

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 8th September, 1964/the 17th
Bhadra, 1886 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the dock, MR.
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MIGRATION OF INDIANS FROM BURMA

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:† S. KRI B. N.
BHARGAVA *31. B™ M. C. SHAH:
SHRI J. H. JOSHI: SHRI A. M. TARIQ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indians who
have migrated to India from Burma during the
last four months;

(b) what is the total number of Indians
who have so far come to India after the
nationalisation of shops and business in
Burma; and

(c) whether the Government of Burma
has given any compensation to such Indians
and if so, to what extent compensation has
been given, a not, what efforts Government of
India is making in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI
DINESH SINGH): (a) to (c) A statement is
placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Large numbers of Indians have had -to
leave Burma this year. There are •still many
Indians in Burma waiting

fThe question was actually asked on the
floor of the House by Shri Sitaram Jaipuria.
S98 RS—1.

to return to India. Government of India is
doing its best to make necessary
arrangements to enable these Indians to return
home.

2. Agreement hag been reached with
the Government of Burma on several
questions connected with Indian
nationals returning from Burma.
Procedures connected with departure
formalities have been straightened
out and the various documents requir
ed by foreigners wishing to leave
Burma are now being issued to them
expeditiously, particularly in the case
of persons not paying any income-tax.

3. Indians returning from Burma
are permitted to bring with them about Rs.
75/- per adult, personal bona fide jewellery
upto the maximum value of Rs. 250/- per
adult and limited quantities of house-hold and
personal effects. The question of repatriation
of the rest of the assets that are being left
behind is under negotiation with the
Government of Burma.

4. Several additional nights have
been arranged between Rangoon and
Calcutta. Apart from the nights of
Union of Burma Airways, Indian Air
lines Corporation have increased their
flights from 2 a week to 7 per week.
Three ships are plying between Ran
goon and Madras/Visakhapatnam.
Up to 5th September 1964, there had
been 9 sailings to Madras and 2 to
Visrkhapatnam. By the first week of
December 1964, these ships would have
made 28 round trips between Rangoon
and Madras/Visakhapatnam. Further
sailings are also envisaged.

5. According to figures supplied by
the Government of Burma, the num
bers of Indians who have returned
from Burma during 1963 and the first
eight months of this year are as fol
lows:—

1963.....	5>9n
1964—	
January . . .	715
February . . .	1,103
March . . .	1,617
April . . .	1,095

May	.	278
June	.	4,289
July	.	5,724
August	.	13,934

Total number of Indians
who left Burma this year 28,755

Total number of Indians who
have left Burma since the
nationalisation of shops . 26,937

6. The Government of Burma have announced that equitable compensation will be paid for property taken over by them. No payments have, however, been made so far. The Embassy of India, Rangoon has been pursuing the question of expeditious payment of such compensation with the Burmese authorities.

7. A scheme for temporary relief and long term rehabilitation of Indians returning from Burma are been worked out. The main facilities given by the Government of India to Indians returning from Burma are listed in the Annexure (See below.) to this statement.

8. The actual expenditure on rehabilitation will depend upon the number of persons returning to India and kind of assistance they need. The Government of India will meet the major part of the expenditure incurred. Accounts of expenditure already incurred by the State Governments have yet to be received and hence it is not possible to say what amounts have been spent so far.

ANNEXURE

Main Facilities given by the Government of India to Indians Returning from Burma

In Burma.—Initial processing of applications to Government of Burma for various travel documents is done by the Embassy of India, Rangoon. As a result of repeated representations by the Embassy, departure formalities are now being completed much more quickly.

Embassy also approaches Burmese Government on individual cases of hardship. (Those who are destitute and need accommodation or food are helped by the various Indian societies).

Travel to India.—Extra airflights have been arranged by Indian Airlines Corporation to meet the demand. Three ships are also plying between Rangoon and Madras/Visakhapatnam.

From out of those who travel by air, those in difficulties are given concessional air fares at Rs. 125 as against normal fare of Rs. 205 (Government of Burma requires all income-tax assesseees to travel by air or by ship's cabins). Destitutees are brought by sea free of charge. Even their tolls and portage are paid by Government of India. All those travelling by deck are charged Rs. 75 per head as against economic fare of Rs. 150.

Reception and Relief.—Returning Indians are met on arrival. Those who have homes to go to are carried by train to their nearest railway stations and given food free. Those who have no place to go to are taken to transit camps where they stay until they are transported to places where employment is found for them. They are provided with accommodation, daily doles and transportation until they reach their place of work. Those who travel by air at concessional rate from Rangoon to Calcutta are given train tickets to their destinations at half rates. All expenditures on these are borne by Government of India, though the facilities are administered by State Governments concerned.

