

money for some construction such as may be needed. I wrote that we welcome any help, not in the monetary sense, to consider this matter with their engineers. We had always been willing to discuss it with Pakistan and find out a plan. After some discussion, the President of the World Bank happened to come to India. Ultimately, a formula was evolved whereby Indian Engineers and Pakistani Engineers would meet the World Bank Engineers and discuss these matters. They met in New York, they met in Karachi, they met in Delhi and they have made some progress which they hope to complete by September. There is no commitment involved by any party in this except to try our best to find a way out which is beneficial to both the countries concerned.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Government be kind enough to issue a Press Note on this issue?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course. Government have issued several Press Notes. It is our intention to issue something slightly more than a Press Note on this issue.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an editorial in the *New York Times* published on 16th February where it has been announced that Pakistan Government has made a complaint to the Secretary of the United Nations that India is diverting vital water from the course streams of the Indus River and they are pressing for a reference of the matter to the International Court of Justice? Has our Government got any information as to that, and if so, what steps are going to be taken?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have seen a summary of the article, not the full article. As for Pakistan Government having made any reference to the United Nations, we do not know. I believe the matter has been mentioned by them to the International Bank President.

May I say in this connection, if you, Sir, will permit me, because the subject is important and interesting, that in the course of the last year or two there have been various stages of argument. Apart from a joint technical survey, we had suggested that this matter be referred to a very high class tribunal consisting of two Judges from India and two from Pakistan, and let them decide finally. The objection was raised: what, if they differed? We said, if they differed in regard to any matter, we are prepared to refer that particular matter to any international

authority. We said, there is no good referring the whole thing, because it will take too long. We have no objection to an international authority deciding any matter of this kind. I might further mention that we made the same offer in regard to the evacuee property question too.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO FOREIGN FIRMS

*203. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether replies to Government questionnaire have been received from all foreign firms in regard to the employment of Indians and foreigners; and

(b) what action Government have taken to stop the discrimination against Indian employees resorted to by foreign concerns in the matter of pay-scales, allowances, conditions of service as well as new recruitment?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a). More than three-fourths of the foreign-controlled firms and companies in India have sent returns in response to the Government of India's notification dated the 31st July, 1952.

In regard to (b). I am afraid that the question is so framed that any answer furnished cannot escape admitting the truth of the basis of the question for which I am not prepared. All that I can say is that is the declared policy of Government to encourage the employment of Indians in an increasing measure in such foreign concerns.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know, in view of the unsatisfactory answer as is accepted by the Minister himself, what action Government propose to take on these matters?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not prepared to admit the truth of the statement that is sought to be put into my mouth. What I have said is that I have not got this information from all the concerns which, according to the list prepared by the Reserve Bank in 1948, amount to 1300. I can tell the House that returns are trickling in. From the beginning of January till now, I think we have got 43 returns. The question whether employment of Indians is on a satisfactory basis or not is one to be judged by Government from time to time. Government will certainly do all that is possible to use such influence as they possess to make these concerns employ more Indians.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a memorandum published by the ex-Indian employees of these British concerns as to the unsatisfactory nature of the question of employment?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not know to which memorandum the hon. Member refers. There are several memoranda which we have received. I do not think there is any association of employees of British concerns in India. Therefore I cannot recollect having received any authoritative communication of the sort indicated by the hon. Member.

Shri Raghuramaiah: May I know whether from the replies received it is possible to say whether, in fact, there is any discrimination in the matter of pay scales and other conditions of service between Indians and foreigners employed in those firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The questionnaire was framed in such a manner as to merely indicate the number in each category. We have not asked for the information which will reveal the position as is envisaged by the hon. Member.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to a circular issued by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the issue of this questionnaire, directing its clients to send replies in such a manner as not to reveal the real position of the Indians under their employ?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, I have not seen any such circular.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Why was the questionnaire not prepared in such a way as to elicit the information required to be brought out?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I agree there is some imperfection in regard to the framing of the questionnaire as my hon. friend thinks, because the way in which he is looking at it, and the way in which I was looking at it, are slightly different. From my point of view, I thought the questionnaire was satisfactory.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I know whether Government have examined the conditions under which Indian business firms are permitted to operate in some of the major countries in the world whose nationals are having firms, functioning in this country?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a suggestion for action which might be taken at the appropriate time.

Shri Gadgil: May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in legislation to secure statutorily Indianization of foreign firms with good working condition?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As far as Government's thoughts in this matter can be projected into the future, Government have no such intention.

Shri K. K. Basu: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that foreign technicians with much inferior qualifications than that of Indians are employed under the head "technicians"?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It may be true in the case of certain individual concerns. Government have no reason to believe that this is generally the case.

Shri Damodara Menon: The hon. Minister stated that some firms have not sent replies. Do the Government propose to take any action against those firms?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Such action as the Government is competent to take, it is taking.

Shri Damodara Menon: May I know what action Government are competent to take?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that particularly in tea gardens there are certain kinds of allowances like garden allowances, transport and servants allowances which are not covered in the questionnaire, and is Government contemplating setting out a separate questionnaire particularly in regard to European managed tea gardens?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think, Sir, I have told the House on a previous occasion—and I think the hon. Member who is asking the question is aware of it—that the Government have introduced a Bill to enable them to call for statistics of any nature that they think is necessary. When that Bill is passed by this House and by the other House and is put on the Statute Book, I have no doubt the suggestion made by the hon. Member would be considered and information would be asked for on those lines.

EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

*264. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how the external publicity of the Ministry expanded in 1952-53 in comparison with the previous two years;