

(c) the expected total strength of the Embassy; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on this office?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). When diplomatic relations between India and Mexico were established in 1951, our Ambassador in Washington was concurrently accredited to Mexico. Since then, the need has been increasingly felt for maintaining a separate office in Mexico to facilitate the work of our Ambassador and to foster closer relations with this important Central American Republic. The Indian Embassy office was opened in Mexico in October 1954.

(c) About 7 persons.

(d) Approximately Rs. 2,00,500 a year.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if the Mexican Government is also opening a new office in Delhi?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: They have maintained an Embassy here from 1951.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if the Government propose to open any other new Embassy in the United States of America?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Where?

Shri Radha Raman: In the U.S.A.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In any place? We have got an Embassy in the U.S.A.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Perhaps the hon. Member means South America.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: The question is whether the Government proposes to open new Embassies other than in Mexico.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Anywhere in the world? Certainly. In many places in the world.

FIRMS OWNED BY FOREIGNERS

***300. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of firms owned by foreigners at present;

(b) what was the total number of posts in these firms carrying a salary of Rs. 500/- and above on the 1st April, 1954; and

(c) how many Indians are employed in the posts carrying that salary?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Reserve Bank's publication on the census of India's foreign liabilities and assets—pages 70-73 contains the information asked for. A copy of this publication is available in the Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). The information as on the 1st January, 1954 is contained in a Press Note issued by Government on the 13th October, 1954, a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 27.]

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether Government have issued any instructions to all the firms whether owned by Indians or foreigners, to consult the Employment Exchanges whenever they recruit staff?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Normally, I think they do consult the Employment Exchange. I do not know whether there is any statutory obligation on them to do so.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether there is any discrimination in the scales of pay to the Indian employees and foreign employees?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The whole idea of asking for information is because there is a basis of discontent. There is a certain amount of discrimination between Indian employees and foreign employees. What the Government is now seeking to do by means

of getting this information and indicating their own views to these firms is to remove such discrimination as exists.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know whether the Government can give figures regarding the break up of Indians and Europeans appointed on a salary of over Rs. 1,000?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: All the information with the Government has been given in the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the information on this subject is supplied by these foreign firms periodically or only when the Government asks, say in two or three years?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Action in this matter has to be initiated by the Government. It is the intention of the Government to ask for information every year.

Shri Gidwani: Are the Government satisfied with the pace of Indianisation that is going on?

Shri Karmarkar: Both satisfied and not satisfied.

Shri Gidwani: That does not show whether there is any progress or not.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I know...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am going to the next question.

FIRST FIVE YEAR PLAN

*301. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1485 asked on the 29th September, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the technical scrutiny of the Project report and estimate of the Gandak Irrigation and Power Project has since been completed; and

(b) if so, when the project will be taken up?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I enquire if, in view of the extraordinary merits of the Gandak scheme placed on the floor of this House and before the Planning Commission, Government consider it desirable to expedite the scrutiny of the scheme and to come to early decision in the light thereof?

Shri Hathi: The scrutiny is now nearing completion, but it would be for the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission to advise priority.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the project is being started on the basis of generating power and irrigation only, or whether the idea is to tame the river as to prevent floods?

Shri Hathi: It is for irrigation as well as power. These are the schemes which have been submitted. Also it will incidentally act as flood control.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether the Government has sanctioned any scheme for irrigation and flood control on Burhi Gandak in Muzaffarpur District, and whether this scheme has any connection with that of Gandak?

Shri Hathi: That scheme has no connection.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: The first question was whether Government has sanctioned any scheme for Burhi Gandak.

Shri Hathi: I do not think it has been sanctioned as yet.

BORDER INCIDENT

*304. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar and his Personal Assistant were held captives and subsequently released by the Pakistan police on the Pakistan-India border on the 17th October, 1954; and