

the conferences, was this issue specifically raised?

Shri M. C. Chagla: It was not raised in Rawalpindi. I am talking of what happened after Tashkent.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री म० ला० चर्गा : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका सजेशन था।

Economy in Diplomatic and Trade Missions Abroad

+

*394. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 798 on the 1st September, 1966 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the question of economy measures to be made applicable to the Diplomatic and Trade Missions abroad;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) if not, when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The question does not arise.

STATEMENT

The broad outlines of the measures taken to ensure the most economical use of the Budget Grant of the Ministry of External Affairs are as follows:

- (a) Posts of officers and staff in the Missions abroad are sanctioned only after the proposals have been thoroughly examined on the basis of work study and approved by the Economy Board of the Ministry of External Affairs.

(b) In view of the acute foreign exchange position, the Budget proposals are examined with the greatest possible emphasis on economy without, at the same time, sacrificing functional effectiveness.

(c) The device of concurrent accreditation has been adopted as a means to curtail increase in expenditure on External Affairs which would have been otherwise of a larger magnitude.

(d) Proposals for opening of new Missions are implemented gradually, in the order of priority.

(e) Powers of Heads of Missions to incur expenditure have been precisely defined.

In order to effect economy in expenditure on Trade Missions/Show Rooms abroad, Government have taken the following decision:

(a) To undertake review of the staff strength of the Commercial Sections abroad; and

(b) To postpone to next year the opening of new Trade Missions.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : हमारे दूतावासों में कितने लोग ऐसे हैं जो विदेशों में रह कर अपना वाणिज्य कर रहे हैं, अपना व्यापार कर रहे हैं, लाखों रुपया कमा रहे हैं और रुपया कमाने में वे सरकारी कारों दौड़ाते हैं और सब खर्चा सरकार के ऊपर पड़ता है ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने लोग ऐसे हैं जो इस तरह से रुपया कमा रहे हैं ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: This is a very serious charge made against the members of a very fine service consisting of very fine officers. If the hon. member has any specific allegation to make, he may kindly send it to me and I will enquire into it. On the floor of this House to say

generally that our members are carrying on their own trade using Government cars is not proper. I hope the hon. member will withdraw his remark. It does not do good to our country.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जिन जिन लोगों ने अपनी एम्बाइडमेंट्स डेफिनिट कंट्रीज में कराई हैं और इसलिए केवल कराई हैं कि उनके वहाँ इंटरस्टस हैं, उनके बारे में कोई स्टेटमेंट माननीय मंत्री जो रखेंगे या मुझे मौका देंगे कि मैं ऐसा स्टेटमेंट रखूँ ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपको कह रहे हैं कि आप रखिये ।

श्री आज़ाद ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मुझे दूसरा सवाल करने का मौका तो दें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ गए थे । अभी मैं आपको दूसरा मौका देता हूँ ।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: When the Minister refers to economy in diplomatic and trade missions abroad, does he also include the High Commission at London which is being run by more than 1000 persons? The hon. Minister also had the privilege of heading that Mission once. Does he propose to have economy there also?

Shri M. C. Chagla: When I had the privilege of being the High Commissioner there, I think I reduced the staff by 200 or 250. Further progress has been made since then. In 1955, the strength of the High Commission in London was 1325. As a result of reorganisation and reviews conducted, the strength was reduced to 960. Many of our staff is in the Supply Mission and we are reviewing the whole position to see whether the number there also cannot be further reduced. But I assure the House that we are conscious of the fact that perhaps even now the High Commission is over-staffed and we are taking

action to reduce it to the bare minimum in conformity with efficiency.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : कितने लोगों से कहा गया है कि वे कुछ थोड़ा सा रुपये की शकल में ले लिया करे और बाकी फारेन एक्सचेंज की शकल में ले लिया करे ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो सैलेरीज हैं इनका कुछ भाग रुपये की शकल में भी लिया जा रहा है या फारेन एक्सचेंज की शकल में ही इनको लिया जा रहा है । अगर कुछ हिस्सा रुपये की शकल में लिया जा रहा है तो वह कितना है और जो फारेन एक्सचेंज की शकल में लिया जा रहा है वह कितना है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I do not quite follow the question. The salaries and allowances of the members of our Foreign Missions are in rupees, but naturally they have to spend it in the currency of the country where they are working and so it has got to be sent in foreign exchange. A man in London has to spend in Sterling, a man in New York in Dollars and a man in France in Francs. But the basic salary is in rupees.

