

(b) the extent of their assets repatriated;

(c) whether any central scheme has been drawn and implemented to rehabilitate the displaced persons from Burma; and

(d) the amount earmarked and the amount spent for their rehabilitation by Government?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh):** (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2935/64].

#### Indians in Burma

- \*16. {
- Shri Laxmi Dass:
  - Shri P. Kunhan:
  - Shri Nanubiar:
  - Dr. Saradish Roy:
  - Shri Umbichbava:
  - Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:
  - Shri Vishram Prasad:
  - Shri S. M. Banerjee:
  - Shri P. Venkatasubbalah:
  - Shri D. C. Sharma:
  - Shri Solanki:
  - Shri Mahananda:
  - Shri Narasimha Reddy:
  - Shri Jashvant Mehta:
  - Shri A. S. Saigal:
  - Shri Kolla Venkalah:
  - Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
  - Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
  - Shri K. N. Tiwary:
  - Shri Chandak:
  - Shri Mohammad Elias:
  - Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
  - Shri D. D. Mantri:
  - Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have reached any accord with the Burmese Government regarding the future of Indians still wanting to leave Burma; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh**

**Singh):** (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2936/64].

**Shri Seahlyan:** May I know whether any assessment has been made of the worth of the properties, assets and bank credit taken by the Burmese Government from these repatriates and whether any steps have been taken at least to get any interim compensation for these people?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** It has not been possible to make an accurate assessment of the property left behind in Burma. We are discussing this matter with the Burmese Government.

**Shri Seahlyan:** May I know whether the same amount of relief and facilities given to the refugees from Pakistan will be given to the repatriates from Burma?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** I have given in the statement the facilities that are being given to those who are coming from Burma. I think they are sufficient.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Has the Government assured itself that in the matter of the rules and regulations which the Burmese Government have brought in to govern the conditions of these repatriates, there is no discrimination that is being exercised by them against Indians in particular as compared with other foreign nationals?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Hem Barua:** When our Foreign Secretary visited Rangoon, it was agreed upon that the hardships of those Indians who want to leave Burma will be removed. But those Indians who have come after the assurance was given say that the hardships have not been removed, but stiffened further. May I know whether our Foreign Minister who recently visited Rangoon had discussions about it and whether he is satisfied that the Burmese Government

are prepared to implement whatever assurance they give to us?

**The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh):** I have no doubt that whatever assurance the Burmese Government have given or are prepared to give, they will implement. But the difficulty is that the arrangements that have been agreed so far do not provide complete relief for the various difficulties that the repatriates are faced with.

**Shri Hem Barua:** What about the other part of the question? When our Foreign Secretary visited Burma, he was given an assurance that the hardships experienced by the Indians living in Burma will be removed and they will be given facilities, whereas they are not given those facilities.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** If I may remind the hon. Member, the word 'hardship' has not been used anywhere.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Everybody understands it.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** It is our conception of the various troubles or difficulties that they were facing. About those matters with regard to which agreements had been arrived at, they are being implemented. But the important question of the repatriates taking out their assets still remains.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** May I know what tests were applied by the Foreign Minister of India in coming to the conclusion that there is no discrimination against Indians particularly when there is a very small number of nationals of any other country who are affected and the bulk of those affected are Indians?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** The trade establishments that have been taken over belong to Indians, Burmese, Pakistanis and Chinese. The same law or regulation is applicable irres-

pective of the nationality of the owner of a trade establishment. It is not correct that the majority of these trade establishments belong to Indians.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** May I know how many more applications have been received either by our Indian Ambassador there or by the Indian Government from the various Burmese people of Indian origin who are keen to come to India?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** A very large number of Indians are wanting to come over to India. It is very difficult for me to give any exact figure of the number of applications.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether during the Foreign Minister's visit a discussion took place about the Indian labour and the Burmese Government probably asked the Indian Government to encourage the stay of Indian labour there? May I know whether any specific discussion was held so that conditions could be created for the Indian labour to stay there in Burma; if so, what are those conditions?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** A mention of this has been made in the Joint Communique that was issued before I left Burma. It is clearly mentioned in that Communique that those Indians or other foreigners who are prepared to live in the changed circumstances, where there is a new social and economic order, and who are prepared to function within that set-up are welcome to stay on. I had also the assurance from the highest quarter that their security and their dignity will be the responsibility of the Burmese Government. I think this did have some re-assuring effect upon the Indians who are in Burma.

**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:** Can the hon. Minister assure the House that there has been no hardship or distress caused by this un-precedented delay in the payment of even the interim compensation?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** How can I assure the House, when I say that people are facing hardships?

**Shri Nath Pal:** He declined to use the word 'hardship'.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He himself has now used the word 'hardship'. He understands it.

