

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' CON-
FERENCE

*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

U.K. We have also said that we
would acquiesce in these matters, if
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 Govern-
ment 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 Common-
wealth 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 reac-
tions 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