Shri Hem Barua: Are Government aware of the fact that there is an Indian officer in the High Commission in London—I know his name also—

Mr. Speaker: Is he—going to make any allegation about any particular person?

Shri Hem Barua: No, Sir. Are Government aware of the fact that there is an Indian official with the High Commission in London who has been in active collusion with Mr. Phizo and has been helping Mr. Phizo in his anti-Indian activities? If so, would Government enquire into the matter and if necessary take strong measures against the Indians who are indulging in this sort of thing?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Government is not aware of that fact. If my hon. friend will give me the name and other material, I will certainly look into it.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In view of the fact that our trade has increased with the African countries and other places, has Government taken any steps to strengthen our trade missions there and reduce the strength of trade missions where there is actually not much of trade, as for instance in London and other places?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The question of trade missions is also engaging our attention and we are reorganising this part of our Foreign Missions. My hon. friend is quite right. There are some places where we have to strengthen our trade missions where there is a possibility of more export from India going to those countries. There may be other places where the trade is not so important but still there may be a trade mission there. Again, as I said in the other House or in this House earlier, I am faced with cross-fire. On the one hand, there is a question which says, practise economy. On the other, we are told to strengthen our missions. (Interruptions).

श्री रामसेवक यादव : मितव्ययता के बारे में यह सवाल है। किस हद तक मितव्ययता हासिल की गई है, वह नहीं बताई है। उसको बताया जाए।

अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि भारतीय हाई कमिशन को जो लंदन में है उसके स्टाफ में कमी की गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इतना भारी स्टाफ होते हुए भी वहाँ जो हिन्दुस्तानी विशार्थी हैं उनकी जरूरतों को वह पूरा नहीं कर रही है, उनको वह नहीं देख रही है और उनकी जरूरतों को वे पाकिस्तानी हाई कमिशन के जरिये हासिल करने हैं, इस तरह की भी शिकायतें आपके पास पाई हैं ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: No, Sir. As far as I know, we have got a very good education section of the High Commission which looks after students, sees to their placements and visits them from time to time. This is how

that section of the High Commission functions and ought to function.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दो बातें हैं। एक तो यह है कि क्या हमारे यहां के लोग पाकिस्तान के हाई कमिशन के जरिये से अपनी जरूरतों को पूरा करते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है, "नहीं"।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : दूसरी बात यह है कि जो मितव्ययता, इकानोमी, बरती गई है, उसकी धनराशि क्या है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I will give the state of the economy. If you look at the figures of Demands of the External Affairs Ministry, in 1963-64 it was Rs. 587.91 lakhs, in 1964-65 it was Rs. 621.03 lakhs, in 1965-66 it was Rs. 672.32 lakhs and—this is important—in the last Budget it was only Rs. 577.82 lakhs but owing to devaluation it had to be increased to Rs. 810.26 lakhs. Devaluation apart, we reduced our expenditure and our Demands from Rs. 672 lakhs to Rs. 577 lakhs.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब मुझे आगे चलने दीजिए।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : मैं आपकी मदद चाहता हूँ। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मितव्ययता बजट बना कर की जाती है या जो बजट तैयार होता है, उसमें मितव्ययता बरतने का विचार है।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The question refers to economy in the trade missions and embassies, but he gives the Budget of the External Affairs Ministry. That is no answer to the real question put.

Mr. Speaker: Is it about the missions or the whole External Affairs Ministry?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The whole External Affairs Ministry, but primarily our expenditure is on the missions.

Mr. Speaker: The figures for the missions separately might be placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: We want to know the economy in this particular item.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर क्या है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहब अलाहिदा इन्फॉर्मेशन देंगे ।

श्री श्रीरथ : तिजारत बढ़ाने के काम के लिए केनेडा की राजधानी में एक स्थान किराये पर लिया गया था। वहाँ पर जो कर्मचारी हैं, उनके खर्च को तो छोड़ दीजिए, लेकिन वहाँ पर जो मकान, दुकान या शोरूम ले रखा है, उसके किराये पर जितना खर्च होता है, वहाँ की तिजारत से उसका पांचवा हिस्सा ग्रामदानी भी नहीं होती है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय का इरादा उसको बन्द करने का है या नहीं।

Mr. Speaker: He is giving information that there is some house rented in Canada which has not given as much benefit as the amount of rent that we have to pay.

