure, what is more suited to us. It is not my intention to follow something which is being done by other countries. On the substantive issue that he raised as to whether an Ambassador or a High Commissioner has got the right to address the Minister, I have already said that there is no bar to it at all. He can always write to the Minister.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know why these points which Mr. Sachar has raised and which the Minister has described as points of procedure could not be foreseen before the appointment was made public? Does not the Government realise that this sort of appointment and then thrashing out the issue in public makes the whole thing look very ridiculous?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I agree with him and therefore I would appeal to the hon. Member not to raise it in public. We are trying to settle it.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The hon. Minister has said that the Service personnel, whenever they are appointed as envoys abroad, carry their own seniority. May I ask the hon. Minister what is the position of public men who are appointed as Ambassadors because that seems to be the entire bone of contention? Has the Minister decided that public men of eminence appointed as Ambassadors abroad should carry the same status as that of a Minister at home?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, so far many distinguished public men have been appointed to these diplomatic assignments.

The distinguished Leader of the House here himself has held a diplomatic assignment abroad in important countries like the United States and the United Kingdom, and distinguished public men, when they are drafted for this duty, are given a status which is generally the highest amongst the Ambassadors. So that point is always kept in view.

(Several hon. Members stood up.)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry I cannot accommodate all of you. Mr. Deb.

SHRI S. C. DEB : What will be the importance that is attached to a public man when he is appointed as Ambassador ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : The very fact that he is entrusted with this responsible duty shows that we attach importance to find suitable men for filling these assignments.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI : May I know whether the appointment of Mr. Sachar was announced after consultation with him or without consulting him ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : It was announced after consulting Shri Sachar.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : Are we to understand that the points which are under consideration have been raised by Mr. Sachar after his appointment ? If that be the case, if Shri Sachar is not willing to adjust himself to the procedures of our External Affairs Ministry, may I know why his appointment has not been cancelled so far ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, these points particularly where public men are concerned are naturally not gone into any great detail because may be Shri Sachar was not fully aware of the details of procedure and he has sought certain clarifications, and we do not take this attitude of "have it or leave it" sort of thing as suggested by Shri Vajpayee. If we can find

a reasonable solution on the points of procedure, we will try to solve it. Otherwise the normal procedure will have its course.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Would the hon. Minister of External Affairs give a categorical answer to the question whether a High Commissioner and more so the High Commissioner of Ceylon has the same status as any Ambassador irrespective of the countries ?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : What categorical assurance is required for that ? I have already said that I attach very high importance, and I say it categorically, to the post of High Commissioner in Ceylon.

شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر

صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ جو

سجوشن پیدا ہو رہی ہے اس

کے پیش نظر کوئی ایسی

پوزیشن ہے کہ کسی کو

امبیسیڈر یا ہائی کمشنر بنانے سے

پہلے ان کو کچھ دن ایکسٹرنل

آفیسر منسٹری کے آفیسر

سے یا منسٹرس سے ٹریننگ

دی جائے کہ کس طرح نئے

کام کیا جاتا ہے - کیا ایسی

کوئی پوزیشن ہے اگر نہیں

ہے تو اس سجوشن کے پیدا

ہونے کے بعد ان کی مرضی آپ

نے نے بھی لی پھر بھی یہ فس

کریٹ ہوا آئندہ کے لئے ایسا

کرنے والے ہیں کہ کسی

کو اپوئنٹ کرنے کے پہلے

اس کو باقاعدہ ٹریننگ دی

جائے کہ یہ آپ کی ڈیوٹی ہے
اور اس طرح سے آپ کو کرنا
ہے۔

†[श्री अब्दुल गनी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमायेंगे कि जो सिचुएशन पैदा हो रही है इसके पेशेनजर ऐसी पोजिशन है कि किसी को एम्बेसेडर या हाई कमिश्नर बनाने से पहले उनको कुछ दिन एक्सटर्नल अफेयर्स मिनिस्टरी के आफिसर्स या मिनिस्टर से ट्रेनिंग दी जाए कि किस तरह काम किया जाता है। क्या ऐसी कोई पोजिशन है और अगर नहीं है तो इस सिचुएशन के पैदा होने के बाद उनकी मर्जी आपने ले भी ली फिर भी यह फस क्रिएट हुआ आइन्दा के लिये ऐसा करने वाले हैं कि किसी को आपोइन्ट करने के पहले इसको बाकायदा ट्रेनिंग दी जाये कि यह आप की ड्यूटी है और इस तरह से आप को करना है ?]

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : शायद ट्रेनिंग की जरूरत तो न पड़े क्योंकि जो तजुर्बेकार पब्लिक मैन हैं उनके लिए कोई ट्रेनिंग की बहुत जरूरत नहीं होती। हाँ, इस तजुर्बे का आइन्दा जरूर फायदा उठाया जायगा।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The hon. Minister said, referring to the Leader of the House and similar other cases, that he attached the highest importance to such public men being posted to such posts. May I know whether the importance is determined by the quality and the stature of the person in the country or by the country to which he is accredited? If the quality is not determined by the country to which a person is sent, may I know in what manner the stature of Mr. Sachar, a public man and I understand a Congress leader also at that, is lower than that of any other people who have been so sent? If his stature is not lower than that of anybody, may I know why the matter could not be settled in the same way as the matter in respect of Mr. Chagla, the Leader

†[] Hindi translation.

of the House, or Shrimati Vijaylakshmi Pandit, when they were sent?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I would say that the stature is determined both by the country of assignment as also by the individual stature of the officer-designate.

About the second thing, it has never been suggested that Shri Bhimsen Sachar will enjoy a status lower than any status that was ever enjoyed by any public man before.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I ardently wish that some Members of the House realise themselves that too many supplementary questions are being put.

AFRO-ASIAN CONFERENCE

*93. { SHRI DAYAL DAS KURRE : †
SHRI A. D. MANI :
SHRI K. C. BAGHEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take part in the Afro-Asian Conference scheduled to be held in Algiers; and

(b) what is the specific agenda that the Indian delegation proposes to bring up before the Conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A provisional agenda for the Conference was drawn up by 22 nations, including India, who participated in the Preparatory Meeting for the Conference in April, 1964, at Djakarta. A copy of the agenda is placed on the Table of the House. [See below.]

Provisional Agenda of the Second African-Asian Conference

(as decided by the Meeting of Ministers)

1. General Review of the international situation in the light of the First Asian-

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Dayaldass Kurre.