

(b) and (c). The Government of India have taken up this and other matters connected with the implementation of the Agreement of October, 1954, with the Government of Ceylon.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the information, about which the Deputy Minister just now said that the Government of India have been informed, was received after the communication to which also he just now referred, or was it received beforehand?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The communication was necessary because we received information that the Agreement is not being properly worked there.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Sir, there is another question also on the same subject, Question No. 845. I suggest it might be taken along with this.

Mr. Speaker: Is it convenient to the Deputy Minister?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then he may give the reply to that also.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

*845. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the registration of persons of Indian Origin for Ceylon citizenship has been proceeding satisfactorily since the meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Ceylon in October, 1954; and

(b) the number of applications decided so far and the number that have been accepted?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The Government of India do not view with any satisfaction the progress in registration of applicants for Ceylon citizenship.

(b) 38,795 and 9,671, respectively, upto the 30th November, 1954.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Since the joint statement which was issued by the two Prime Ministers in October, 1954, may I know the number of Stateless persons who got themselves registered at the Indian High Commissioner's Office, and how many of them have so far come over to India, and how many of the rest succeeded in obtaining long-term residence permits from the Government of Ceylon?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It is a very long question, but I can inform the House that we have sanctioned additional staff for expeditious disposal of applications for Indian citizenship, with our High Commissioner in Ceylon. But I have not the exact figures. I have, however, the figures of the applications which have been examined by the Ceylon Government for citizenship of that country. In the month of November—that is the last figure, for the month of November—the number of applications allowed during that month was one, and the total of the applications to date is 9,671. The number of refusals during this period, that is the month of November, is 2,977, and the total up-to-date is 29,124. And to date the number of persons whose applications have been rejected amount to 97,344.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know if the Government is aware that the Ceylon Government has complained that there is no co-operation from the High Commissioner for India in Ceylon, and what action have Government taken to refute this charge?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have seen a reference about this in a newspaper report, but we have not yet received any communication from the Ceylon Prime Minister.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any portion of the joint statement which was issued by the two Prime Ministers is being given effect to?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: So far as we are concerned, we are doing our

best to implement the agreement of October. The Indian High Commissioner has started entertaining applications for registration as Indian citizens from persons whose applications for Ceylon citizenship have been rejected. I am afraid the Ceylon Government have not been implementing their responsibilities as far as this agreement goes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has it come to the notice of the hon. Minister—he might have seen this morning's report in the papers also—that technical considerations such as incorrect spelling of names have been responsible for rejection of a large number of applications?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Yes, Sir. I have said so in my reply to Dr. Ram Subhag Singh's question.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware that Sir Edwin, the High Commissioner for Ceylon in India, had observed on the 8th of January at Bombay that a large number of applications are bound to be rejected and the Ceylon Government would offer inducements to Indians to apply for Indian citizenship? May I know what was the inducement that he meant and whether any practical inducement has been given by the Ceylon Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have seen the statement made by the Ceylon High Commissioner in Bombay some time ago. The Ceylon Government have not yet informed us about the details of any instructions which they might have issued with regard to the withdrawal of the previous restrictive orders for rejecting applications on flimsy grounds as wrong spelling of names, etc. Also we have not yet got any information about what sort of inducements they are offering to the people to ask for Indian citizenship.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Am I correct that when the two Prime Ministers met and issued their statement,

an impression was created in the country—I do not know whether a similar impression was created in the mind of the Government as well—that about 50 per cent of the persons applying would get registration, and now not more than 30 per cent. are getting?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Up till now, as I said, over 97,000 people have been rejected for citizenship of Ceylon. What the total number will be, it is not possible for us to estimate at this stage.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the percentage.....

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

INDIAN TARIFF ON BRITISH TEXTILES

***838. Shri Bansal:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to questions and answers in the House of Commons on the 22nd February, 1955 during the course of which Mr. Peter Thorneycroft, President of the Board of Trade, is reported to have said in reply to a question by Mr. Gaitskell, that he did not think the Indian tariff on British textile exports to India was fair and that India would have difficulty in defending it; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to counteract this charge?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Press reports to this effect have come to the notice of Government.

(b) Government do not think that any action is necessary on their part in respect of the proceedings that have taken place in the Parliament of a foreign Government.

Shri Bansal: Has the attention of Government been invited to a debate in the House of Commons on the 9th of this month on a motion of the