

श्रीलंका में विदेशियों पर शुल्क

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- *३२७. { श्री बी० चं० शर्मा :
 श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :
 श्रीमती इला पालचौधरी :
 श्री हेम बरमा :
 श्री अजित सिंह सरहवो :
 डा० राम सुभग सिंह :
 श्री न० रा० मुनिस्वामी :
 श्री प्र० के० देव :
 श्री कोरटकर :
 श्री उत्मान खली खां :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) श्रीलंका सरकार विदेशियों पर जो शुल्क लगाने का विचार कर रही है क्या उसका प्रभाव उन भारतीयों पर भी पड़ेगा जो बहुत अधिक संख्या में वहां जाते-आते हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

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

(a) The proposed enhancement of visa fee from Rs. 2 to Rs. 400 per annum will economically affect the Indian nationals resident in Ceylon who hold Residence Visas or intend to apply for them. Those who go to Ceylon on short stay will not be affected.

(b) Full details of the scheme have not yet been worked out by the Ceylon Government and so far not available; but our High Commission in Colombo have been in touch with the Ceylon authorities and are ascertaining the effect these measures will have on Indian nationals in Ceylon.

Shri D. C. Sharma: How many of the Indian nationals will be affected by the raising of the levy from Rs. 2 to Rs. 400?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The total number of resident visa-holders in Ceylon are 38,000 of whom 36,000 are Indians.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know, if this levy is enforced, whether the Government of India will also take some reciprocal action?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already stated that these are only budget proposals and nothing has been finalised. Our High Commission is in touch with the Ceylon authorities. Appropriate action will be taken at the appropriate time.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government will request the Ceylon Government not to enhance this as it was done in the case of the Burmese Government? We were told on a previous occasion that when such an enhanced levy was imposed on Indian residents in Burma, the Government was pleased to make a request to the Burmese Government not to impose the hardship. I would like to know whether such an action is proposed to be taken.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already said that the proposals are not finalised yet.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this question of levy on Indians in Ceylon and other matters which are likely to create difficulties to Indians going to Ceylon or Indian settlers are likely to be discussed by the Prime Ministers' conference in the near future?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Which Prime Ministers' conference?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Prime Minister of India and Ceylon.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no such proposal of the two Prime Ministers meeting in the foreseeable future.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: May I know whether the imposition of the levy would cover persons who reside there for more than a year on temporary residence permits?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It covers people who are there on temporary residence visas for more than three months. The levy is imposed on people who want to settle there for more than three months.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I want to follow up the question of Shri N. R. Muniswamy. We were given the figure of 38,000. I would like to know this. It would appear that temporary residence permit holders would in no way be affected. Is that correct?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, no. May I read the proposal? There will be levied on non-nationals resident in the country upon visas already issued or to be issued in the future for a period exceeding three months, the rate of levy being Rs. 400 per visa holder. Non-national visa holders employed by the Government or by local authorities or engaged in enterprises where foreign capital has been invested, in accordance with the conditions detailed earlier will be exempted from this levy.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the Government are aware of the recent extortionate levies that the Ceylon Government have imposed on Indian residents in Ceylon for trading purposes and licence fees, etc.?

Mr. Speaker: Is that apart from this?

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: It is in connection with that.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister says that this has nothing to do with that.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know the average number of Indian people who visit Ceylon every year, who are affected by this levy?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members want to know how our countrymen will be affected, and whether they will be foreigners or temporary visa holders.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Temporary visa holders are not affected by this.

People who go there for three months will not be affected.

Shri Tangamani: Is it not a fact that those Indians who are settled in Ceylon, who are of Indian descent, who have also got temporary residence permits, who are staying for more than three months today are included in the number of 36,000, the figure which has given by the hon. Minister?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If they have visas, they will be affected. If they have no visas, presumably, they will not be.

Shri Tangamani: Those who are now doing some business there have got only temporary residence permits. These people are staying not only for three months, but much more than that. They are having temporary permits. I would like to know whether these people are affected, because the representation that we have received is from those people who have got temporary residence permits and which have been extended from time to time.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: In the case of people who are already employed, it is most likely the visa fees will be paid by their employers. This will affect really very small petty traders who are working independently like tailors, hawkers, barbers, domestic servants, toddy tappers, waiters, etc.

Sealing of Looms by Jute Mills

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*328. { Shri Bimal Ghose:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri Damani:
Dr. Samantsinkar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 371 on the 12th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Indian Jute Mills Association has decided to extend its voluntary scheme for sealing of looms;