

RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 20th November, 1962/
the 29th Kartika, 1884 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CHILDREN'S DELEGATIONS SENT ABROAD

*286. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 299 in the Rajya Sabha on the 13th August, 1962, and state:

(a) which are the other organisations besides Pioneers-International Social and Cultural Organisation for children who have sponsored children to go abroad on foreign delegations;

(b) whether any efforts have been made to find the credentials of such organisations; and

(c) how foreign exchange is arranged for sending these delegations of children abroad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) There are two other organisations which sponsored visits of Indian children abroad, viz.,

(i) The Indian Council for Child Welfare.

(ii) The "Share your Toys Foundation".

No organisation, as such, has been authorised by the Government of India to send Indian children abroad.

(b) The Indian Organisations concerned receive invitations directly and passport facilities are granted in accordance with the normal procedure governing such invitations.

(c) No foreign exchange is provided to such delegations.

895 R.S.—1.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that in several cases children have gone abroad on invitations received from the foreign Governments and that their expenses have been entirely borne by them?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Borne by the children or by the foreign Governments?

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: By the foreign Governments.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Yes, I suppose so.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is the declared policy of the Government that visits with foreign money are not to be encouraged?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Yes, Sir; we do not encourage these visits.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, then, under what circumstances passports are issued to such children who go abroad with the help of the money to be provided by foreign Governments?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: When I said that we do not encourage it, Sir, I did not mean that we do not allow them at all. In some cases we allow them to go when passages are paid by foreign Governments.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if this policy of not encouraging people to go abroad with foreign money is limited only to children and not to old men?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, we do not like the idea of people soliciting these invitations. That is why we discourage them, but in some genuine cases where international organisations invite people, we allow them to go.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: What is the test of the organisations being genuine or otherwise?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, I did not say organisations being genuine; I only mentioned the cause being genuine.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Who made the selection of children in India?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, the selection was made by the organisations themselves.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Which organisations?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: The organisations under whose sponsorship they went from here.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know the main objects with which these children are sent to outside countries?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, there seems to be some misunderstanding. There is no question of children being sent out. They receive invitations and they are allowed to go in some cases.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Sir, my question was with regard to the main objects with which the organisations outside the country invite these children. Is it for educational purposes or for social purposes or for indoctrination?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: To foster friendship. Of course, it has educational value also.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, the Deputy Minister was pleased to say that some children are allowed to go. May I know what are the criteria for deciding which children should go?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, that is not the point. These invitations are received by the organisations. In some cases when the organisations approach us for passport facilities—that is the only facility that they want from us—and if we feel that it

would be useful for our children to go abroad, we give them passports.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: How many of these children have been sent to Communist countries, Sir?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Fourteen, Sir.

SHRI SONUSING DHANSING PATIL: What age group of children is covered by the children's delegations?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Children between the ages of 12 and 15, Sir.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister who selects these children and what are the criteria laid down for their selection?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already said that the organisations concerned select them.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: What are the criteria for their selection—whether Government has laid down any policy or instructions as to who should be selected and why he or she should be selected?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: No, Sir. These are not Government delegations in that way. Invitations come to private organisations and they select the children on the criteria that they lay down.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, the main question was that foreign exchange offered by foreign countries is not to be spent in that manner and then the reply was that only some are being sent. I want to know the criteria for selecting such children or for selecting such organisations.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I think there is a little misunderstanding in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure there is some misunderstanding.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, in these cases what happens is that these organisations receive invitations from their associate organisations in foreign countries. They approach us for passport facilities for these children and we allow them to go abroad.

Then, Sir, there was a general question raised about our discouraging or encouraging people to go on invitations from foreign Governments or from foreign organisations, and I mentioned that as a rule we discourage them, because we do not like this idea of people soliciting invitations. But when there are genuine cases, we allow them, but it is very difficult, Sir, to lay down any rules; it is a question of the discretion of the Government.

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: Sir, is it not a fact that there is a policy of the Government that all the invitations, whether to individuals or to organisations, must come through the Ministry of External Affairs? If so, all these children are our future ambassadors or ambassadors of the future generation. May I know what are the criteria for selecting these future ambassadors? It takes years and years for bigger Ambassadors to be selected. What are the criteria for selecting these future ambassadors, Sir? What is the say of the Government in regard to that matter, Sir?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Sir, they all go in their own right. There is no question of selection of future ambassadors as such, Sir.

SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI: Sir, in view of the fact that rigorous curbs have been imposed on foreign travel, I do not think there are any more such cases, because every application is now being examined by the Reserve Bank of India before it is allowed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is what you think. It is not a question.

SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI: May I know, Sir, whether any more such cases are still being sponsored by the Government of India, in view of the rigorous curbs that have been imposed by the Government on foreign travel?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: No applications are pending, Sir.

ल्हासा में भारत को भेजे जाने वाले टेलीग्रामों की दरों में वृद्धि

*२८७. श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या तिब्बत के चीनी प्राधिकारियों ने ल्हासा से भारत को भेजे जाने वाले टेलीग्रामों की दरें बहुत अधिक बढ़ा दी हैं ;

(ख) इससे भारत के राजदूत को समाचार भेजने में कितनी असुविधा पहुंची है ; और

(ग) तिब्बत में भारत सरकार की ओर से टेलीग्राफ की जो व्यवस्था पहले थी, क्या वह चीन की सरकार को बिना कोई पैसा लिये दे दी गई थी ?

†[INCREASE IN RATES OF TELEGRAMS BOOKED AT LHASA FOR INDIA

*287. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese authorities in Tibet have heavily increased the rates of the telegrams that are booked at Lhasa for India;

(b) the extent to which the Indian envoy has been put to inconvenience thereby in sending messages; and

(c) whether the telegraph arrangements of the Government of India which existed in Tibet previously were handed over to the Government of China free of charge?]

†[] English translation.