

information that the British-run "Times of Zambia", a Lusaka daily, has been sowing seeds of Zambian discontent against the Indian community; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the likely effects of this propaganda on the minds of twelve thousand Indian community in Zambia?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The economic reforms of 1968 and 1972 introduced in pursuance of the policy of Zambianisation of certain sectors of the economy have, no doubt, adversely affected non-citizens, including Indian nationals, trading in Zambia.

Government have confidence in the assurance of the Zambian Government that non-citizens, who wish to leave Zambia in consequence of the progressive Zambianisation of the country's economy, will be phased out in an orderly manner and will be permitted to repatriate their savings and assets to start life afresh elsewhere.

Our High Commissioner in Zambia is in contact with the Indian resident community to apprise them of the correct position and to counteract any misleading propaganda.

#### **Fire Incidents in Ordnance Factories of the Country**

7570. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fire incidents recorded in various Ordnance Factories in the country during the last three years; and the number of cases which were investigated;

(b) the amount of loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) whether any persons have been held responsible for these incidents and whether any action has been taken in these cases?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Conviction of an Indian Officer at Gangtok**

7571. **SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry was held at Gangtok in regard to the conviction of an officer of the Ministry under the Prevention of Corruption Act; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):**  
(a) On the basis of certain information received from the Office of our Political Officer in Gangtok, Shri Rai Singh, Second Secretary (Information) in that office was recalled to Delhi in June, 1969 and was prosecuted by the Central Bureau of Investigation under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1947 and under Indian Penal Code, in the court of Special Judge, Delhi.

(b) Shri Rai Singh was prosecuted on charges of misappropriation of public money amounting to over Rs. 5,000 out of the funds placed at his disposal by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in connection with the visits of two cultural troupes to Sikkim and Bhutan, in 1968. In its judgment delivered on 22nd March, 1973, the honourable court sentenced Shri Rai Singh to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000, in default of payment of fine to undergo further sentence of four months rigorous imprisonment, under Section 5(2) r/w 5(1) (c) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947. Under Section 409 of the Indian Penal Code, the accused was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1000 in default of payment of fine