

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 25th April 1956

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna (Delhi).

Shri S. Venkataraman (Madras).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*26 to *28 (For answers, vide cols. 260—269 infra.)

RETURN OF INDIAN JEWS FROM ISRAEL

*29. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian Jews who returned to India from Israel have gone back to Israel during the years 1953, 1954 and 1955; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for their return to India and going back to Israel?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes.

(b) Some of the Jews returned to India as they considered living conditions unsatisfactory in Israel. The Government are not aware of the reasons why they went back again.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know whether these Jews who have returned to India from Israel came with Indian passports or Israeli passports?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: They were free to return when they

produced sufficient proof that they were Indian nationals.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know whether there was any complaint of colour bar made by those who came back to India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Many things are alleged. We do not know how far they are correct.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know whether any investigations have been made into these allegations of colour prejudice there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I did not hear the question.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Have any enquiries been made to see whether there was any colour bar there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Whenever such letters are received, investigations are made and action taken accordingly.

PRODUCTION OF SOAP

*30. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total output in soap production by Lever Bros. in 1953, 1954 and 1955;

(b) the total output in soap production by Indian sector for the same years; and

(c) the installed capacity of the Indian and foreign managed sectors and the idle capacity of each sector in 1953, 1954 and 1955?

THE MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIES (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a), (b) and (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.