Customs formalities have been so relaxed for these persons that they can bring in practically everything they have owned free of import license and customs duties. Also, returning Indian-s who declare their foreign exchange holdings abroad are allowed to retain them and use them for importing machinery etc.

Long-term Rehabilitation.—Arrange, ments have been made for advance of business loans upto Rs. 2,000 per family, for settlement on reclaimed land for which assistance from the Central Government is available and for the starting of special projects to provide employment to labourer; and unskilled workers. State Go /ern-ments have been given discretion t~> do all these, but Government of India will be major contributor. Stale Governments have been requested to grant relaxation of age limit for Government employment, for concessions in educational institutions and sf>ecial consideration in the allotment of ^nd of plots for buildings etc.

This is in addition to credit ind other facilities available to Indians for starting new businesses or for developing agriculture.

SHRI SIT ARAM JAIPURIA: Sir, from the Statement it appears that the Indian nationals returning from Burma have been allowed to bring only a Very nominal amount but the question of repatriation of the rest of the assets is still under negot.ation. Recently the hon. Minister for External Affairs visited Burma. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what progress has been made and what discussions were held with regard to this particular point?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: S r. the discussions that took place have been reported in the press and a 'join' communique was issued. It is a fact that at the moment the amounts that are brought by those repatriating to India are not large but the general question is still under discussion and it might take some time before any satisfactory solution is possible.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know what has been the 'expenditure incurred by the Government of India to help the migrants coming from Burma and how long it will Uke for the earlier question that I asked, to be settled?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: If the non. Member sees the Statement, he will find that it has not been possible for us to work out the details of expenditure, since we are now in the process of making th, expenditure.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I know bow many Indians, who had accepted the Burmese nationality and had become Burmese citizens, have been forced to ! leave the country on account of coer-i cive measures adopted by the Burmese Government?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, it will not be correct to say that any coercive measures have been adoptea by the Burmese Government for compelling Indians, either Indian nationals who are settled there or persons of Indian origin who have taken the Burmese nationality, to leave Burma. Well, it is a fact that they have taken certain economic measures as a result of which the trading class, particular-i ly those people who were in trade and business, they do not find it profitable to stay on there. Some of the people who were working in those establishments, and elsewhere also, find it difficult to stay on. But if the hon. Member has seen the joint communique, he will find that the Burmese Government have said that those who want to stay on there and to function within the new social and economic pattern that is being evolved there, they would he given all possible sense of security and they can live there with dignity.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, it has been said in the Statement, paragraph 2 that agreement has been reached with the Government of Burma on several questions connected with the Indian nationals returning from Burma. May I know what those things are that have been decided by the two Govern. ments with reference to the Indian nationals returning from Burma? Very recently, Sir, the hon. Minister had been to Burma. May I know whether he discussed with the Burmese authorities about the properties

left behind by the Indians with the Burmese authorities and, if so, what was the reaction of the Burmese authorities with reference to the properties left behind by them?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, it will not be quite correct to say that properties have been left by Indians, leaving Burma, with the Burmese authorities. It is a fact, however, that Indian nationals did have business concerns there; they had assets in the form of goods in those commercial establishments. There are other assets also. After nationalisation the Burmese Government have stated that compensation will be determined according to the principles which have been settled by the Burmese Government, and those rules are applicable to all of them, Burmese, Indians, Pakistanis, Chinese, all those who had those types of establishments. The Burmese Government have not yet been able to determine the quantum of compensation but they have assured us that they will take expeditious action to assess the quantum of compensation.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि बर्मा गवर्नमेंट ने कम्पेनसेशन देने के संबंध में कोई सिद्धान्त तय किये हैं और क्या उसके लिये भारत सरकार से उन्होंने कोई सलाह ली है या वहाँ के अम्बैसेडर को इस संबंध में बुला कर उनसे सलाह ली है ?

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : कम्पेनसेशन देने का काम उनकी अपनी गवर्नमेंट का है। अगर वह कोई ऐसा ढंग या कोई ऐसा नियम बनाये कम्पेनसेशन देने का जो हिन्दुस्तानी या बर्मी या चायनीज या पाकिस्तानी या जो भी वहाँ व्यापार-घंघा करने वाले हों उन सब के लिये एकसा, एकसार, हो तो यह हर एक सरकार का, हर एक गवर्नमेंट का अपना फंक्शन है और इसके

मुताल्लिक उन्हें हिन्दुस्तान की सरकार से सलाह करने की जरूरत नहीं, जैसे अगर हम यहाँ कोई कम्पेनसेशन नियत करें, तब करे कि किसी को कितना कम्पेनसेशन मिलना चाहिये तो उसके लिये हम किसी और सरकार से, किसी बाहर की सरकार से कोई सलाह नहीं करते।

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is it a fact that notwithstanding the assurance given by the Government of India, the repatriates at the Veterinary Science College Camp at Visakhapatnam are paid only one rupee per day for fifteen days and after fifteen days they are asked to quit the Camp?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, if there is any specific matter, we can look into it. The whole idea is that they have given some relief during the period they are in transit. They come to ports in India and from there arrangements are made for them to go home. During that period arrangements are made for their food and lodging.

