

RAJYA SABHA

*Wednesday, the 25th April, 1962/the 5th
Vaisakha, 1884 (Saka)*

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

MEMBER SWORN SHRI D. Y.

Pawar (Maharashtra)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*61. [For answer, vide cols. 568—71
infra.]

**DISCUSSION ON BRITAIN'S ENTRY INTO THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AT THE
COMMONWEALTH P.M.S' CONFERENCE**

*62. SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: Will the
PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to
hold the Commonwealth Prime Ministers'
Conference in the near future;

(b) if so, what specific matters are
proposed to be discussed at the con-
ference; and

(c) what stand Government pro-
pose to take at the Conference
regarding Britain's entry into the
European Economic Community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) and (b) I
would refer the hon. Member to the
Statement in the Rajya Sabha, on the
19th April, 1962, in regard to the
proposed meeting of the Commonwealth
Prime Ministers to be held from the 10th
September 1962.

(c) Government's stand on the question
of Britain's entry into the European
Common Market has been made known
already. We have shown our great
concern over the possible set-back to our
export trade as well as the termination of
preferential arrangements between us
and the

180 RS.—1.

U.K.. w» nave also said that we would
acquiesce in these matters i' we are
compensated by a substantial
liberalization of import policies in the
Common Market as a whole and by
suitable transitional arrangements so that
the benefits of preferential treatment
disappear only in slow, gradual stages.

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: May I know
whether the U.K. Government has kept
the Government of India informed of the
negotiations that it is having with the
E.C.M. countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, I do
not know whether the U.K. Government
has kept us informed, but we have got
our representative in Brussels who keeps
us informed about the developments
taking place in Europe.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has Government in
its representations to the U.K. at any time
made it clear that their present policy
regarding the E.C.M. will weaken the
Commonwealth link?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir;
this has been brought to the attention of
the U.K. Government and I think a
statement has also been made in this
House by the Finance Minister regarding
the implications of the U.K. Government's
entry into the European Common Market.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: The hon.
Minister said just now that the reactions of
the Government of India have been
conveyed to the Government of the
United Kingdom with regard to
liberalisation and all other things. May I
know what has been the stand of the
Government of the U.K. in this respect?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, they
have made a preliminary survey of the
possible effects of such an entry on the
Commonwealth trade and, in fact, the
ground-work has already been prepared.
That is why the Commonwealth Prime
Ministers' Conference is called on the
10th of September. The hon. House will
notice that this will also include the