

SHRI B. GUPTA: My question is very simple—whether a communication had been sent to the British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, to the effect that India did not support what he said—whether a formal communication of this sort was sent. This is a very simple question, which can be answered by 'yes' or 'no'.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No communication of this kind was sent, nor is it proposed to be sent. I do not quite understand why we should send communications to the British Prime Minister on such subjects.

SHRI B. GUPTA: Since we belong to 'the Commonwealth, and since Britain is an important member of the Commonwealth, may I know whether the Prime Minister did not consider it necessary to protest against such action on the part of the British Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Our views are "well known.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Our views are well known, and more or less, we leave the protest to hon. Members. We deal with others in a different way.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA: We are doing our part. We want you to do your part.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

ACCUMULATING STOCKS OF COTTON AND LIFTING OF CONTROL THEREON

*99. SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Merchants' Association of Tiruppur, Madras State, has drawn the attention of Government to the accumulating stocks of cotton and has requested Government to remove all controls on raw cotton; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have abolished the zonal system of allocation of cotton for the 1954-55 season.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether the price control in respect of cotton still continues?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes, Sir. Only we have decreased the floor price of cotton by about Rs. 55 per candy.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether the price control on cotton is only helping the millowners and affecting the agriculturists?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, Sir. My information is that positively it helps agriculturists.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: May I know whether, in spite of the low prices of cotton fixed by the Government, the millowners are not reducing the price of the yarn they are selling?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We have had no complaint to that effect. I ask for notice.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

*100. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South African Indian Congress has requested the Government of India to take up the question of racial discrimination in South Africa with the other countries of the Commonwealth; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to such request?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Government have not received any such request. However Government have seen some press reports stating that

-the South African Indian Congress has passed a resolution containing the suggestion that the Government of India should take up the question of racial discrimination in South Africa at Commonwealth level.

(b) We do not think that it will be helpful or desirable to take up this matter with other Commonwealth countries either individually or in the Commonwealth conferences.

Government of India have raised this issue in the 7th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, as a result of which a United Nations Commission was appointed to study the racial situation in South Africa. The Commission made its first report to the 8th Session of the General Assembly and will submit another report to the forthcoming Session of the General Assembly opening on 21st September 1954.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Is it not a fact, Sir, that some time ago, a round-table conference was suggested between India, Pakistan and South Africa, to settle this question? What happened to that suggestion?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir. But the conference could not meet because of South Africa's unwillingness to meet.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Later, has there been any response on the part of the South African Government to the recommendations made by the Committees of the United Nations, which went into this question?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No response at all.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether the South African Government are not going against the Treaty obligations and the Cape Town Agreement? May I also know, Sir, whether others are indulging in mass massacres and expatriation, and if so, whether there is any provision in the United Nations Charter to check these things?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, that matter was taken up by India as early as 1946. There is no provision in the United Nations Charter to check these things.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if the Government considers it desirable that until and unless the South African Government puts an end! to this question of racial discrimination, no representative of the Government of India—most certainly not the Foreign or any other Minister—should ever sit at the same Conference-table with the representatives of the South African Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir.

SHRI B. GUPTA: May I know, Sir, why this discrimination that way is not being made?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Because, if we started functioning in that way, probably no three or four countries would sit together in the world.

SHRI B. GUPTA: It is no use trying to give these vague answers. I say, Sir, that the South African Government is pursuing a policy which is not consistent with even the fundamental tenets of civilisation. With such Governments we should have no truck whatsoever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are raising the question in the United Nations.

STAFF OF COAL BOARD AND CONTROLLER OF COAL ACCOUNTS

•IOI. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees in the offices of

(i) the Coal Board, and

(ii) the Controller of Coal Accounts;

(b) whether these offices are permanent or temporary organisations; and