

allowances to be paid to Members of Parliament is under consideration. Till any change is made the present allowances will continue. In any event there will be no difference between the allowances of Members of Council of States and the House of the People.

भारत में विदेशी राजदूत

*२८. श्री आर. एस. तिवारी : क्या प्रधान मंत्री भारत में विदेशी राजदूतों की संख्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

FOREIGN AMBASSADORS IN INDIA

[*28. **Shri R. S. Tiwari:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the number of foreign ambassadors in India?]

The **Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** There are diplomatic representatives of forty-two countries in India, of which twenty-two hold charge of Embassies.

DENIAL OF PASSPORTS TO U.S.S.R. AND CHINA

*29. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state what is the number of Indian nationals who applied for passports, on invitation from cultural, trade union and other organisations in the U.S.S.R. and the People's Republic of China in 1951-52, and the number who were refused such passports?

(b) What are the reasons which led Government to deny passports to such applicants?

The **Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) As far as the Government of India are aware, 115 persons applied for passport facilities on invitations received from cultural, trade union and other organizations in the U.S.S.R. and the People's Republic of China during 1951-52. Twenty-four of these were refused passports.

(b) Passports were refused to these 24 persons as Government did not think that the grant of passports to them would have been in the public interest.

REFUSAL OF VISAS TO DELEGATES FROM CHINA AND U.S.S.R.

*30. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that delegates from the U.S.S.R. and from the People's Republic of China to the All-India Cultural Conference and Festival for Peace held in Calcutta in the first week

of April 1952, were refused visas by the Government of India?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the reasons for such action?

The **Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) and (b). The Government of India decided that no visas should be issued to any foreigners to attend the conference. This rule was applied to all foreigners who applied for such visas. It might be added that in this case, as sometimes in others also, applications for visas are made at the very last moment when it becomes difficult to deal with them in the normal way.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

*31. **Shri Bansal:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state what are the criteria for selecting places for Community Projects?

(b) Is it a fact that availability of irrigation facilities, good soil and climatic conditions are some of the important criteria?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what steps are being taken to make their benefits available to areas which are agriculturally backward on account of lack of irrigation facilities?

(d) Are there any other steps which are being contemplated by Government to bring succour to these regions?

The Minister of Planning and River Valley Schemes (Shri Nanda):

(a) to (c). Selection of sites for Community Projects was made on the basis of proposals received from State Governments who were requested to consider the suitability of the area, chiefly for increased agricultural production, availability of the necessary organisation and personnel of the right quality, the ability of the State Government to meet its share of expenditure, and the character of the development needs and programmes of a State. Due regard has also been given to the needs of backward areas, scheduled tribes, as well as, in States like West Bengal and Punjab, the resettlement of displaced persons.

(d) These projects are to be viewed as the first step in a programme of intensive development which is expected over a period of years to cover the entire country. The needs of other areas will therefore be met, to the extent possible, by further allotment of projects in future years.