

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Thursday, 19th March, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CUBAN DELEGATION

*871. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-member Cuban delegation had recently come to this country; and

(b) if so, what was the mission of that delegation?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes. A three-member delegation led by H. E. Sr. Santiago Claret Marti, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, visited India December last year.

(b) It was an Official Good-will Mission from Cuba, and the purpose of the visit was to establish official contacts with the Government of India.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the delegation also discussed the question of diplomatic mission here and if so, with what result?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This matter is receiving our attention.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether India is having any diplomatic mission in Cuba? If not, how is our work being carried on there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have not got any diplomatic mission in Cuba, but we are considering the question of appointing a mission there.

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Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the authority through which our work is being done there?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We generally deal through our Ambassador in the United States.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the Government had invited this delegation? If so, what is the expenditure incurred by this Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Obviously we extended an invitation; otherwise, they could not have come here. But, Sir, I would like to know whether it is proper for us to advertise to the world the amount of money we spent on the delegation.

Shri K. K. Basu: Why not, it is peoples' money.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In many matters we leave it to the Government to decide whether a particular thing has to be kept confidential in the public interest. That is the convention.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May we know the amount spent?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If it is known, it is known to the world.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There is nothing secret about it. Rs. 2,865 have been spent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister could have said it before.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They said: "It is peoples' money".

PUBLIC CO-OPERATION FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*873. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the steps which Government have taken to enthruse people to give voluntary support to the Community.