

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, 22nd April 1954

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MB. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDO-CEYLON AGREEMENT

*447. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any steps have so far been taken to implement the recent Indo-Ceylon Agreement?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (i) The Government of India are continuing to take every possible measure to check illegal emigration from India into Ceylon and in this work have met with a noticeable success;

(ii) a register has been opened in the Indian High Commission in Ceylon, for persons of Indian origin there, who opt for Indian nationality, to register as such in accordance with Clause 7 of the Pact; and

(iii) A Cabinet Sub-Committee of four Ministers and the Permanent Secretary for External Affairs has been appointed in Ceylon to go into the question of machinery required to implement the Indo-Ceylon Pact.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that the Food Minister of Ceylon has submitted a memorandum to the Ceylon Cabinet for implementing the Pact and if so whether that memorandum is in consonance with the spirit of the Pact?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, we do not know whether a memorandum has been submitted but we know that the Ceylon Government has constituted a Cabinet sub-committee for the implementation of the Indo-Ceylon Pact.

11 C.S.D.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Have not the Government received any intimation from our High Commissioner in Ceylon that the memorandum has already been submitted by the Food Minister in this particular respect and he has made certain definite proposals in respect of implementing this particular Pact?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are the Government aware that these Stateless persons are now faced with particular difficulties and are given complete denial of employment even in the private estates?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The Government are aware that the immediate objective is that there should be only two categories—Ceylonese nationals and Indian nationals; so, the category of Stateless persons will cease to exist under the new arrangement.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: But what is being done to mitigate the difficulty which the Stateless persons are faced with at present? What is the number of such Stateless persons? And how do you propose to deal with that big number?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, I should like to have notice.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Sir, this is a question of implementation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, Mr. Mathur, it is a question of implementation; every kind of pressure, diplomatic and otherwise, is being put. Isn't it so? (*turning to Shrimati Lakshmi Menon*).

(*Laughter.*)

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know, Sir, whether the proposed visit of the Prime Minister to Ceylon will be availed of further to make a review of what has been done so far in this matter?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Lakshmi Menon can't say that on behalf of the Prime Minister.

SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA: Sir, it is obvious; it has to be taken for granted.

SHRI B. GUPTA: I would just like to know whether Prime Minister is going to utilise that opportunity.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not for Shri-mati Lakshmi Menon to say.

DR. P. C. MITRA: May I know, Sir, what is the status that our Indians are enjoying in Ceylon? Are they treated like 'pariahs'?

(No reply.)

MANUFACTURE OF SEWING MACHINES, ELECTRIC FANS AND HURRICANE LANTERNS

*448. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint was received by Government during the years 1952-53 and 1953-54 that the import of spare parts of sewing machines, electric fans and hurricane lanterns has harmed the indigenous industries producing these articles; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) and (b). Not in these terms. Complaints have been received that the import of sewing machine parts has allowed room for abuse. Imports of such parts are now restricted.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: Are the Government aware of the remarks recently made by the Chairman of the Jay Engineering Works that the import of spare parts of sewing machines, electric fans and hurricane lanterns will harm the indigenous industries producing these articles?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: We are not aware of the remarks of the Chairman of the Jay Engineering Company, but, as I said, there has been some abuse and therefore we have restricted the imports of such spare parts.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Are any spare parts of electric fans which are produced in this country imported?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Not so far as I am aware.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that we are surplus so far as electric fans are concerned? And, why is it that we are importing them?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Well, Sir, I find that we are importing some fans, to the tune of some five lakhs of rupees; to that extent, I am afraid, we are wanting.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that we are importing certain kinds of fans and this is being done in spite of the fact that we are surplus; and is it not due to a wrong policy?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is not a wrong policy. We are surplus with regard to ordinary fans; we import only industrial fans and things that are not made in the country.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, my question is: Is it not a fact that fans are not imported whose production is sufficient to meet the requirements in the country?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: It is a fact they are not imported at all.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF SILK

*449. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the foreign exchange incurred by India in the year 1953-54 on account of the import of (i) raw silk and (ii) artificial silk; and

(b) the quantity and value of each of those articles produced in India during the same period?