

they had prepared the notes, they were suddenly asked to surrender the notes and their permit was withdrawn?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: The question hardly arises from this question. This is a very limited question relating to a particular manuscript, and I have told the House that the scholars would have access to this manuscript.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I, with your permission, ask, Sir, whether it would not be possible to set up a small committee of people who are intimately connected with Lala Lajpat Rai to see if these notes could not be edited properly and published?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: As I said, the Government is already considering this matter.

INDIAN TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*410. SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians with scientific and technical qualifications working at present in foreign countries who have been approached by Government assuring them employment in India; and

(b) if no such approach has so far been made, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B. N. DATAR): (a) Seventy-seven have been offered employment in the recently created pool of Indian scientists and technologists; some others have been contacted direct by different Government organisations but the number is not known.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to call back those Indian

personnel who are employed outside on a more profitable basis?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: The policy of the Government is to avail themselves of the qualifications and experience of Indians who had been studying in foreign countries. That is the reason why this Pool has been formed.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: My question was whether for the Indian personnel employed on a more profitable basis outside Government is prepared to pay similar emoluments.

SHRI B. N. DATAR: What the Government has done in this case is the preparation of a National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have done this. About 3,000 names have already been registered, and out of them as also from other information the claims of certain persons for appointment to this Pool were considered. One hundred and twenty three were selected, and out of them 77 persons have been offered appointments.

SMUGGLING CHARGES AGAINST B.O.A.C. SERVICE

*411. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs authorities have made serious charges of smuggling against the crew of the B.O.A.C. service passing through India; and

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made into these charges?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Recently a steward and a stewardess working in B.O.A.C. Airlines were charged with

smuggling contraband through the airport at Calcutta. Details of these cases together with the action taken in respect of them are shown in the Annexure.

As a result of the questioning of the offenders in these two cases mentioned above and subsequent investigations carried on by the Customs authorities with the active co-operation of the B.O.A.C. Security Staff, a wide spread smuggling traffic in gold by some of the B.O.A.C. staff on the Far East run came to light. Where evidence was not sufficient for the Customs to launch prosecutions, the B.O.A.C. has taken stringent departmental action against suspect persons. Thus all suspects have been taken off routes passing through India, and in addition, a number of staff personnel whose complicity in smuggling was deeper have been dismissed.

Annexure

[Vide para I of statement above.]

(i) On the 2nd May, 1959, Miss Jenny Wang, Air Hostess of M/s. B.O.A.C. who arrived at Dum Dum Airport from Hongkong was searched. As a result of this search, 16 tolas gold bullion, one radio, 5 pieces of ball point pencils, perfumes, lipsticks and 15 pieces coins were seized from her handbag.

The contraband was confiscated absolutely under the Sea Customs Act. A personal penalty of Rs. 5200 was imposed on her. In addition she was prosecuted in a Court of Law and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 500 or in default to undergo simple imprisonment for one month under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, and to pay a fine of Rs. 1000 or in default to undergo one month simple imprisonment under the Sea Customs Act. The sentences were ordered to run consecutively in case the fines were not paid.

(ii) On the 3rd May, 1959, Mr. David Charles Furlonger, Flight Steward of B.O.A.C. who arrived at

Dum Dum Airport from London via Zurich, Beirut, Karachi and Delhi was searched. The search yielded results in the form of two bars of gold weighing 170 tolas valued at Rs. 21,250 which were found concealed in a belt worn around his waist. Mr. Furlonger was prosecuted and sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 3000 or in default to undergo 3 months Rigorous Imprisonment. The fine was paid.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: From the statement it appears that on May 2nd Miss Jenny Wang, Air Hostess, landed at Dum Dum and was apprehended.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: When?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: 2nd May. On the 3rd May Mr. David Charles Furlonger, Flight Steward of the B.O.A.C. who arrived at Dum Dum was also apprehended for possession of contraband articles. It appears from the statement that a system of smuggling was being operated through this particular Airline, operated rather by the stewards or personnel of the Airline. May I know whether Government has held an enquiry into this matter?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: We held an enquiry. We have found out the ring and we have been able to liquidate that ring. A number of persons, including these two persons which the hon. Member quoted, have been prosecuted, and the B.O.A.C. have co-operated abundantly. They have put off all suspected persons from this route. In addition they have taken disciplinary action and dismissed about 50 persons on their staff. Some more action is proceeding. In this particular matter we are satisfied that the ring, whatever it was, had been broken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: A Reuter's news emanating from London says that Calcutta has been described as an ideal centre for smuggling since it is on the main route, etc. May I know whether after these arrests or

these prosecutions the Government held an enquiry to find out as to who are their partners in India, specially in Calcutta, because it is suspected that a ring operates in Calcutta itself with which some very prominent Indians are also involved.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: It will not be in the public interest to disclose the names of the Indian partners, if any, but we can assure the House that we tried to trap those connected with the smuggling, and those who have been found guilty have been dealt with. In this particular matter we are satisfied that this ring is broken.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The point is whether on the Indian side also there were people in that ring and if so, what has been done by the Government in that regard. How many people were there?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Sir, it is difficult to give the number as to how many persons were there. These are, many of them, *sub judice* matters. We cannot deal with them unless there is enough proof. The B.O.A.C. have dealt with them departmentally. So far we have not come across cases in which our Customs officials are involved. Whoever have been dealt with departmentally or in courts have been of course persons from outside. Unless we have evidence to prove against them in court, there is no point in taking them to court.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The ring had been liquidated. He said it is *sub judice*. Do I understand that the number is *sub judice* or can he give the number?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Cases?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: From what the hon. Minister has said it appears that some Indians are also involved. May I know whether any of them has been arrested in this connection or whether investigation against any of them has been started? If so, at least the hon. Minister

should give us the number of such persons against whom investigation is in progress.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: The hon. Member is unnecessarily suspicious. The ring was not in India. The ring was operating from Hongkong, and whether they were couriers or the B.O.A.C. personnel who were involved in it, most of them have been dealt with. There may be certain Indian counterparts but actually the ring was operating in Hongkong and we have been able to find out the ring and liquidate it. There should not be any unnecessary suspicion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What he wants to know is whether Indians were also involved and, if so, whether you can give the number.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: They were not directly involved. Certainly some goods come and there may be some Indian counterparts to get them or buy them. Some Indian counterparts may be there. We cannot take action against them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The hon. Minister should give a straight answer. My question clearly was whether, following such arrests or having regard to the information that Government was in possession of earlier, any enquiry was instituted to find out the Indian counterparts operating in Calcutta as recipients or abettors in this thing. If so, I want to know in how many cases such investigation was launched.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not expected to show your fist like that.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: I explained amply that . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whenever evidence was there, whether sufficient action was taken—that is the question.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT: Yes, Sir.