

[Sardar Swaran Singh.]

not my purpose now to go into the history of this problem and the various efforts made in the past by both countries to resolve it. I am happy, however, to state that in the recent talks that took place in Delhi between the two Prime Ministers, it was agreed to resolve this question on the basis of a practical human approach, without prejudice to the respective position on principle taken by the two Governments. After prolonged and arduous discussions, an agreement was reached according to which Ceylon agreed to confer citizenship on 300,000 persons out of approximately 975,000 who are at present neither citizens of India nor of Ceylon, India agreed to accept repatriation of, and to confer Indian citizenship on, 525,000 persons. The problem of the balance of 150,000 will be discussed between India and Ceylon a little later. Both the conferment of citizenship by Ceylon and conferment of citizenship by India and repatriation would be in accordance with an evenlyphased programme spread over a period of 15 years. Ceylon agreed that the persons repatriated to India will be allowed to bring in their assets and those who were in employment on the date of the agreement, that is on 30th October, 1964, would be allowed to continue in employment in Ceylon until the age of 55 or until the date of their repatriation, whichever is earlier. I have placed a copy of the exchange of letters between the two Prime Ministers and of the Joint communique issued at the conclusion of the agreement, on the Table of the House.

The Government of India view the conclusion of this agreement with Ceylon with satisfaction. The agreement removes an irritant in the relations between India and Ceylon. These people of Indian origin who are hardworking and disciplined will, no doubt, be an asset to India and to Ceylon. Those coming to India will be arriving over a period of 15 years and will be bringing their assets with them. We, on our part, will be able to plan

our constructive absorption into our national economy by devising schemes which will permit utilisation of this disciplined manpower to the benefit of our national interests and their own well-being.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have already given notice of a motion seeking your permission to raise a discussion on the statement just now made by the hon. Minister. I wish the hon. Minister would have no objection in agreeing to a discussion during the current Session on the international situation.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Depending on your convenience and how the work proceeds, the Government do propose to ask for the allocation of some time for a discussion on the international situation because several important things have happened and the Government would like to initiate such a discussion themselves. So depending on the wishes of the Business Advisory Committee, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will strive to find some time for such a discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it should be possible. Then you need not put any questions on the statement.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Yes, if there is going to be a discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do hope there will be time. So you need not put questions now.

RESIGNATION OF SHRI KUMBHA RAM

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that Shri Kumbha Ram, a Member representing the State of Rajasthan, has resigned his seat in the Rajya Sabha with effect from the 26th October, 1964.