

Rajasthan Desert. A request has, however, been sent for the services of a geophysical expert and for the purchase of necessary equipment for ground water prospecting in the arid areas of the State. The request is under the consideration of the U.N.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the names of these nine countries from which scientists have been recruited?

Shri Hathi: A few days ago, I gave the names: They are Egypt, USA, Australia, India, America, France, Israel UK, and Peru.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the area that has been engulfed by the Rajasthan Desert in recent years?

Shri Hathi: I have no information, Sir.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether our Ministry of Food and Agriculture has made any arrangement for growing a green belt on the side of the Rajasthan desert?

Shri Hathi: Yes. There is a proposal for a five mile wide belt for vegetation growing in the Rajasthan desert. I might also refer to Chapter 22 para. 7 of the report of the Planning Commission which deals with this question.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the result of the research work done by our Government in this respect?

Shri Hathi: The research work, for the present, is only the utilisation of underground water and geological survey. As yet no definite result has been achieved.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any plant species have been found out by our research section to check the growth of this desert?

Shri Hathi: Not yet.

Shri Dabhi: May we have some idea as to the extent of the spread of the desert area in Rajasthan and other contiguous areas?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has already said that he has no information at present.

**FORMER HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
PAKISTAN IN INDIA**

*1222-A. **Shri K. Subramanyam:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state: (a) whether the former High Commissioner for Pakistan in this country, Mr. Mohammed Ismail, has settled down in India after laying down his office;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether he has taken any permission from Government for doing so;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, whether such permission was superfluous (i) in his case; and (ii) in the case of any ex-diplomat;

(d) if Mr. Mohammed Ismail is still a citizen of India, whether the fact that he was in the employ of the Pakistan Government for over three years did not affect that citizenship; and

(e) whether the landed properties of the former High Commissioner, situated near Gorakhpur, have been declared evacuee properties?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Mr. Mohammed Ismail is reported to be living in his house in Gorakhpur (U.P.).

(b) and (c). No permission was necessary, but he informed us of his intentions.

(d) and (e). Under the present law, Mr. Mohammed Ismail retains his Indian Citizenship and his properties have accordingly not been treated as 'Evacuee Property'.

Shri K. Subrahmanyam: Are there any more such Pakistanis still enjoying Indian citizenship? If so, how many?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not a Pakistani. The hon. Member is assuming.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If he is not a Pakistani, then he is an Indian citizen. The fact is that he is not even today a Pakistani at all.

Shri D. D. Pant: Is it open to the Pakistan Government to employ any of our nationals as their Ambassadors or other functionaries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course it is, but whether we approve of it or not is for us to determine.

Shri D. D. Pant: But, is there no danger...

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am pointing out that it is for us to determine, not for the Pakistan Government.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Will the same principle which has been applied in the case of Mr. Mohammed Ismail, apply to those Indian nationals who are in the service of the Pakistan Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite clear. May I just point out that Mr. Mohammed Ismail's case is very special and rather peculiar. He never left India for Pakistan. He has always been here. His family has been here. They are very respected and old citizens of Gorakhpur District. Of course, it is open to the Government of India to interpret his nationality in a particular way. But this is a very exceptional case which should not be considered as an example for others.

As for the question, which the hon. Member has asked, I am not in a position to give a very correct or precise answer, because that is under consideration. Generally speaking, the rule should follow that any person, let us say, in the employment of the Pakistan Government in West Pakistan or in East Bengal, would normally be considered a Pakistani citizen. But I cannot off-hand say, because our law is not clear whether that inevitably follows in every case.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Will the Prime Minister state how many such Indian citizens there are today in India who are serving under Pakistan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: My difficulty is that there is no list of these things. Our nationality law has not been formulated as yet. We may treat them in this way or that way. In East and West Bengal the condition in regard to that particular matter has been rather fluid. The question had not arisen. Now, with the passport system, the question has arisen, and we are giving thought to it, and our general approach, as I said—I am not going into strict law about it; that is being considered—is that the average person who opted for Pakistan and is serving Pakistan in East Bengal or elsewhere, will be permitted to be a Pakistani citizen. But, it is a general rule. It might perhaps be rebutted by certain legal or other facts or premises.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I am not talking about the general question of citizenship. My specific question is that, like Mr. Mohammed Ismail, how many such Indian citizens are there in India who are in the employ of the Pakistan Government and is there any procedure which requires the previous approval of the Government of India before any Indian citizen is given an appointment by the Pakistan Government and is asked to serve in India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is obviously thinking of important men, but most of those who are in Pakistan employ are, I presume,

clerks, chaprasis. As for important appointments, I am not aware of any other case apart from Mr. Mohammed Ismail's.

Dr. N. B. Khare: As Mr. Mohammed Ismail has served Pakistan as High Commissioner, does it not follow that he has sympathies for Pakistan, and not for India?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We cannot be arguing here.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: A large number of Muslims who claim to be Indian nationals have opted for service in Pakistan, but their families are here. They have properties here, and their children read in our schools in West Bengal. May I know whether these facts will be taken into consideration in determining their nationality?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister has said so.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have answered that already.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: As far as the general question of citizenship is concerned, the Prime Minister had informed me some time ago that steps were being taken to amend the Constitution so that the rights of citizenship could be conferred on those Indian citizens who had come away from Pakistan to India. So...

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of amending the Constitution. We had hoped to bring before this session of Parliament a Bill in regard to the law of citizenship or law of nationality. There has been no time for it. We hope to bring it in the next session. So, it is not a question of amending the Constitution or passing a special law to that effect.

KRISHNA-PENNAH PROJECT

*1223. **Dr. Rama Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state what is the estimated cost of the Krishna-Pennar Project?

(b) How long will it take to complete it?

(c) How much land will it irrigate in each district (i) completely (Wet cultivation) (ii) partly (Dry Cultivation)?

(d) How much land will be submerged and in which districts?

(e) How much of this land is now under cultivation and how much is covered by fruit gardens?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Rs.130-30 crores.