**Mr. Speaker:** He understands it all right. He said that nowhere it has been used, but now he has used it (*Interruption*).

**Shri P. K. Deo:** In spite of the fact that the Burmese Government announced that no discrimination would be shown to foreign nationals so far as implementation of their present programme was concerned, we have ourselves seen during our visit to Rangoon that Chinese and Pakistani traders are carrying on jolly well whereas the law is being rigorously enforced so far as Indian traders are concerned (*Interruption*). May we know whether the Government of India has been pursuing this matter in right earnest and it has been successful in its negotiations regarding repatriation of the assets of Indians there and quick payment of compensation for those assets that are left over there?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** The hon. Member has combined three questions in one.

**Mr. Speaker:** He might answer only one of them.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** With your permission, I will try to answer all the three. The first question is whether the other nationals, namely, Pakistanis and Chinese are being treated by the Government of Burma in any manner different from the Indian nationals.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** It is a fact.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the hon. Member want to get information from the Government or give his information?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** The information of the hon. Member is not correct. If the hon. Member formed his opinion by meeting certain sections of the foreign nationals there, from that he should not jump to a conclusion which is not justified by facts. I would suggest that he should accept the assurance of the Burmese Government, which is also borne out by circumstances. The second question is about the repatriation of assets which is the subject matter of negotiation. Then he asked about making arrangements for the migration of people. That is already covered by the written reply that has been given.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:** May I know whether the Foreign Minister, before coming to a definite conclusion that there is no discrimination, has sought the opinions of the Indians in Burma and, if so, what was the opinion expressed to him during his visit to Burma?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** By and large, the Indian nationals or persons of Indian origin, even though they have now acquired Burmese nationality, confirm the impression which I have conveyed to this House that there has been no discrimination between Indian and other non-Burmese nationals.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बर्मा के प्रतिरिक्त और किन देशों से हिन्दुस्तानी निकाल जा रहे हैं ? क्या भारत सरकार और देशों से बान चला रही है . . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह इस में नहीं आ सकता ।

**Shri Kapur Singh:** May I ask whether the hon. Minister of External Affairs has by any chance seen a letter in this morning's columns of *Statesman* by a recent emigre from Burma stating that even his tooth brush and shaving brush have been confiscated at the air port and, if so, whether this is also in consonance

with the new social order that is being established in Burma?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. There ought not to be any reflections in a question. It should only seek some information.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** It is a new social order that is being established . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** There ought not to be any reflection in the question.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** I have not seen that letter published in the newspaper. But I cannot imagine that even a tooth brush or anything of that kind would be confiscated.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is so published today.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Even worse things have happened.

**Shri Hem Barua:** He has not said anything about the shaving brush.

**Mr. Speaker:** He does not like to mention it.

**श्री राम सहाय पांडेय :** क्या यह सच है कि बर्मा सरकार ने भारतीय प्रवासियों लिए कुछ विशेष नियम निर्धारित किये हैं जो बर्मा के मूलभूत निवासियों के लिए बनाए गए नियमों से भिन्न हैं। उनके अन्तर्गत ही भारतीयों को वहां रहने दिया जाएगा अन्यथा नहीं ?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** I do not know which particular regulation or rule is being referred to by the hon. Member. I cannot answer it in a general manner. If in any particular sphere there is any particular rule or regulation which is in the mind of the hon. Member, I will try to reply to it. But let us not forget that there are several

rules and regulations in our own country which are not applicable equally to Indians and non-Indians. So, I cannot answer the question unless a specific regulation is referred to by the hon. Member.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी :** अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि बर्मा सरकार बर्मा में रहने वाले उन हिन्दुस्तानियों को वहां रहने देना चाहती है जो कि बदले हुए हालात में रहना चाहें। क्या मंत्री महोदय ने बर्मा में रहने वाले हिन्दुस्तानियों से बातचीत की है कि उन में से कितने लोग वहां रहना चाहते हैं ?

**श्री स्वर्ण सिंह :** काफी गिनती में ऐसे हिन्दुस्तानी हैं जो बर्मा में रहना चाहते हैं। लाखों की गिनती में वहां हिन्दुस्तानी बेती करते हैं और उनका इरादा वहां रहने और काम करने का है। उन में से कइयों की जमीन पर भी मिल्कियत है। कछ हिन्दुस्तानी जो दूसरे काम करते हैं वे भी बर्मा में रह सकते हैं और मेरा लयाल है कि वे वहां रहेंगे।

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question. Shri Yashpal Singh.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** May I be allowed to ask a supplementary question?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do appreciate that there are difficulties, but hon Members also must appreciate that 81 hon. Members had given notice of one question.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** I come from Burma; therefore, I wanted to ask one question.

**Mr. Speaker:** We welcome him in his recent arrival, but he shall have to wait. Shri Yashpal Singh.