

was received before the previous answer was given, and, therefore, that answer was not a correct one—possibly; I do not know. If that is the inference or allegation, may I assure the House that that application was not received before, but it was received afterwards, that is, after the answer?

Radio-active Waste

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*2050. { Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri U. L. Patil:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of dumping radio-active waste in the sea has been considered by the International Atomic Energy Agency:

(b) if so, what are the conclusions arrived at; and

(c) what contribution has been made by India towards the solution of this problem?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The method of dumping radioactive wastes in the sea is only one way of disposing of such wastes and is a part of the wider issue of waste disposal in general. The subject of waste disposal is included among the health and safety activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency. There have been some very preliminary discussions on the subject at meetings of the Board of Governors of the Agency, but no conclusions have been arrived at.

(c) The general question of safe disposal of radioactive wastes is under the active consideration of a committee appointed by the Director of the Atomic Energy Establishment at Trombay.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the attention of the Prime Minister has been drawn to a recent note by the USSR on this subject, complaining against this disposal

of radio-active waste? The statement made by the Prime Minister in that this problem does not baffle us at all. May I know what the correct position is? While speaking on the Demands for Grants, he stated that we had no problem whatsoever, and that the discharge in the ocean was absolutely safe, and there was less of radio-activity in it than in the ordinary water. May I know what the correct position is, and how the two things reconcile?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: My answer previously related to what we were doing at Trombay, and we gave the assurance that that involved no danger to anybody at all. I was not making that statement in regard to everything that was happening in the wide world, as to how other countries were disposing of it. Obviously, I neither know fully, nor can I give an assurance.

The hon. Member referred to the U.S.S.R. protesting against something. I can say nothing about it, as I do not know all the facts.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: May I know whether the Prime Minister will be pleased to see to it that our students taking training in atomic energy in different parts of the world are given full details as to how we are dealing with this problem in India, because they are very much puzzled when people ask them about it and they do not know the answer?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am surprised to hear that, because the students who have been sent abroad are students who almost always have worked in these establishments at Trombay. So, it is not a question of their being told. They know from personal experience. There might be a special case of a person who has not worked there. If the lady Member could draw my attention to any particular fact in her knowledge, I shall enquire.

Shri Kasiwal: The Prime Minister will recall that a few months back,

there was some accident at Harwell in U.K. in some Atomic Energy Establishment, and subsequently we read that thousands of gallons of contaminated milk and some other waste were thrown into the sea. May I know whether Government have received any reports on the effect of this dumping into the sea of that contaminated milk and other waste?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The British Government, and I believe, the British Atomic Energy Commission issued statements about this matter, about the accident at Harwell and the steps taken.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know whether the method and the procedure adopted by us at Trombay is in any way different from that adopted by other countries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer this question unless I know about the exact procedure in every country. Obviously, most of the procedures are common;—they learn from each other—they might vary here and there, but the basic approach must be the same.

Passport Racketeers

*2051. { **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:**
Shri Hem Barua:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi Police have obtained certain information about passport racketeers working on two sides of the Indo-West Pakistan border; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Offenders are being prosecuted under the appropriate sections of the Law.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: May I know whether it is a fact that an increasing number of Pakistani nationals have asked for Indian citizenship? How many of them have taken Indian citizenship?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of passports? Passport relates to passport, not to citizenship.

Shri Nath Pai: There have been press reports that racketeering is taking a very serious turn, that passports are sold from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 8000 per head. That is one aspect. Secondly, in Bombay 7 police officials have been arrested for being accomplices in this racketeering business. Will the Prime Minister be pleased to say what steps are taken to curtail these activities?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The following precautionary measures have been taken to combat recurrence of such incidents: (1) The accused, both in Delhi and the adjacent States, are being dealt with according to law in India; (2) The police, the Regional Passport Officers and Indian Missions abroad have been alerted and asked to keep a close watch on the activities of passport racketeers; (3) Travel documents of incoming and outgoing personnel are now scrutinised minutely at check-posts on the Indo-Pakistan border. These are some of the measures we are taking.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Is it a fact that one of these passport racketeers arrested in this connection along with police officials, managed to escape from jail custody? If so, what action has been taken to investigate the connection between the police officials and this particular man?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: This news appeared in the papers this morning. I cannot say anything about it. I do not know.

श्री नरयण नकुट्टी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक ऐसे कितने मामलों का पता लगा-