

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN; No, Sir.

•727. [The questioners (Shri Niren Ghosh, Shri M. Basavapunnaiiah and Shri P. Ramamurti) were absent. For answer, vide cols, 4742-43 infra.]

•728. [The questioners (Shri G. K. Kapoor and Shri D. Thengari) were absent. For answer, vide col. 4743—45 infra.]

ADVICE TO M.Ps' BY INDIAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

•729. SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Diplomatic Missions advise the Members of Parliament going abroad as to which countries it was not advisable to visit; and

(b) is so, what are the reasons for which such advice is given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) and (b) There is no policy directive asking our Diplomatic Missions abroad to advise Members of Parliament regarding the latter's visits to other countries. However, when Members of Parliament, like other Indian visitors abroad, approach any Mission in this regard, the Mission would naturally advise them in the context of the conditions then prevailing.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that when a Parliamentary Delegation went to Germany and London this year, the officials of the Indian High Commission went and told every Member that it was not advisable that this Mission or any Member should visit Israel this time

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, I am not aware of this advice given by the Indian High Commission. There might be certain reasons. For

political reasons or for security reasons or for some other reasons they might have done it, but I am not aware of it.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the hon. Minister advise the Indian High Commission and other Diplomatic Missions not to try to restrict the freedom of Members of Parliament to travel about and see things as they like for themselves?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Members of Parliament can act on their own and they need not abide by the advice given by the Mission.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Is the hon. Minister aware that even our Foreign Minister tried to prevent me from going to the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League recently at Taiwan?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I am quite aware of it, Sir.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Are you aware that I had to ask the Prime Minister to intervene and it was then only that he gave permission, the foreign exchange permission and the 'P' form that was required? What was the reason for holding it up?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: Sir, this question relates to the visit of Members of Parliament abroad. In this context I would like to know if the foreign exchange given to Members of Parliament is sufficient, especially when it is the question of visiting a country like the U.S.A where dollars fly away?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I do not know that. That must be addressed to the Finance Ministry.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, my friend, Mr. Patel, has made a very definite statement that some official of the Indian High Commission approach-

ed the Members of Parliament »>' to visit Israel. May i know wht.her the hon. Minister will make enquiries to ascertain whether the official advised the Members of Parliament not to visit Israel, whether there is any truth in that charge and, if so, will any action be taken against that official, because he had no business to advise the Members of Parliament to visit this country or that country?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, it was an advice, and the member is not bound to follow the advice, and the member could have told him.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Referring to the hon. Member, Mr. Patel's question, may I ask the Minister whether it is not the policy of the Government to discourage visits from India to Israel?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: No, Sir. Quite a number of people go every year to Israel.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: May I ask the hon. Minister to enlighten the House whether members of the parliamentary delegation who expressed a desire to visit Russia had to deposit £30 with the Russian Embassy in London before they were granted permission in case they become vagrants? Is this how a friendly country treats us? Will the hon. Minister enquire and see that if Members of Parliament want to go to Russia, they are allowed to go with dignity and not insulted in this manner?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: What are the reasons for asking Members not to go to the Anti-Communist League at Taiwan? I want to know the reasons for the advice.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: There are no particular reasons. For one thing we do not recognise the Taiwan Government. That is the main reason. Some of the members have gone and represented themselves as il

they are the representatives of the Government of India, and it has led to a lot of misunderstanding, because the Taiwan Government thinks that the members really represent the Government of India whereas the Government of India does not even recognise Formosa.

श्री देवी सिंह : क्या माननीया मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि हमारी सरकार की यह नीति है कि इजरायल हमारे संसद के सदस्य और भारतीय न जाय और अगर हमारी सरकार की यह नीति नहीं है तो फिर हमारे अधिकारी इसमें क्यों हस्तक्षेप करते हैं ?

(No reply).

MR. CHAIRMAN: The reply was given. It was open to members to accept the advice or not.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Since the hon. Minister has thought it fit to make the charge that certain members have posed themselves to be members representing the Government of India, is the hon. Minister aware that at least those who went with me to Taiwan in June and again recently made it perfectly clear that "we were non-official and we did not represent the views of the Government? If she knows this, who are the persons who tried to represent that they were representatives of the Government of India? Will the hon. Minister clarify the position?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I would refer the Member to read the world press review, because the press has given the impression that these are representatives of the Government of India.

AIR MARSHAL ENGINEER

•730. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: WUI the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air Marshal Engineer has assumed his duties as Indian Ambassador to Iran; and