Shri M. C. Chagla: I do not know about this detail but, as I said, the whole policy of showrooms in the missions and trade centres is under review and I assure the House that the decision will be such as will be in the best interests of the country.

श्री श्रीरथ : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय, बाद में बता दें। यह बात मेरी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी में है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने कहा है कि वह इसको देख लेंगे।

श्री श्रीरथ : क्या वह सूझे लिखकर भेज देंगे या नहीं? यह मामला मेरी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी में है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य ने जो इत्तिला दी है, मिनिस्टर साहब उसको देख लेंगे।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that this process of economy measures and reduction of staff can be very effectively achieved in a very expeditious manner provided Government takes the decision that all the reduced staff will be provided in other places where the missions are understaffed and also if the Government takes the decision that all the hired and rented buildings for which Government has to pay exorbitant rents would, instead of renting them, be purchased or built?

Mr. Speaker: They are all suggestions.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : स्टेटमेंट के पार्ट (ए) में कहा गया है कि वहाँ पर जांच-पड़ताल करने के बाद जो ओहदे जरूरी समझे जाते हैं, केवल उन्हीं को संकशन किया जाता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस क्रम में इकानामी की दृष्टि से कितने और कौन कौन से ओहदे घटाए गए हैं और किन किन देशों में घटाए गए हैं।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : वे तो क्लर्क भी हो सकते हैं। क्या कोई अफसर घटाए गए हैं ?

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : क्या कोई अफसर घटाए गए हैं ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We have surveyed the staff of a mission in all ranges, not merely clerks but also officers, and wherever we have found that there is no necessity for a particular officer we have either transferred him or repatriated him to India.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : सवाल यह है कि क्या कोई अफसर भी घटाए गए हैं या नहीं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि सभी प्रेडज में घटाए गए हैं।

Selective Conscription to Armed Forces

+
*395. **Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 20 on the 25th July, 1966 and state:

(a) the further progress made in the matter of selective conscription in the context of Pindi-Peking threatening attitude; and

(b) whether Government would consider the desirability of conscription of all adults to the Army on an emergency basis in view of the threatening postures of the Sino-Pakistan axis?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) The scheme is still under consideration.

(b) It is not considered necessary to conscript all adults to the army.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: In reply to a question in this House on 25th July, 1966, the Government was pleased to say that the programme has been under consideration at the expert level. For how long has the scheme been at the expert level what are the reasons for the inordinate delay and will the scheme be finalised early?

Shri Swaran Singh: I have already said that it is still under consideration. It is true that the experts were to give an opinion on that but the opinion was not quite uniform; some had expressed the view that the scheme would be much too costly and the actual results would not be commensurate with the effort that was likely to be put in.

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy: It is said that the scheme would be very costly. Has any probable estimate of the scheme been made and have the States been sounded in the matter?

Shri Swaran Singh: No, the State have not yet been sounded. As regards the cost, as the scheme has not taken any final shape it is not easy to give even an approximate picture of the financial side.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: In view of the fact that the scheme has not yet been settled finally, will the Government indicate the line in which Government proposes to take effective action in the matter?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am glad to inform the House that the response for recruitment has been very good. The talk of conscription arises if the normal voluntary response is halting. We are lucky that the patriotism of our people is such that there has been a very generous response.

श्री बिश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : मंत्री महोदय ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया है कि पिडी-पीकिंग गटजोड़ के खतरे के संदर्भ में सेनाओं में चुनीदा लोगों की अनिवार्य भर्ती करने के प्रश्न पर सरकार ने अभी कोई निश्चित राय कायम नहीं की है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान और चाइना की ओर से हमारे देश को जो खतरा है, क्या उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए हमारी स्थल सेना पर्याप्त है, जिसके कारण सरकार अभी अनिवार्य भर्ती के सम्बन्ध में विचार नहीं कर रही है।

Shri Swaran Singh: That is a broader question. I have already said that the response from the people is very good.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether many of the officers who were granted emergency commissions have volunteered themselves that even if they are not given the post for which they were commissioned they are ready to take a smaller