

to the appointment of a Trade Commissioner in Khartoum. The agreement of the Sudan Government on this proposal has not yet been received.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: May I know, Sir, the amount of remittance which has been sent by the residents back to India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I require notice.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: May I know if our Ambassador in Egypt is also our Ambassador in Sudan?

(No reply.)

**INDIANS IN SHEIKDOMS ON THE PERSIAN GULF AND ARABIAN SEA COAST**

\*144. SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Indians residing in the different Sheikdoms on the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea Coast; and

(b) whether Government have diplomatic relations with those Sheikdoms?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) There are about six thousand Indians residing in the Persian Gulf area. No information is available about the Arabian Sea Coast Sheikdoms.

(b) There is no representative of India in the Persian Gulf. A senior officer of the Indian Legation, Baghdad, has, however been paying periodical visits to these Sheikdoms since 1950 to look after the interests of Indians there.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Is the Government considering any proposal to have direct representation in the Sheikdoms to establish direct contact?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, the proposal for opening an Indian consular office, *i.e.*, trade agency, in these areas has been under consideration since 1949. There is also a proposal to enter into political relations with the Sheikdoms at Muscat.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: I am not quite clear as to the answer given. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary said that a certain proposal had been under consideration since 1949, but what has happened to that proposal? Too many Sheiks?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We are opening consular office at Muscat, and we cannot have any political relations unless we have a special treaty with them.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Is the Government aware of the fact that there are proposals to establish two federations of the Sheikdoms?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: All kinds of proposals are made from time to time, but so far as we know, nothing has yet taken any shape. We have proposals to establish diplomatic relations in most countries where we haven't got them. Well, it is a question of priority. If we consider it urgently necessary, we do it; otherwise we postpone it. At present the proposal which we have practically agreed to is to have a Consulate at Muscat.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: How are the 6,000 Indians employed there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: They are employed in the oil refineries.

**BASIC PAY OF CLASS IV EMPLOYEES OF INDIAN COFFEE BOARD**

\*145. SHRI B. V. KAKKILAYA: Will I the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the minimum basic pay of the class IV employees of the Indian Coffee Board is Rs. 10 per month;