

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not quite know what the hon. Member means. Private entertainments are included and are meant to be included in this, because many diplomats have to entertain other diplomats privately.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know if it is a fact that our Embassy at Moscow is paid the highest amount?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. Moscow has the highest entertainment amount.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know what is the reason for paying the highest amount—whether it is due to any particular consideration or high cost of living or want of consumer goods or anything of that sort?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is due to the very high cost of living in that place.

FOREIGN EMPLOYEES IN BRITISH FIRMS

*1072. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the British business firms have asked for more time to furnish the required information regarding the number of foreigners employed by them?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Yes, Sir. Representations have been received not only from certain foreign firms but also from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and as a result thereof it has been decided to extend the time limit for the submission of returns up to the 15th April, 1954.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know whether the request first came from the British firms or from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is rather difficult for me to remember the exact date. The requests came from both the parties.

Shri Syed Ahmed: May I know the names of the foreign firms who have sent representations?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think it should be permitted.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it true that some of the European firms are getting receipts from the employees for amounts higher than what they are actually paid?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid I am only prepared to answer in regard to the time given for these firms to submit returns. The question of how they manage their accounts is essentially a matter for my hon. colleague the Finance Minister, because that is how income-tax is cheated.

KEROSENE OIL

*1074. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirements of kerosene oil in the country; and

(b) how and from where supplies are obtained?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) It is not the practice to make this information public.

(b) Supplies of Kerosene are obtained both by imports and through indigenous production. The imports are made from the Persian Gulf, Far East, Indonesia and other countries.

Shri T. N. Singh: Last time a debate was raised here regarding the pricing of kerosene oil by the Assam Oil Company. May I know in regard to this question whether there is uniform pricing or differential pricing for the kerosene oil sold here?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I think the hon. Member is referring to the discussion about the price of petrol that was raised during the last session. As a result of the action taken by the Government, there has been recently a reduction of the selling price of petrol in Assam.