

Mr. Speaker. He is travelling beyond the scope of this question

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Just now the hon Minister said that some of the employees refused alternative employment May I know the reasons given by them for refusing such employment?

Shri Abid Ali. The offer which was made to them was not considered suitable and they got more suitable employment outside

Indian Nationals in Malaya

*898. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a reported official statement that 107 Indian nationals have been killed by British Security Forces in Malaya during the last eight years,

(b) whether the information of Government tallies with the report, and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to prevent such killings of Indian nationals and/or to secure compensation for the families of the victims?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon).

(a) Yes According to the statement issued by the Government of the Federation of Malaya, 107 Indians or persons of Indian origin were killed by the British or Malayan Security Forces in the nine years since the Emergency began in Malaya, that is, from June 1948 to the 30th June 1957. It has not been possible to make a distinction between Indian nationals and people of Indian origin who have become Malayan citizens

(b) Yes

(c) There have been internal disturbances in Malaya since the middle of the year 1948, caused by certain elements in that country who were endeavouring to overthrow the

existing regime by force. These Indians are among the casualties sustained in the course of armed clashes between these forces and the forces of the British or Malayan Government

Our Commissioner in Malaya has kept a close watch over all incidents. In cases where a civilian has been killed accidentally, compensation has been paid to his dependants by the Malayan Government

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know whether our Commissioner in Singapore has helped Indian nationals involved directly or indirectly in the disturbances in Malaya to safeguard their rights, or whether we conceded the British claim that whoever was involved in those disturbances was more or less beyond the pale?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The hon Member's question contains certain presumptions in it, and it is difficult for me to deal with it. These casualties that are referred to have occurred—all of them, so we are informed—in armed clashes. If there is an armed clash and casualties occur the Commissioner can do nothing in the matter, more especially when it is not quite clear that those persons are Indian nationals at all. There have been a number of other cases, not of armed clashes but where they have been arrested and proceeded with. In every such case the Indian Commissioner has taken steps and helped them to the best of his ability, the matter has come to us too and we have tried to raise this matter with the UK Government

Shri Kasiwal: The hon. Deputy Minister just now said that it was difficult to make a distinction between Indian nationals and Malayan Indian nationals of Indian origin. I understand that there are about 10,00,000 Indians in Malaya. May I know what is the percentage so far as Indian nationals are concerned and so far as Malayan nationals are concerned?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We do not know, Sir, for the simple reason that in all these areas, which might be called British colonies, this is always a vague thing. Some people register themselves as Indian nationals, and we know definitely they are so. Others do not. The fact of non-registration does not mean necessarily that they are not Indian nationals. Of course, in a case like a colony becoming an independent territory, this vagueness cannot last very long. Then something has to be done; they have to register within a stated time thus way or that way.

Shri Kastlwal: May I know whether our Commissioner in Malaya has been asked to register Indian nationals?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of asking, they have books for registration.

Shri C. D. Pande: May I know whether the Indians who were killed there were ordinary peaceful citizens or partisans of a political party?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They belonged to both the groups—ordinary civil citizens as well as participants in terrorist activities.

Shri C. D. Pande: Were they partisans of any party?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Both groups.

Mr. Speaker: Political and non-political.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government of India has received any representation from the relations of these persons, whether Indian nationals or Malayan nationals of Indian origin, about compensation or about high-handedness in this matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are dealing in this question with a period of nine years since 1948. There have been many representations, action taken, many times action taken naturally in Malaya itself, action taken in London and sometimes appeals to

the Privy Council. We have been interested in all these matters throughout these years.

Price Page Schedule

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*894. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the steps Government have taken so far with regard to the introduction of price-page schedule for newspapers?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): As required under Section 3(4) of the Newspaper (Price and Page) Act, 1956, the views of associations of publishers etc have been ascertained on the various points concerning the proposed schedule. A meeting of such representatives was again held on the 4th and 5th of August when various alternative schedules were discussed. Government have noted the opinions expressed by the various interests and is at present engaged in finalising the schedule.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if there is a very big disparity between the views represented at the conference and, if so, what measures the Government is taking to bridge that disparity?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid the disparity mentioned by the hon Member is a little confusing, because as far as the question of price of newspapers is concerned it is obvious that there are two or three very distinct and different points of view depending upon the size of the paper and its economic position in the newspaper world, and it might not be possible to reconcile all these two or three different view points completely, of course, they can be narrowed down to some extent.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस समय जो प्रयत्न इस सम्बन्ध में