

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, I have no information on that because this matter, it may be recalled is under Defence and the expenditure incurred is a matter which happened several years ago, rather three or four years ago.

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: After he has come here.

AN. HON. MEMBER: It was only 1962.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes; 1962 is two years back. If hon. Members are interested about information on that score I will certainly supply it if they table a separate question. This question was about his release from there. As I said, he is preparing a report.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :
प्रश्न यह है कि कर्नल भट्टाचार्य* अभी छूटे हैं और उन्होंने यहां आने के बाद क्या शासन से यह मांग की है कि अपने केंस को डिफेंड करने में मेरा इनाम रुपया खर्च हुआ है और वह मुझे शासन दे दे ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has he asked now after his return?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No, Sir. Not to my information.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We read in the newspapers that immediately on his release he came straight to Delhi instead of stopping at Calcutta. May I know whether it was done at the instance of the Government and whether in this connection the question of expenditure for conducting a case was discussed?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have already mentioned that the question of the expenditure incurred by him has not been formally represented by him not to my knowledge at any rate. If and when he represents, we will certainly consider it.

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SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here is an officer of the Government of India who was prosecuted and persecuted there and the Government should know exactly all these things. *Suo motu* the Government should take up this matter and find out exactly how much money has been spent and who spent it. Why is the Government not taking the initiative in the matter instead of leaving it to the officer to make a claim on that account?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is a good suggestion; I will pursue it.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know whether his salary has been paid or not with retrospective effect?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have no information.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: This is a peculiar thing. The Colonel came to Delhi and he had discussions with the Government of India. Are we to understand that the Colonel did not mention anything about himself and they are waiting for the report to be prepared after two or three months? For what did he come to Delhi? Did he not discuss anything with the Government of India or their officials about his salary, about his personal comforts and discomforts? Are we to understand that?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Mentioning something in a discussion is one thing and making a formal report is quite another thing. For the information of the House, I might add that the family of Col. Bhattacharya was being paid during the period he was in prison there.

*172. [The questioner (Shri S. K. Vaishampayan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 896-897 infra.]

INDO-CEYLON AGREEMENT

*173. **SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

be pleased to state whether Government ascertained the feelings of the Indians living in Ceylon before the Indo-Ceylon Agreement was signed at Delhi on 29th October, 1964?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): The Government of India have, through their High Commission in Ceylon, been continually in touch with representatives of organisations of persons of Indian origin in Ceylon. There could, however, be no question of any formal consultations with such persons before the signature of the Agreement between the Prime Ministers of the two countries.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Sir, in 1954 there was a similar agreement between the Indian Government and the Ceylon Government, when Mr. John Kotelawala was the Prime Minister of Ceylon; when he came here for the agreement, he brought the Opposition Leader, the late Mr. Bandaranaike. Indian leaders like Mr. Thondaman, Mr. Aziz and Mr. Selvanayakam also were here. In the same manner, did you take the trouble of finding out the opinion of these important people? They are leaders of important parties there. Did you take pains to consult them before signing the agreement, following the footsteps of our late Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is a fact that Mr. Thondaman and Mr. Aziz are important leaders of the Indian community there, and I took the opportunity of ascertaining their views during my last visit to Ceylon. Both these gentlemen, I think, have already acquired Ceylon citizenship and the provision of travel facilities is a matter over which we do not have much control. It is really for the Ceylon Government to make arrangements for their arrival here if that suits them. If they were included in the Ceylon Government Delegation in 1954, that is a matter

which could be taken up by that organisation with the Government of Ceylon. There is not much that we could do in this respect.

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: When the late Prime Minister took the trouble of bringing them to India, would it not have been advisable on the part of the Government of India to have insisted on their giving them travel facilities to come over here before signing the important agreement which sealed the fate of nearly a million persons there? What prevented the Government of India from insisting on the Ceylon Government to send those persons up here?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: We must appreciate that the composition of the delegation that is to come on behalf of the Government of Ceylon is essentially a matter for the Ceylon Government and it is not customary that we suggest as to who should be included in their delegation. The information which has been given by the hon Member that they were on an earlier occasion consulted by the Ceylon Prime Minister at that time and that they came here . . .

SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: I am sorry to interrupt. They came here on behalf of Indians as a party at the invitation of the Indian Government.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: So far as my information goes, even at that time when they were here—they happened to be here or perhaps some arrangements were made to bring them here to consult and get their views—they were not in any of the delegations, either in the Ceylon delegation or in ours. On this occasion, that process of consultation had already taken place because I had the opportunity of ascertaining their views when I went to Colombo some months back.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: When the External Affairs Minister was in Ceylon and had consultations with these leaders, did he at that time

discuss with them the possibility of our coming to an agreement with the Ceylon Government by repatriation on these lines, that the bulk of them would be taken back as Indian citizens and did he find out what their reactions were?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No numbers were discussed.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I am not talking of numbers, but generally.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I have followed your question. No numbers were discussed, but it was understood by the two leaders that the only possible way of solving this problem was that there would be repatriation of some numbers and those who were left behind would be absorbed in the main stream of the civic life of Ceylon. This was broadly the pattern that was being discussed even at the time when I went to Ceylon.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: May I ask . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, but only one.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Yes, Sir. At that time did the External Affairs Minister give any assurance to them that the moment the number was agreed upon, immediately all those persons who remained there but who would be repatriated during the course of a few years, would be given Indian citizenship or they would be given citizenship only on their coming here?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: This matter did not come up for consideration at that time because we did not know what was going to be the picture emerging after the talks that were to take place later in Delhi.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: May I know whether any representatives of

Tamilnad, official or non-official, were consulted by the Prime Minister in regard to the settlement?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: Yes, Sir. We consulted a number of people, the Central Ministers here who come from Tamilnad. Then, our Minister of External Affairs had a full talk with the Chief Minister of Madras and as the Chief Minister was busy otherwise he could not participate in the Conference, but he sent one of his Ministers, who served in the delegation. He was constantly in touch, not only in touch but also participating in the discussions.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The hon. Minister stated that the Indian High Commission in Colombo was in touch with the local resident Indian Community. I would like to ask the Prime Minister whether information was received from the Indian High Commission that the Ceylon Government was going to insist on a separate national register for Indians. Did the Prime Minister raise the matter in a pointed way in the talks he had with Mrs. Bandaranaike?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It is not correct. There was no indication from our High Commission in Colombo or from any other source that the Ceylon Government, after this agreement, had any intention or any proposal for placing those on whom Ceylon citizenship right was to be conferred on a separate register. In fact, about a lakh and thirty thousand persons of Indian origin, who had been given Ceylon citizenship rights in the year 1954-55, were on the general register. There was no separate register for them. So, there was no information or suggestion from our High Commissioner; nor was there any suggestion during the talks that these persons, who would be given Ceylon citizenship rights, would be placed on a separate register. This matter is being taken up by our Prime Minister with the Prime Minister of Ceylon and we feel that there was no justification

for placing them on a separate register.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: With your permission, Sir, I would like to go back to the previous question. My hon. friend just said that the late Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, thought it proper to invite leaders of Indian origin in Ceylon for immediate consultations while the talks were going on. What difficulties were there before the present Prime Minister and the Government of India for not inviting the leaders of Indian origin in Ceylon?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Let us not forget the facts of the situation Mr. Thondaman an important leader of persons of Indian origin, is a Ceylon citizen and he is also a nominated member of their Parliament and Mr. Aziz another Union leader. We cannot legitimately insist that we want persons who are Ceylon citizens to be brought here and even when we suggested that they pointed out to us that it was for them to decide.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The question is not one of insisting on the Ceylon Government. You should have invited those persons. There was no question of insisting on the Ceylon Government.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I may tell him that we wanted them to come here, but it was for the Ceylon Government to ultimately decide because they have to provide travel facilities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid the Question Hour is over.

12 NOON

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: Sir, on this question we would like to have a half-an-hour debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You write to me.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI: I think it can be decided straightway now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you write to me.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

इंडिया हाउस की कैण्टीन

*१५४. **श्र. ए० बी० वाजपेयी :** क्या वेंदेशिक-कार्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि लन्दन स्थित इण्डिया हाउस एक कैण्टीन चला रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि उस कैण्टीन में गो तथा सुअर का मांस परोसा जाता है ?

†[INDIA HOUSE CANTEEN

*154. **SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a canteen is being run by the India House at London; and

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that beef and pork is served in that canteen?]

वेंदेशिक कार्य मन्त्री (सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह) : (क) जी हां, लन्दन में भारत के हाई कमिश्नर द्वारा नियुक्त समिति यह कैण्टीन चलाती है ।

(ख) जी हां, लेकिन सिर्फ गैर-भारतीय खाने में ।

†[THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): Yes; the canteen is run by a Committee appointed by the High Commissioner for India in London.

(b) Yes, but only in non-Indian dishes.]

† [] English translation.