

COUNCIL OF STATES

Tuesday, 23rd February 1954

The Council met at two of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIAN MISSION IN NAIROBI

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

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been made by the Government of the United Kingdom to the Government of India about the activities of the Indian Mission in Nairobi; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for the recall of Shri A. B. Pant, Indian High Commissioner in Nairobi?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU):

(a) No official representations were made by, or on behalf of, the U.K. Government.

(b) Shri Pant had served for over 5 years as our Commissioner in Nairobi and his transfer was due in the normal course.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: Is the Government aware of the allegations which have been made against us in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Daily Express* and other papers in England in this connection?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Allegations about what?

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: The allegations were in connection with the activities of our Commissioner, Mr. Pant. The allegations were to the effect that he was indulging in anti-British activities.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, we have seen such reports in the British Press. As a matter of fact, I

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should like to express Government's appreciation of the services Shri Pant has rendered. It was naturally his function and was also our desire that he should develop friendly relations between the Indians and the Africans there, in fact between all the communities there, and he succeeded in doing that in a very large measure. I cannot answer for the opinions or views of the newspapers in England.

SHRI SARDAR SINGH: I am very glad to hear the Government's appreciation of Mr. Pant's activities. I would like to ask whether Government would consider making friendly representations to the British Government, in view of the fact that the *Daily Telegraph* might almost be described as one of the official organs of the Conservative Party, and asking whether the British Government could use its influence to prevent such unjustified attacks against us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

INCREASE IN ARMED FORCES IN THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN INDIA

*72. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has recently been considerable increase in the armed forces in the Portuguese territories in India; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to ensure that peace in the border areas is not disturbed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) There has recently been an increase in the armed forces and military equipment in Goa; and the military authorities have been authorised to requisition premises, vehicles and the services of certain categories of persons.

(b) The Government will take such steps as are necessary if the peace of the border areas is threatened.