SHRI J. H. JOSHI: What are the methods adopted by the Burmese Government to implement their policy of nationalisation of trade in the case of very small shopkeepers and also big factory-owners?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, irrespective of the size of the shop they have indicated that certain types of business dealing in particular types of work have already been nationalised and this is applicable to all those people who were running those types of business. I would like to add that the overall impression that I formed was that there is no discrimination against Indians as such.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, the hon. Minister will Recall that in the month of May when an official of the Ministry went to Burma, an agreement was arrived at that all the movable property of the Indians coming here should be left with the Bank of

Burma. So, I understand a considerably amount in the form of ornaments, jewellery and cash was deposited with the Bank directly and through the Indian Embassy. May I know if the hon. Minister took up this point with the Burmese Government about repatriating all this money left behind?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Sir, when the Government of India official went to Burma some months ago, he did make certain proposals to the Burmese Government 'for providing facilities for taking out some of the assets, both goods as well as cash. It will not be quite correct to say that the Burmese Government had accepted those proposals. In fact the threads were picked up from the point at which the two parties had left the discussions, at the time when the Government of India official referred to by the hon. Member visited Han-goon.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if, during his visit to Burma, the hon. Minister tried to ascertain from the Burmese authorities the cause because of which they were not allowing Indian nationals to bring even their movables like ornaments and even small transistors to this country and, if he had a discussion, may I know if he tried to persuade the Burmese authorities to permit repatriation of movables to this country?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Some of the movables are being permitted to be taken out which are known as personal effects. There are other items about which they have imposed some restrictions. We did take up this matter and they might agree to some relaxation but I cannot give any more precise information on that point.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know whether any assessment has been made of the total assets left behind by those Indians who have come back to India and, if so, would he kindly give us the figure?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: No such assessment has yet been made. It is in the process of being made by the Burmese Government with regard to the trade establishments that they have nationalised. We have very little means to make that assessment and we will have to depend upon such statements as the Indians leaving Burma may choose to make with regard to their assets.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Is the Minister aware or will he try to find out how much is at least in the banks as deposits and what is the total quantum?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I think the hon. Member knows very well that the bank accounts in Burma—in fact even in India—are not public property. We cannot look into the bank accounts. It is for the parties concerned if they choose to give that information. How can the Government know from the banks as to what are the amounts deposited by Indians in Burma?

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The Minister just now said that it is not possible for the Government of India to find out the total assets of Indians in Burma. It is a very important question. Why is the Government of India not in a position to find out the total movable and immovable assets of these unfortunate people in Burma?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: The hon. Member should realise that the Government in another country can function within certain limitations. I have already said that for that information we will have to depend upon such information as the Indians wanting to leave Burma are prepared to give and there is little else that the Government of India could do in Burma in the matter of establishing some organisation there to go into that aspect. Let us not forget that. There are limitations within which we must function in a foreign country.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it a fact that large numbers of Indian business men have been arrested in Burma and if so, how is it that the Government does not have the exact figure of sue! Indians?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I did not say that we do not have the exact figure of Indians who have been arrested. In fact the question is being put for the first time.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: No. A similar question was put in the other House yesterday and the figure was not given.

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: I think according to the information that was given to me in Burma, the number of such Indian business is between 500 and 600. The Government of India have already taken up the matter with the Burmese Government and I have left Rangoon with this impression that the Indian businessmen, unless of course the charges against them are very serious, are likely to be released before long.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government of India instructed its Mission in Burma to draw up or make certain classifications of Indians from the point of view of the ownership of property because there may be people like Mr. Jaipuria and also people like Mr. Tariq . . .

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Like Mr. Bhupesh Gupta also.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes. It is important and therefore I ask. May I know if in dealing with this matter enough care has been taken not to create an impression' as if India is not taking kindly to the policy of nationalisation which is undoubtedly in the interest of the Burmese economy and at the same time to protect the interests of Indians, especially those who are small businessmen and arti- ! sans?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: There is little to answer. I have taken good care to see that the national policies of Burma are not criticised by us. , Who are we to criticise the national

policies of another friendly country that they want to pursue in the economic sphere in their own country? We are only concerned with the effect of that upon Indian nationals who are leaving and that is precisely the spirit in which we have approached this problem and if it gives some satisfaction to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, he will find some sentences in the joint communique to the effect that so far as the socialist programme of the Government of Burma is concerned, we have said that we look upon it with great satisfaction, and it is also a fact that in approaching this problem, the difficulties that are being experienced by the poorer sections of the people are receiving greater attention at the hands of the Government of India as also by our Embassy there.

