

(b) whether it is a fact that these persons have also lost the right of Indian citizenship and thus become Stateless; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take to secure these Stateless persons their legitimate right to citizenship in either of the two countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) 187,788 applications for Ceylon citizenship covering 647,360 persons have been rejected upto the end of September 1957.

(b) Under the Indo-Ceylon Agreement of January 1954, it is open to the persons of Indian origin in Ceylon, who are not registered as Ceylon citizens, to register themselves as Indian Citizens at the office of the Indian High Commissioner in Ceylon, in accordance with the provisions of Article 8 of the Constitution of India.

(c) The future status of these persons who have not been accepted as Ceylon citizens is the main problem which awaits further discussions between the Governments of India and Ceylon.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, how many applications have been accepted by the Ceylon Government for Ceylonese citizenship?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: 22,835 applications covering 88,819 have been accepted by the Ceylon Government.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that talks had been held between the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister of Ceylon when he last visited India and, if so, what has been the outcome; what has been the result of the talks?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir, some talks were held and the outcome was not very precise or definite except that friendliness continued.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Does the Government propose to take back the citizens who are completely rejected by the Ceylon Government as citizens of Ceylon?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir. What I mean to say is that we do not accept the fact that they are Indian nationals, but if in the normal course they become Indian nationals, then of course it is our duty to take them back.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR FIXING THE QUANTITIES FOR IMPORT OF FOREIGN COTTON

*471. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guiding principles on which the fixation of the quantitative ceiling for import of foreign cotton has been based;

(b) whether the ceiling so fixed has been designed to meet the growing requirements of India not covered by her own production; and

(c) how the import quotas have been distributed amongst the established importers, the actual consumers and the new-comers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Imports of foreign cotton are based on the actual requirements of the mill industry and the availability of foreign exchange.

(b) Yes Sir, and

(c) Before 1956-57 season, licences for import of foreign cotton were issued freely to mills and the trade.

No discrimination was made between established importers, actual users and newcomers. However, owing to

the shortage of foreign exchange import of foreign cotton had to be regulated. Consequently, licensing of imports of Egyptians, Sudans and East Americans is confined to mills and merchants against prior sales to mills. In case of American cotton, no such distinction is made. Licences are issued freely both to mills and the trade.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know Sir, what is the ceiling fixed under the present arrangement?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Well, ceiling is fixed according to the actual requirements of the mills, as far as Sudanese and Egyptian cotton is concerned.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: I wanted to know what was the actual ceiling fixed so far.

SHRI MARAJI R. DESAI: No ceiling has been fixed that way. No Ceiling is fixed but the amount is fixed from time to time according to requirements.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the quantitative ceiling is going to affect the supply position of the country in the face of the rising prices in the outside market?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, because the prices are not rising.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: In view of the shortage of foreign exchange, is the Government thinking of stopping the import of this Egyptian and Sudanese cotton and replacing it partly by artificial yarn mixed in Indian produced cotton?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, because we are keeping the import of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton to the actual requirements.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: My question was: Is the Government of India

thinking of replacing that foreign cotton by artificial yarn mixing it with Indian cotton to produce fine yarn?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No, Sir, we are not doing that.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: From the statement I find that licensing of imports of Egyptian and Sudanese cotton is confined to mills and merchants against prior sales to mills. May I know, Sir, whether, before the trade is allowed import licence, it is conditional that the trade must have prior sales to the mills completed before it is actually imported?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Yes, Sir, it is to confine the imports to the actual requirements of the mills.

COOKS IN ASHOKA HOTEL, NEW DELHI

*472. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cooks employed in the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi, and their individual emoluments; and

(b) with how many of them the management has entered into contracts and for what periods?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). The Ashoka Hotel has 52 cooks. A statement giving the emoluments and period of contract of each cook is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Number of cooks	Emoluments (excluding boarding and lodging)
1	20,000 Swiss Francs per annum. (About Rs. 1,845 per month). Period of contract—One year from 3-12-1956 in the first instance.