

LOK SABHA

Monday, 2nd September, 1957.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Border Rivers

*1372. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken up the question of free use of border rivers between West Bengal and East Pakistan with the Government of Pakistan as suggested by the West Bengal Government; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir. The question was first raised at the Indo-Pakistan Conference held at Calcutta in October 1953.

(b) Pakistan Government agreed to examine the proposal but their views on it are still awaited.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: What are the important points on which the West Bengal Government wanted the Government of India to negotiate with the Government of Pakistan?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There are certain river channels which form the border, the frontier between Pakistan and India. It is about the navigability of the river by the boats belonging to both countries.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any precise suggestions were made by the Government of West Bengal in this respect and, if so, what they are?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It was put on the agenda of the Steering Committee, but that item did not come up and therefore there was no discussion on this particular item when the Steering Committee met.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I know whether the Ganga Barrage at Farraka was discussed and, if so, what steps have been taken about it?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That does not arise here. This deals with the navigability of the rivers on the border between the two States.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that the river Bhadra is one of the border rivers between the two States and is one of the rivers included in the Ganga Barrage scheme, may I know whether this particular aspect of the matter has been discussed, and what is the attitude of Pakistan?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already stated that this was put as an item on the agenda of the Steering Committee, but they did not discuss it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether this question is going to be taken up in any future conference and, if so, at what date?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I cannot answer that question.

Shri Goray: What is the Government's interpretation of the free use of border rivers?

Mr. Speaker: Generally?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Sir, it depends upon certain international practice with regard to this, and the Government is examining it.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know if after the suggestion was made in Calcutta any indication from the Pakistani Government is available whether this question is going to be considered by them?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already said the reply is awaited.

Repatriation of Chinese Nationals from U.S.A.

*1374. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Chinese Nationals in U.S.A. who have been repatriated so far to China through the assistance of our Missions in the U.S.A.; and

(b) whether any expenditure is involved in it?

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

(a) Up till the 1st of August 1957, seventy-three Chinese nationals including children were repatriated to China with the assistance of our Missions in the U.S.A.

(b) The Government of India do not spend anything on this, the entire expenditure being met from funds placed at our disposal by the Chinese Government.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: What were the difficulties experienced by our Mission in this repatriation work?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have not experienced any difficulties, Sir.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know the number of Chinese still to be repatriated?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: 73 Chinese nationals including children were repatriated. The remaining twenty-six are assisted.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I reply to this? Nobody knows the number, because the Chinese Government claims a very large number and the United States Government says, "Well, we do not know, we cannot trace odd individuals, so to say". Therefore it is not possible for us to say how many.

Shrimati Kenu Chakravarty: What is the method by which these Chinese are repatriated? That is, do the Chinese nationals have to make an application, or does it also mean that the U.S. Government has to give its permission that such a person can be repatriated?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They themselves approach the Indian Embassy, because this matter is publicised, and those Chinese nationals who have any difficulty about going to China approach the Embassy and they are given financial assistance, partial or full as they want, and if they have any difficulty with the United States Government that is also taken up by our Embassy.

Sample Survey

*1376. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sample survey into the causes of failure by the registered persons for re-registration has been undertaken by Government in any State; and

(b) if so, what is the agency employed for the purpose?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Labour and Employment and Planning (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, it is being conducted at Delhi.

(b) The Employment Exchange.

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the registration of persons made in each State has been carried out with reference to the number of vacancies in each State?