

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** May I know how many cases of harassment have been reported to the Government of India since the beginning of this year?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** I cannot give the exact number, but there have been already several questions in this matter which I have answered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

\*667. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have recognised the Republic of Maldives;

(b) whether Government are having any representative in this State; and

(c) whether there are Indians in the Maldive Islands and if so, their condition at present?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) There has been a change in the local administration of Maldive Islands from a Sultanate to a Republic; but, as in its foreign relations the islands have been and continue to be a British protectorate, the question of recognition by Government of the Republic of Maldives does not arise.

(b) No.

(c) It is estimated that there are about 80 Indians in Male, the capital of the Maldives. Some of them are employees in mercantile firms; some are carrying on independent business. There is at present no restriction against them in matters of trade or employment.

#### INDIAN ENGINEERS FOR BURMA

\*668. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian Engineers are being recruited for service in Burma and if so, what are the terms and conditions of service fixed?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** In August, 1952 the Government of India received a request from the Government of Burma for permission to recruit engineers from India for service in Burma. They were informed that this was permissible under the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act. The terms and conditions of employment are now being settled. A copy will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether the Indians recruited for service in Burma will be going to Burma as Burmese citizens or as Indian citizens?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** These posts are on a contract basis for three years, or at the most five years. Obviously, these men are going as Indian citizens.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Is there any number fixed for such recruitment?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** Yes, Sir They want—

4 Executive Engineers

19 Assistant Engineers

56 Resident Engineering Assistants

20 Draftsmen.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** May I know whether there is a shortage of engineers in India?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** We are assured by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply that there is no dearth of this sort of people who are going to Burma.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know why this permission has been given when we are actually importing some engineers from abroad? Is it because we are not in need of such engineers here?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He has answered.

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** We import from abroad highly technical engineers, not engineers of this sort, viz. Assistant Engineers and Draftsmen.

**Shri Punnoose:** Then is it true that we are sending inferior quality men from here to Burma?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** No, no.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It does not mean that.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether Indian personnel trained in the arms and ammunition branches of the work and other strategic fields are allowed to be recruited for service in Burma?

**Shri Anil K. Chanda:** These are ordinary civil Assistant and Executive Engineers and Draftsmen.