

Indian Nationals in Ceylon

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 Shri Ram Garib:
 Shri Ram Krishan:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian residents in Ceylon, who have been granted citizenship rights by the Ceylon Government as on the 31st August, 1958;

(b) the number of applications pending at present for registration;

(c) number of those stateless persons who have expressed desire to come to India to the Indian High Commission in Ceylon; and

(d) number of those who have been permitted to come to India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) 94,824 persons upto the end of June, 1958. Later figures are not available.

(b) 9,673 covering 31,836 persons approximately.

(c) and (d). These so-called stateless persons are, in the opinion of the Government of India, the responsibility of the Government of Ceylon. The question of permitting them to visit India is a matter for the Government of Ceylon to decide.

Repatriates from Ceylon

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 *1633. Shri Tangamani:
 Shri N. R. Munisamy:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of repatriates who have come so far to India from Ceylon;

(b) the number of those who have settled down in the Madras State; and

(c) the total help given by the Central Government for the rehabilitation of these repatriates?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) 63,852 between 1954 and 30th June, 1958.

(b) The Government of Madras report that 44,971 repatriates have settled down in the Madras State from October, 1954 to the end of August, 1958.

(c) No financial assistance has been rendered by the Central Government. The repatriates have however been treated liberally by the Indian Customs Department in the transfer of their assets from Ceylon.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Central Government have received any proposals from the Madras Government as to the assistance given to these repatriates and if so, what is the reaction of the Government?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, Sir. The Government of Madras had, in May, 1957, appointed a special officer for investigating the conditions of repatriates from Ceylon who had settled down in the Madras State. The findings of this Special Officer of the Madras Government have very carefully been studied in the Ministry of External Affairs. The conclusions reached were, firstly, that the repatriates in almost all cases returned to the original home and hearth they had left behind; secondly, that the repatriates were allowed to transfer their earnings and possessions to India and thirdly, that the repatriates were treated exceptionally liberally by the Indian Customs. In view of the above considerations, it was felt that no special assistance need be given to the repatriates from Ceylon. The Government of Madras did send us some suggestions but on these grounds we were unable to accept them.

Shri Ram Krishan: May I know the number of those who have settled in other parts of India?