شری عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ ایسی صورت حال جس کی وجہ سے ۵۰ برس سے زیادہ عرصہ سے وہاں بسنے والے ہندوستانی اجڑنے پر مجبور ہوئے؟ ایذا کا روبرو چھوڑنے پر مجبور ہوئے اور جس صورت حال نے دنیا کی محبت کا جو پیغام ہندوستان کو لال نہرو نے دیا تھا اس میں ایک بڑا رابطہ پیدا کیا - کیا اس کے خلاف ہند سرکار نے یہ - این - او میں یا اور کسی مناسب ذریعہ سے دنیا کے سامنے ہندوستانیوں کا کہیں دکھایا دیکھنے کی کوشش کی اگر کوشش کی تو کیا کی -

†[श्री अब्दुल ग़नी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमायेंगे कि ऐसी सूरते हाल जिसकी वजह से ५० वर्ष से ज्यादा अखिर से वहां बसने वाले हिन्दुस्तानी उजड़ने पर मजबूर हुए अपना कारोबार छोड़ने पर मजबूर हुए और जिस सूरते हाल ने दुनिया की मोहकबत

†[] Hindi transliteration.

का जा पगाम प० जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने दिया था उसमें एक बड़ा राबता पैदा किया था उसके खिलाफ हिन्दू सरकार ने यू० एन० ओ० में या और किसी मुनासिब जरिए से दुनिया के सामने हिन्दुस्तानियों का केस रखा या रखने की कोशिश की। अगर कोशिश की तो क्या की ?]

सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह : हमने कोई इस मामले को यूनाइटेड नेशन्स में ले जाने की कोशिश नहीं की और न ही करने का इरादा है क्योंकि किसी भी हिन्दुस्तानी को बतौर हिन्दुस्तानी होने के वहाँ से नहीं निकाला गया। हमारा इस तरह से समझना बिल्कुल गलत होगा। यह ठीक है कि उन्होंने खास किस्म के व्यापार को नेशनलाइज किया, उसका राष्ट्रीयकरण किया और उस नेशनलाइजेशन की वजह से हिन्दुस्तानी व्यापारी, चीनी व्यापारी, पाकिस्तानी व्यापारी, बर्मीज व्यापारी, सब के काम ले लिये गये, किसी को छोड़ा नहीं गया। वहाँ की सरकार ने कुछ व्यापार का नेशनलाइजेशन कर दिया इसलिये वे अपने काम से बेकार हो गए, जिस तरह से कल अगर यहाँ कोई नेशनलाइजेशन का प्रोग्राम हो तो उससे भी व्यापारियों को, हिन्दुस्तान में काम करने वाले व्यापारियों को, धक्का लग सकता है चाहे वे हिन्दुस्तानी हों या बाहर के हों। इसलिए मैं समझता हूँ इसका कतथन कोई संबंध इस बात से नहीं है कि मेरा जो एक सुलहकुन पैगाम था उसमें किसी तरह का हरफ आता है या हमें इस बात पर जरा दोबारा सोचने की जरूरत है।

नैरोबी में चीन द्वारा भारत विरोधी प्रचार

*३२. श्री भगवत नारायण भागवत : क्या वैदेशिक कार्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान पहली जुलाई, १९६४ के "हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" के पृष्ठ ८ पर प्रकाशित नैरोबी के उस समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है, जिसमें बताया गया है कि चीन सरकार भारत के विरुद्ध प्रचार कर रही है और जो हिन्दुस्तानी स्त्री, पुरुष, जवान और बूढ़ सैल्प हैल्प स्कीम में भाग नहीं लेते हैं उन्हें सार्वजनिक रूप से कोड़े लगाये जाते हैं, और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया हुई है ?

t[Ami-INDIA "POPAGANDA BY CHINA IN NAIROBI

*32. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item from Nairobi published at page 8 of the 'Hindustan Times' of the 1st July, 1964 wherein it is stated that the Government of China is indulging in propoganda against India and that the Indians, including men and women, young and old, who do not participate in the self-help scheme are subjected to public flogging; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?]

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री दिनेश सिंह) : (क) सरकार ने अखबार की यह खबर देखी है और वह यह भी जानती है कि भारत मूलक लोगों को वहाँ कुछ कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। लेकिन, सरकारी तौर पर इसकी पुष्टि नहीं हो सकी है कि वहाँ भारतीयों को सार्वजनिक रूप से कोड़े लगाए जाते हैं जैसा कि कहा गया है।

(ख) नैरोबी और दारासलम स्थित भारतीय हाई कमिश्नर जंजीबार जा चुके हैं और यथाशक्ति भारतीयों को वहाँ सहायता

†[] English translation.