

Shri Meghnad Saha: Has the attention of the Prime Minister been drawn to the newspaper reports that there is a large number of refugees at the Sealdah Station and I have personally visited that spot?

Mr. Speaker: He has just stated that there was a large number of refugees.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the answer given by the Hon. the Prime Minister that the economic conditions in Pakistan are worse, and the people are coming in, are we to accept that the economic condition here is still worse than what it is in Pakistan; in view of large influx into Pakistan from India?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This is a sort of an argument.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Assessing the number of refugees in India, has the Government of India taken into account the disparity between the Pakistan census figures and the opening figures of Pakistan population when Pakistan was created according to which it will be roughly a difference between 92 lakhs and 1 crore and 30 lakhs?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is difficult to draw firm conclusions. Those figures were I believe brought to my notice at one time but they have to be examined rather thoroughly before we can draw conclusions from them.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has Government received any report either from its own agencies in East Pakistan or from other sources regarding the apprehension, if any, in the minds of the minority communities in East Pakistan in view of the introduction of the permit system?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There has always been an apprehension in the minds of the minority communities there because of various causes. The hon. member I suppose wants to know if there is any additional apprehension. Well, it is true that the proposal to introduce the passport system was not welcomed in fact by minorities either in East Bengal or in West Bengal—on both sides. But I do not think this has been a very prominent factor in the recent developments and as a matter of fact such agreements as have been arrived at thus far in regard to the passport system ensure fairly easy travel between East and West Bengal.

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

KARACHI CONFERENCE re INTRODUCTION OF PASSPORTS

*1441. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any definite results have been achieved in the recent Karachi Conference regarding the introduction of passports between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to have a second conference on the subject at Delhi or at any other place; and

(c) what have been the points on which there have not been any agreement?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Agreement was reached on several details of the proposed system and with regard to some of the facilities to be given.

(b) No. Outstanding points are being discussed between the two Governments.

(c) As the discussions are still continuing, Government regret that they are not in a position to disclose details.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if there has been any suggestion with respect to any different varieties of passports?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: First of all everyone of course who has an international passport can use it. But apart from that it is proposed to have rather simpler passports—not so expensive and not so complicated. These passports will be alike. They may be for single journeys or multiple journeys or there may be some on which no visas are required.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any suggestion that different varieties of passports will be applicable to different categories of the population of the two States?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There will not be varieties of passports. But there will be different varieties of entries in the passports. That is to say in the eastern zone, Eastern Pakistan on the one side and West Bengal, Assam and Tripura on the other side. There will be far greater facility of traffic. It is proposed to give certain additional facilities first of all to people living on either side of the border and secondly to people who have relatives, who own property there—businessmen etc.—some categories like that.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the Government have considered the suggestion that the passport system may not be introduced just before the Pujā celebrations?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Now, Sir, this point has not been brought before us. The hon. Member remembers that this whole idea of the passport system has not been initiated by our Government. It was initiated by Pakistan and it was originally intended to start it on the 15th June. However, no special date has been fixed but as far as I understand, it is likely to be introduced somewhere roundabout the middle of September.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true, Sir, that during the Pujas as large number of people from both East Bengal and West Bengal cross the border and it will be very difficult for them to have passports.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Without prejudice to the negotiations which are now going on is Government in a position to give us any idea as to the possibility of the avoidance of detriment to the interests of people who want to be moving about from East Pakistan to West Bengal in the course of the negotiations which are now going on?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member means after the passport system is introduced?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Could you give any indication as to the possibility of avoiding any real detriment to the interests of people who would be moving about, in view of the kind of discussions which are now going on?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is generally agreed that we should—I say we for the moment, I mean the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan—avoid any such detriment occurring and I hope that it will be so. Naturally I cannot guarantee against any inconvenience arising out of the system.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is Government aware that there are large areas in the border zones where the agriculturists move across the border, and is their standpoint considered in the introduction of the passport system?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, in regard to the border areas, that is within some distance—or perhaps the specific villages might be mentioned or the particular area might be mentioned—it will be completely easy for people to cross over for agricultural purposes, petty trade and such like things.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: इस पासपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में जो शर्तें और शरायत भारत सरकार और पाकिस्तान सरकार के बीच में हो रही हैं और होंगी, उनके बारे में

प्राइम मिनिस्टर की ऐसी आशा है कि पाकिस्तान सरकार अपनी शरायत को पूरा करेगी।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू: प्राइम मिनिस्टर हमेशा अच्छी आशायें रखता है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह: इसीलिये प्राइममिनिस्टर बोला ही खाते हैं।

CODE OF STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS

*1442. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any Code of Standard Specifications for articles manufactured in India?

(b) Is there a Bureau of standards in India as in the U.S.A.?

(c) Is there any Governmental Institution which tests whether the goods manufactured conform to fixed standards and enforces conformity to those standards?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):

(a) Except for the manufacture of drugs and chemicals where standards are laid down in the Drugs Act, 1940, there is no code of standard specifications for articles manufactured in India.

(b) Yes, the Indian Standards Institution corresponds to the American Standards Association.

(c) Yes, there are Government institutions where testing is carried out. The standards prescribed in the Indian Standards Institution are, however, for voluntary adoption.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Is there any such code of specifications for minerals like manganese?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

MAGNESITE ORE

*1443. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that large quantities of Magnesite ore are being sent from Salem District to Japan?

(b) For what manufactures are they used?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Basic refractories, magnesium metal and Chemical products.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: May I know the quantity and value of such exports?