

Shri Hem Barua: I shall state my point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I know the point of order; it does not relate to this question at all. The Parliamentary Secretary, not once but twice, said that this question relates only to the issue of passports and so far as the forged passports are concerned, that is a different matter. There is no point of order on this.

Shri Hem Barua: May I explain the point of order?

Mr. Speaker: I have understood his point of order. I have got telepathic connection with the hon. Member and whenever he rises, I understand him.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether the Government have come to know that as a result of this influx of Indian immigrants to U.K. there are some attempts being made to create anti-Indian racial conflicts there as took place recently in Middlesburgh?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: No, Sir.

Indians in Kuwait

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*1220. { **Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:**
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large number of Indians in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for their protection; and

(c) who is accredited to Kuwait to look after Indian interests?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) There are about 6,000 Indians in Kuwait.

(b) and (c). The Indian Trade Commissioner in Kuwait looks after the Indian community with a view to protect their interests. The Indian Ambassador in Baghdad also visits the area from time to time.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: There was some trouble in Kuwait sometime back because of the assertion of Gen. Kassem that Kuwait formed part of Iraq, while Kuwait claimed that it was sovereign and independent. Since that time, may I know whether it is a fact that a large number of Indians have moved from there to India and if so what is the number of those people?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Nobody has moved out of Kuwait. Conditions are stable there. We have had no complaints whatever from the Indian residents there.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Is it a fact that since there was some trouble recently in Kuwait the difficulties of the Indian Nationals have increased and they have complained to the Commissioner there and he is not able to help them?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is untrue. Our Indian Ambassador in Iraq also succeeded in establishing friendly relations with the rural and our Trade Commissioner goes and meets the rural and we have been assured that there will be no interference as far as Indian citizens are concerned: they have no complaints; they are quite settled and happy there.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Apart from our Trade Commissioner in Kuwait, have we any diplomatic representation to represent us in Kuwait since the declaration of independence of that land?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir; even the Trade Commissioner was appointed only last May. There is no other diplomatic representative there.

Shrimati Maimoona Sultan: May I know the attitude of the Government of India to the sovereignty of Kuwait as against the claim of Iraq?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The Government of India has always regarded Kuwait as an independent State.