

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Yes, Sir, that I quite understand.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is no such Treaty and all our efforts to finalise that matter have failed so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the answer.

EVACUATION OF HINDUS AND SIKHS FROM PAKISTAN TO INDIA

*86. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Hindus and Sikhs from the North Western Frontier Province were recently evacuated and sent to India; and

(b) if so, what is the total number of these persons and what are the reasons for their evacuation from Pakistan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION (SHRI J. K. BHONSLE) : (a) and (b). 26 families of Hindus and Sikhs consisting of 125 persons belonging to Kohat reached Delhi via Lahore and Amritsar through the help of the Deputy High Commissioner for India stationed at Lahore. According to the statement of these persons, they left Pakistan due to their distressed economic condition.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Were these persons permitted to bring their belongings from there?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: To a certain extent, yes, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that it was absolutely impossible for such persons to stay there if they wanted to keep their religion?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: I am not aware of that, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, for what reason these people came and how many more Hindus are staying on there?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: The reason is 'their distressed economic condition'; and as to how many Hindus are still there, I am not in a position to give that answer now.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is the Government aware of the conditions of the people staying in that area and is there any truth in the allegations made by these refugees—about which news appeared—that it was becoming absolutely difficult and impossible for them to stay on there and that they had been deprived of all their property and their lands and they were all huddled in one particular building? Is there any truth in it?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: I am not aware of such allegations.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Have these people who have arrived from there been rehabilitated?

SHRI J. K. BHONSLE: Yes, Sir; 25 out of these 26 families have been sent to Ganganagar and they have been given all the rehabilitation benefits as are given to others for their settlement.

FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO INDIA

*87. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of foreign delegations, official and non-official, which came to India so far during the current year; and

(b) the countries to which invitations were sent for such delegations?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) The number of official delegations which have come to India during the course of this year is 20. So far as Government are aware, the number of non-official delegations is 6.

Details regarding these delegations are placed on the Table of the House (*Statement I*). [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 35.]

(p) Ten official invitations were issued- So far as the Government are aware, 41 non-official invitations were issued.

Details of such invitations are placed on the Table of the House (*Statement 17*). [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 38.]

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: With reference to the non-official delegations that have been given in the list, may I know whether all these delegations were invited by the Government or were they invited by non-official organisations?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: As un. Member will see, No. 6 for instance 'Indian Science Congress' and No. 7 'International Legal Conference' are some of those invited by some non-official organizations. Some of them are invited by Government too.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Referring to item 20 of Statement I, may I know what is the specific purpose of this visit of the United States Agricultural Trade Mission?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: To study agriculture in India.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Item No. 19 of Statement I refers to Thai Trade Delegation's visit. Has there been any agreement reached between the Government of India and Thailand regarding the question of purchase of rice from Thailand?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I require notice for this question.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: May I know What is the expenditure incurred by the Government on these delegations?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have not got the figures here. Generally speaking, it is anything between Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 32,000.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: May I ask if non-official invitations have to be sent through Government agency or are they sent direct?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I cannot say, Sir.

INDIANS IN SPAIN

*88. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians residing at Barcelona in Spain; and

(b) the number of Indians residing at other places in Spain together with the places where they are residing?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). No information is available.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Has any Consulate been established in Barcelona?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: It was under consideration some time back. Is it still under consideration?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir.

NATIONALISATION OF SOORTEE BARA BAZAAR Co. OF RANGOON

*89. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soortee Bara Bazaar Co. Ltd. of Rangoon is, almost in its entirety, an Indian Company owning vast immovable properties at Rangoon; and

(b) whether the Government of Burma have taken over the Bazaar of the Company but have not yet paid any compensation for it?

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes.