

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Our recruiting centres are in India—one at Gorakhpur and the other at Ghum in Darjeeling—and it is very difficult to open fresh centres in a foreign country.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know if the Government is aware that the British are still recruiting Gurkhas within the Indian borders and very near the borders? That is No. 1. And is the Government aware that they are also transporting Gurkhas through India to Malaya?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Yes; the Government of India is aware that Gurkhas recruited by the British go through India because they cannot go via any other route and they go as civilians. It is only later on that they get their uniform and equipment when they are in their territory.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I would now like to draw your attention to a report which has appeared in the Press. (Showing a newspaper.) Here are the Gurkha soldiers taking a plane in Dum Dum airport leaving for Malaya. And the report says that most of them were in uniforms. May I know how the Government can reconcile these things with the statement made by the Prime Minister that our airports are not being allowed to be used by such powers for aggressive actions in any country in Asia or how do they reconcile this with the Government's opposition to SEATO Agreement. Here is the.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, we understand your question.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: As I have already said, no Gurkhas belonging to any foreign power go outside India in military uniform or with military equipment. So far as that particular newspaper report is concerned, I should like to say that newspaper reports are not always correct.

SHRI B. GUPTA: It is not a question of reports. Here is a photograph. I know you do not believe reports but this is a photograph taken at the Dum

Dum airport on the morning of Friday last. And this photograph shows that they are in uniform also.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I should like to have that photograph verified before I can answer.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Do I understand that the Government is prepared to make a statement on this subject which is of very great importance?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly send that paragraph and the photograph to him and he will make enquiries.

*49. [The questioner (Shri S. N. Dwivedy) was absent. For answer vide col. 172 infra.]

POLITICAL PROPAGANDA BY FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS IN INDIA

*50. SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the Minister for EDUCATION be pleased to state whether it is a fact that professors and students who have come to India under the Fulbright Scheme have been indulging in political propaganda among the students in the universities to which they are attached?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Am I to understand, Sir, that the hon. Minister has no information on the subject?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: We have already received information from some places where these scholars are studying. As far as the information goes no such political propaganda is being made, but we still await information from some other places.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the hon. Minister answer my question when the information is available in his possession, or does he wish me to repeat this question at a later stage?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please place the information as soon as you collect the whole information?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: Yes, Sir.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO EX-DEFENCE
SERVICES PERSONNEL RETIRED IN
ENGLAND

*51. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether payment of pensions to the ex-personnel of the Defence Services who have retired in England is being made through the Commonwealth Relations Office of the Government of the United Kingdom;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Government proposed to transfer the responsibility for disbursement of these pensions to the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom; and

(c) the reasons for non-implementation of this proposal, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Originally it was proposed to take over the work relating to the disbursement of these pensions to our High Commission in the United Kingdom; but as alternative arrangements are under discussion with the Government of the United Kingdom, the proposed transfer of the work to the High Commissioner has been held in abeyance.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I take it, Sir, that, ever since the Government of India came to the decision in 1947 to transfer it from the Commonwealth Relations Office to the Indian High Commission, the question is still under consideration?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: No, Sir. It is not so. I said that an alternative proposal has been made and it is being discussed.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The Government of India came to the decision that they should not deal with the Commonwealth Relations Office, in 1947. Is it correct?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The decision was taken in 1947, but I cannot tell you the exact date.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: The decision was taken about six or seven years back.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: In 1947, the question of the sterling balances was considered. A sum of Rs. 224 crores was given over to the United Kingdom authorities and they had to pay every year certain pensions. Now, an alternative proposal is under discussion.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask my hon. friend, Sir, whether it is a fact that the cost that is borne by the High Commission for the payment of these pensions through a foreign agency is about Rs. 22 lakhs a year?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: No, this year the foreign agency charges are Rs. 10 lakhs. This information is given on page 481 of the Demands for Grants, Volume No. 1.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is his contention that the staff of the Accountants' Office in the High Commission is not adequate enough to deal with this matter and thus save the present amount of Rs. 10 lakhs which was previously Rs. 22 lakhs?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: There is now an alternative arrangement under discussion with the United Kingdom Government.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: May I ask, Sir, what is the other alternative suggestion?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: The matter is in progress but I am afraid it is too early to say anything and that has