

[English]

Indians Injured in Clashes with Iranian Refugees in West Germany

5097. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in "Hindustan Times" of 29 August, 1986 that eight Indians were injured in a series of clashes with Iranian refugees in West Germany ;

(b) if so, what is the information of Government of India in this regard ; and

(c) steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Our Embassy in Bonn learnt on 28.8.86 that there had been a clash between Indian and Iranian asylum seekers on 27.8.86 at the residential dormitory in Passau in which eight Indians were reported to be seriously injured. The Embassy contacted the authorities concerned in Passau immediately and learnt that one of the eight injured persons, Jhalman Singh, had succumbed to injuries sustained by him. The Embassy requested the authorities for full particulars of the deceased alongwith a report on the incident. The same was received on 3.9.86, whereup on the next of kin of Shri Jhalman Singh and the Regional Passport Office, Jalandhar and Regional Passport Office, Delhi were informed of the death on the same day by "crash" message by the Embassy and instructions were sought regarding disposal of the body. Later, the body of Jhalman Singh was handed over to S/Shri Gurdev Singh Shanghara and Joginder Singh on 5.9.86 as desired by the next of kin, by the Embassy. The Embassy reliably learnt that the clash was the result of some local dispute, without political implications. After further investigations, the authorities

informed the Embassy that the clash between Indian and Iranian asylum seekers took place after some members from both the groups got drunk and entered into arguments.

Qatar's Immigration and Sponsorship Laws

5098. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the new immigration and sponsorship laws of the Qatar Government and its likely adverse impact on the Indian workers ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Qatar Government's new Immigration and Sponsorship laws will not be applicable to Indian workers only, but to all expatriate workers. However, our Mission in Qatar has been in contact with authorities there with a view to offer all possible help to the Indian workers.

Understanding between Pakistan and USA for Harboursing Facilities to US Fleet

5099. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has reached an understanding with the US Government to give all facilities to American defence fleet in one of its harbour ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an American Fleet will soon visit the Pakistan's port ; and

(c) if so, Government's information in this regard and whether this will completely convert the Indian ocean from an area of peace into an area of turmoil ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Government has seen reports in this regard.

(b) Government is aware that some US naval ships were to visit Karachi in November, 1986 but their visit was postponed.

(c) Government has been consistently against big power presence in our neighbourhood. Government continues to maintain a constant vigil over all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

Sale of Smuggled Polyester and Nylon Fabrics in Calcutta

5100. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Polyester and Nylon fabrics of many varieties of Korea and Taiwan origin are being openly sold in the market of Calcutta ;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to stop such smuggling of fabrics ;

(c) the protection proposed to be offered to the Indian manufacturers of those fabrics, who have suffered because of lower prices at which the smuggled fabrics are sold ; and

(d) the quantity and value of such smuggled fabrics traded in Calcutta markets and the loss of revenue to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a),(b) and (d) Synthetic fabrics continue to be an item sensitive to smuggling into the country. As smuggling is a clandestine activity no reliable estimate of the quantity of synthetic textiles smuggled into the country and revenue

lost on that account, is feasible. However, during the last two years, Calcutta Customs (Preventive) have seized synthetic fabrics valued at about Rs. 88.25 lakhs during 1985 and about Rs. 124.02 lakhs during 1986 (upto October). The seized fabrics are of Japanese/Korean origin.

The anti-smuggling drive in general has been intensified throughout the country with particular emphasis in the highly vulnerable areas of our sea-coast/land border regions. The trends in smuggling and seizures made are kept under constant review for taking appropriate remedial measures in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

(c) The Textile Policy 1985, envisages increased production of good quality fabric at reasonable prices. To achieve this objective, duty on man-made fabrics/yarn are to be reduced progressively, ensuring at the same time, that the benefit is passed on to the consumers in the form of lower prices. On the basis of the above policy —

- (i) Substantial excise concessions were given to polyester staple fibre, polyester cotton blended yarn, polyester viscose blended yarn, polyester viscose blended fabrics and acrylic fibre.
- (ii) Supplies of polyester fibre free of excise/countervailing duty are made to the manufacture of low priced fabric manufactured by the National Textile Corporation and to the Handloom Sector.

The question of granting further concessions to the textile industry would depend on the response of the industry, revenue implications and profitability of the industry, etc.

Loss in N.T.C. (WBABO)

5101. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 117 on the 14th November, 1986 regarding the Loss in NTC (WBABO), Calcutta and state ;