

out imposing any condition regarding the right to strike ?

DR. D. S. RAJU : No, I cannot say. All these are being examined.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Is this negotiating machinery on the lines of the Whitley Council in England ?

DR. D. S. RAJU : It is not possible to say now.

CLOSURE OF INDONESIAN CONSULATE IN CALCUTTA

*98. { SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA :
DIWAN CHAMAN LALL :†
SHRI G. K. KAPOOR :
SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :
SHRI RAM SINGH :
SHRI K. C. BHGHEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indonesia has closed down its Consulate in Calcutta as per news that appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' of 29th December, 1964; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government have ascertained the reasons from the Government of Indonesia for taking such a decision and if so, what are the reasons ?

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

(b) Yes. The Government of Indonesia closed down their Consulate in Calcutta for reasons of economy.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL : May I ask whether there was any political significance to be attached to the closing down of the Consulate ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : No.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Diwan Chaman Lall.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Those whose names are there should get a chance.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Why did you not get up ?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : There is a name in between.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Do not bother about it. Life is running fast.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : In Indonesia.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Everywhere and more so in the House. When this Consulate was closed some leading papers in the country wanted to make out that the Consulate has been closed because the Government of India have closed it because the Consulate was helping the Communists . .

SHRI A. D. MANI : Which Communists, Left or Right ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not know. These reports appeared day after day in the papers. May I know why the Government of India did not take prompt steps to come out with a communiqué or statement that the Consulate had been closed because of economic reasons, that the stories and canards spread by anti-communist papers had no basis in fact ? Why did they not make a statement ? That created a certain situation and that is taken advantage of unduly by some people.

SHRI DINESH SINGH : It is not possible for us to contradict everything that comes in the papers from time to time but this was made clear by the Indonesians themselves that they had closed it for reasons of economy.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : An official spokesman clearly made a statement that the Consulate was being closed down by

the Government of Indonesia for reasons of economy.

श्री गिरिराज किशोर कपूर : क्या इनके अन्दर कोई राजनैतिक कारण तो नहीं था ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : जी नहीं ।

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Can the Minister assure this House that the Indonesian Consulate had nothing to do with the Indian Communists, with the Left Communists . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is how we antagonise the whole world.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA . . . whether financially or in other ways ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Go after Biju Patnaik.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do not know why the hon. Member is extremely fond of using the expression 'assurance'? Everything that is uttered here is a sort of assurance to the House and the country. On this issue we have positively stated that the reason for closing the Consulate was economic and we should not read anything political in it.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : Is it a fact that the members of the Indonesian Consulate had their accounts with the Bank of China?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I do not know. When the Bank of China was functioning here, if they had the accounts there, I do not see anything objectionable in that at all.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : I wanted to have an information. If the Minister is in a position to give the House the information that is all right. I do not impute any motive but we have some information that the members of the staff of the Indonesian Consulate had their accounts with the Bank of China and there were certain shady transactions.

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SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : I have no information.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE : Will the hon. Minister kindly tell the House if Indonesia has other Consulates in our country ?

SHRI DINESH SINGH : Yes, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In view of the fact that the Jana Sangh felt, or the leader of the Jana Sangh or some such people felt that the employees of the Indonesian Consulate there had accounts with the Bank of China, may I know, Sir, what steps Government took to invite the Jana Sangh member concerned to declare on oath his source of evidence and place all materials he had in his disposal ? Whether such steps were taken, or whether . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have said it well, and you . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : All right, Sir. He said that. Now Jana Sangh must be keeping all records and I want to know that. A mine of information is in this House.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE : Then the question should be addressed to me and not to the Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I would ask the hon. Minister . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Party questions should not be put here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Not a party question, Sir. It is an anti-communist question. A gentleman of the Jana Sangh. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have put the question. I would not ask the Minister to reply.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then there is my another question, Sir, the last part of the question; my question related to the Government of India. What the Indonesian Consulate had said or not, we are not concerned with. The allegation in the newspapers was that the Government of India had asked the Indonesian Consulate to close down.

SHRI A. D. MANI : No.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Then you don't read newspapers carefully. Now, in view of the fact that something was said about the Government of India, was it not necessary for the Government of India to come out with a contradiction and say that, for whatever reason Indonesia may have closed the Consulate, the Government of India never asked the Indonesian Consulate to close down? It was a simple thing. They could have done it.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : Sir, I want to say clearly—if that is necessary—that the Government of India never asked the Indonesian Government to close their Consulate in Calcutta, and positively, an official spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry, while talking to pressmen, had announced the reason for the closure of that Consulate. We believe in positive statements rather than in contradicting anything and everything that is said directly or indirectly by many quarters.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I also believe in positive things.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI : Both the hon. Minister and the Deputy Minister have said that it is the Indonesian Government which has declared that the Consulate has been closed on account of economic reasons. May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India itself has made any inquiry about it?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH : For one thing, not "economic reasons", but for reasons of economy; the two are not synonymous. And then, Sir, it is for the other Government to decide as to whether they close a Consulate. And if they want

to close it, unless there is anything political in it, it is just not done; we do not pry into the inner or hidden feelings of other Governments. Whatever may be the reason, we should accept when they say that for reasons of economy they want to close down their Consulate. Well, it is their sweet will. We would have liked it to continue. But it is for them to decide.

RAILWAY WORKERS ATTENDING CLASSES

*99. SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation to the effect that the Railway Administration are not relieving its workers to attend classes conducted under the Workers' Education Scheme by recognised trade unions on Railways; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) :

(a) Yes.

(b) The question was discussed by the Standing Labour Committee in its 20th meeting held in October 1962 and the granting of facilities, such as leave with pay or time off, by employers to workers to attend classes conducted by trade union organisations was not approved. But there is no bar to workers attending these classes on their own.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Is it not a fact that the Railway Ministry is permitting its staff to attend such classes conducted by other than recognised trade unions? And why is not the same concession extended to attend the classes run by the recognised unions?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Sir, the Railway Ministry has been allowing its employees to attend the classes conducted by the Central Board of Workers' Education and not those conducted by any trade union.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Does it not raise the question that there is no co-ordi-