

form of investment or scheme, namely, insurance with the L.I.C.?

DR. D. S. RAJU: All these aspects were considered and this was found to be to the advantage of the officers. We are giving them a bounty so that this bounty might be utilised for this purpose.

SHRI A. D. MANI: What is the nature of the bounty?

DR. D. S. RAJU: It is from Rs. 150 to Rs. 250 per month.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government has any proposal under consideration to advance this lower limit of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 or so and meet the charge of the extra premium involved?

DR. D. S. RAJU: Yes, that is also under consideration, Sir.

ISSUE OF PASSPORT TO MIRZA MOHAMMED AFZAL BEG

*152. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mirza Mohammed Afzal Beg has been issued a passport for going abroad; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries he is likely to visit for which endorsements on his passport have been obtained by him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH):

(a) Yes, Sir. Mirza Afzal Beg was issued a passport dated 19th May, 1964 valid up to 18th August, 1964.

(b) The passport was endorsed for Pakistan only.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, was an application also submitted by Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah along with Mirza Mohammed Afzal Beg for going

abroad? Were these applications considered together or separately?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah had also applied for the grant of a passport. These passports were applied for when, Mr. Chairman, Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah and others went to Pakistan some months back.

SHRI ABID ALI: Is it not a fact that Sheikh Abdullah and some of his colleagues have announced that they are going to Islamic countries and Europe also? Has any application been received and what is the intention of the Government with regard to this matter?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No application has yet been received, Sir, but when the application is received, it will be considered.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether there is any ban by the Government of India on the Indian citizens applying for passports?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I do not know, Sir, what ban is in the mind of the hon. Member. There are certain rules for the issue of passports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether Indian citizens are free to apply for passports.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Yes, Sir. They are free to apply for passports.

SHRI A. D. MANI: My information is that Mirza Mohammed Afzal Beg has also been issued a passport for visiting the U.K., West Germany, Switzerland and the U.A.R. in connection with medical treatment. Would the Minister deny this statement?

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Where is the harm?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, I have given the information that I had in my possession and I am sure that

the Department would have collected this information, had he any passport other than the one I have mentioned in my reply.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know the grounds on which this passport for visiting Pakistan had been asked for by Mirza Afzal Beg.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The ground was for a visit to Pakistan.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Has it any political implications?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: That, Sir, is a matter of history. Sheikh Mohammed Abdullah went to Pakistan and Mirza Afzal Beg also went with him and their activities were reported in the press both in India and Pakistan.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Sir, I would like to know the nationality mentioned by Mirza Afzal Beg in his application for passport.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: He applied to the Government of India for a passport, and the nationality mentioned was that he was an Indian national.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Generally, Sir, the reasons are given as to why a passport is sought. May I know the reason given in the passport application of this gentleman?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The reason was that he wanted to visit Pakistan.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do I understand that just this statement in the passport application would, under the existing rules, conform to the requirements of the rules?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: It does, Sir, and in the matter of issuing passports for persons intending to visit Pakistan we are quite liberal.

श्री दिमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :

क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलायें कि जब शेख अब्दुल्ला का स्वैया काश्मीर के मामले में और भारत के सम्बन्धों के मामले में कुछ विचित्र सा है, तो ऐसी स्थिति में उनका अगर पासपोर्ट दिया ही जाना था तो एक निश्चित अवधि के लिये दिया जाना चाहिये था, लेकिन आगे अधिक अवधि के लिये क्या किया गया ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह शेख मुहम्मद अब्दुल्ला के मुतारिकक यह सवाल नहीं है। मिर्जा मुहम्मद अफ़ज़ल बेग के मुतारिकक है।

SHRI G. M. MIR: May I know whether it is a fact that the Sheikh and Mirza Mohammed Afzal Beg applied for visiting certain countries at the time of Haj?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already replied to that. There is no application yet.

Next question.

ALLOTMENT OF NEWSPRINT TO COMMUNAL NEWSPAPERS

*153. **SHRI ABID ALI:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what is the decision of Government on the suggestion made from time to time to the effect that newsprint should not be given to newspapers and periodicals which spread communalism?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN): So far all newspapers and periodicals have been treated alike irrespective of their contents or of the policy pursued by them. Government are reconsidering whether or not newspapers of the type referred to should continue to be treated on the same footing as others.

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, the suggestion is that newspapers and periodicals which spread communalism should