

श्री देवकीनन्दन नारायण : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाते को कृपा करेंगे कि अभी तीन चार दिन पहले अय्या खां साहब ने यह कहा कि जमन में हम मिलेंगे परन्तु नेहरू जी को कोई चाह होगी मिलने का, ऐसा कुछ दिखायी नहीं देता। क्या यह सब है?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मुझे याद नहीं। मैं कहीं देखा नहीं है उनका यह बयान। लेकिन मुझे तो मिलने की इच्छा हमेशा रहती है।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: There is a report in this morning's papers that President Nasser has offered to mediate over what they call the Kashmir dispute and that Pakistan has accepted that offer. May I know, Sir, whether in that connection any such proposal was made to the Prime Minister for a meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir. No such proposal has been made or mentioned.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

•89. **SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 850 Indians of Pietersburg (Transvaal) in South Africa have been ordered to leave their homes within five years by a proclamation made by the Minister of the Interior; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this connection to safeguard their interests?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) Yes. As a result of the declaration of the Indian location in Pietersburg as a Group area for the whites by a notification in the Union Government's Gazette, dated the 4th March, 1960, about 850 persons of Indian origin will have to move to Barrend Veld, the location

earmarked for them, within the next five years.

(b) There is no* scope for the Government of India to take any action as the persons affected, although of Indian origin, are South African citizens. However, the Government of India's views in the matter have repeatedly been expressed in the United Nations.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, since how long these Indians are residing there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I do not know the exact time, but they have been there for a very long time.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: What are the reasons for issuing such a proclamation?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The reason for issuing such a proclamation is the implementation of what is called the Group Areas Act by which each community or each section of the population is given a separate location for residential purposes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that in the recent months residents of Indian origin there have been subjected to all kinds of harassment and persecution and that in the past few weeks a number of citizens of Indian origin or residents of Indian origin have also been arrested and, if so, what steps the Government have taken through the Commonwealth agency to find out the position and the reasons for the arrest of such people?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I could not give any particular answer as to who has been arrested or how many of them have been arrested, but there can be no doubt that the people of Indian origin—the House very well knows—have been subjected to a great deal of harassment, to put it rather mildly. So far as the Government of India are concerned, they can take no steps through any Commonwealth agency, and in fact there

is no Commonwealth agency for this purpose.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: It is stated that 850 people were of Indian origin and that they had acquired South African citizenship. May I know whether the Government of India does not own any responsibility towards those people who will become Stateless?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is no question of Stateless persons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are South African citizens.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: They have been served with quit notices,

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There are no Stateless persons in South Africa to my knowledge.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My position must not be misunderstood; when I said 'Commonwealth agencies', I had in mind the Crown supposed to be the titular head of the Commonwealth to whom certain things should be addressed through proper quarters. May I know whether any such thing had been done and whether the Prime Minister is aware that after our country's very legitimate reaction to the recent happenings in South Africa, there has been a tightening up of the repressive machinery against the people of Indian origin there?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have not quite understood the question, as to what machinery the hon. Member is talking about. We are interested in this matter. We have been interested in it for a number of reasons—historical, cultural and others—and we continue to be interested in it. That is why we have taken this question up in the United Nations which is at present the only proper forum.

SHRI EBRAHIM SAIT: What about the property they hold there when they are asked to leave their places?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: They take their property from one place to another. That is, according to the Group Areas Act, certain areas are specified. This is, of course, most harassing to be removed from your place of residence and business and put in some other place. I presume they can take such properties that they have. There is no difficulty about it but there is bound to be difficulty in uprooting the people and putting them somewhere else.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether we have any responsibility, direct or indirect, in regard to the people of Indian origin who are no more Indian nationals in other countries?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have just said so, Sir. We have certain historical, certain cultural, certain humane responsibilities. But they are not Indian nationals and it is not a question of their changing their nationality, without being Indian nationals. Most of them have been born and bred up there. They are South African nationals. But we are interested because of certain historical, cultural and humane considerations in our opposition to policies of racial intolerance, and we raise that in the United Nations.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Prime Minister has communicated to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference which is going to be held should include this particular item in its agenda for a discussion so that the discussion can be addressed to this particular subject?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the application of the Group Areas Act to Indians. We have not communicated.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No, Sir.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: If he is referring to the entire situation in

South Africa today—it is a very grave and explosive situation—even in regard to that, we have not communicated any addition to the agenda. But there has been a good deal of reference to this matter and maybe, the matter may come up for discussion.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES FOR HANDICAPPED

•90. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment exchanges opened so far the handicapped in the country; and

(b) the number of persons registered and the numbers of those who got employment so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) One at Bombay.

(b) 252 persons were registered and 51 placed upto the end of February, 1960.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know what the main industries which have been considered most suitable for these handicapped persons are?

SHRI ABID ALI: They are employed in the textile mills and in factories like Metal Box. Some are in Government employment also.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know if the hon. Minister has got any information from the employers as to whether these worker* have proved to be equally efficient and hardworking or not?

SHRI ABID ALI: Out of the fifty one placed, fortysix are continuing in employment and they are considered to be satisfactory. In some respects, they are better than others.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know whether it is a fact that under the care of the Rehabilitation Ministry one workshop has been estab-

lished and there also, these people have proved that they are more efficient than others?

SHRI ABID ALI: That information has not reached me. Sir.

•91. [The questioner (Dr. R. B. Gour) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 707-708 infra.]

ESCAPE OF A NAGA TO BURMA

*92. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a representative of the Sema Naga tribe on the Working Committee of the Naga People's Convention has escaped to Burma?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : We have no such information.

श्री पी० ना० राजभोज : क्या यह बात सच है कि मिस्टर इसाक जो नागा कन्वेंशन पर चुने गये थे उनको भूमिगत नागाओं से समझौते के लिये भेजा गया था ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is true that we have received information that Issac Chishi and Kuhovi Sema who were members of the Working Committee of the Naga People's Convention proceeded to contact Kaito Sema and Kughato Sema, Naga hostile leaders, to arrange discussions between them and the Naga People's Convention leaders. They were detained by the hostiles.

श्री पी० ना० राजभोज : क्या यह बात सच है कि वे बर्मा पैसे की तथा आयुधों की मदद मांगने गये हैं और उनको एम्बेसडर का रक दिया गया है ? क्या भारत सरकार ने बर्मा सरकार से इस बात की तलाश की है ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have already said, Sir, that we have no such information about their escape to Burma.