

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: every year the Jewish migrants go to Israel and the Israeli Government give them visas very freely.

EVACUATION OF INDIANS FROM LAOS

*7. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of Indians so far evacuated or to be evacuated from the part of Laos held by the leftists?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER or EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): The number of Indian nationals already evacuated from the areas held by Pathet Lao forces in Laos is 15. Efforts are now being made to evacuate 10 more Indian nationals from the Sam Neua' province.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if these Indians who have been brought back to India- are in good financial position or they have left all their assets and properties over there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I do not know whether they have been evacuated to India. They have been evacuated from the places mentioned as areas occupied by Pathet Lao forces.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I say that they have been evacuated in the sense that they expressed a wish to come away and they are coming away with facilities and I have no doubt that they have been able to bring—I cannot say all their properties but—such as they could bring and there is no restriction on their bringing their belongings?

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether they have demanded any facilities from us or not?

(No reply.)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: May I know whether evacuation of Indians

is programmed only from those areas which have fallen under the Leftists or there is a programme also to evacuate Indians from other areas if they want to do so?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is no Leftist or Rightist in this connection. These people are shopkeepers. Shopkeepers are not generally agreeable to living when fighting is going on round about them and wherever there has been any such trouble they thought that discretion was the better part of valour and decided to come away and we facilitate their coming away.

ARREST OF AN INDIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL IN THE CONGO

f SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: f ^ SHRI FARIDUL HAQ I ANSARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Indian Embassy official was arrested in the Congo in the month of June, 1961?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): Yes, he was arrested at 9.45 A.M. on the 13th June, 1961 and released an hour and a half later the same day on the intervention of the Indian Embassy.

On a protest being made by our Charge d'Affairs to the Congolese Foreign Office, the Interior Minister of Congo conveyed his apology.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether the official was arrested because of some misunderstanding or was it done intentionally?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It was as a result of misunderstanding. That is why they apologised.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Savitry Devi Nigam.