

### Indians in Ceylon

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**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**  
**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**  
**Shri Bhakt Darshan:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**  
**Shri Raghunath Singh:**  
**Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shri Mohan Swarup:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Gulshan:**  
**Shri Buta Singh:**  
**Shri Bibhuti Mishra:**  
**Shri Kolla Venkaiah:**  
**Shri P. K. Deo:**  
**Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:**  
**Shri Vishwanath Pandey:**  
**Shri Kajrolkar:**

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

(a) the present position of the problem of Indians in Ceylon;

(b) whether it is proposed to resume negotiations with the Government of Ceylon on the problem; and

(c) if so, when, under what conditions and at what level?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** (a) to (c). The subject was discussed, briefly, by the Prime Minister of Ceylon with the Prime Minister of India when the latter visited Ceylon in October, 1962. There have also been discussions at the official level, both, in Colombo and in Delhi, thereafter. The Government of India's views on the subject were officially communicated to the Ceylon Government in an *Aide Memoire* presented by our High Commissioner to the Ceylon Foreign Office, in June, 1963. The Ceylon Prime Minister has written a letter to the Prime Minister of India on the subject about a fortnight ago. This letter is under examination and a considered reply will be sent to the Ceylon Government, in due course.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** During his visit to Ceylon, the Prime Minister had

mentioned in a statement that the time was too short for him to discuss this matter in detail and it would have to be discussed by officials later on. Later, on the 24th of May 1963 the Prime Minister of Ceylon made a statement: we would start negotiations as soon as the Government of India is ready to do so. I do not think that there could possibly be a disinclination on our part to start negotiations. I would like to know if an effort has been made, instead of sending these notes making our position clear, to state the issues as they are and to discuss them either between officials or between the two Governments at a high level in order to get an early settlement of the problem?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** From 1954 onwards various efforts have been made to implement the agreement of 1954 and to solve this problem. Unfortunately it has not been solved. We are still making efforts as stated in the original answer in order to get the problem solved.

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** I would like to know the exact and detailed effect of the new legislation enacted in Ceylon, particularly the system of work permits introduced there? What is the impact of it on Ceylonese of Indian origin?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The temporary permit system deals only with Indian nationals who are employed in Ceylon. When the permit terminates they have to come back.

**Dr. M. S. Aney:** Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the resolution passed by the Ceylonese Indian Congress under the presidency of Aziz held recently, particularly to the suggestion that the Government of Ceylon should set out their proposals, their concessions, inducements, etc. with a view to lure Indians in Ceylon to accept Indian nationality and that those who do not want those inducements and do not opt within some limited time Indian nationality, should be considered as natural-

lised Ceylonese? Have any steps been taken on those lines?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** I could not really follow the question.

**Mr. Speaker:** He refers to a certain resolution and asks whether Government intends to act on that resolution.

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** This particular resolution, and in fact all the other resolutions passed by Indians in Ceylon are brought to the attention of the High Commissioner and of the Government and we take them into consideration when we negotiate this problem.

**Dr. M. S. Aney:** Am I right in understanding that the Government will press that proposition also when they send the proposals?

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Azad.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Sir, it should be answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Obviously, the Minister is not ready with the answer.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** May I know whether there has been any progress in the implementation of any part of the agreement of 1954, or, all part of it are still left unimplemented?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** There has been very little progress as far as the 1954 agreement is concerned, and that is why we are having all these negotiations and talks at official level.

**श्री भक्त दर्शन :** श्रीमान्, अभी बतलाया गया कि श्री लंका की प्रधान मंत्रिणी जी ने हमारे आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को हाल ही में इस संबंध में एक नया पत्र भेजा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसमें कौन से नये विशेष सुझाव दिये गये हैं, और उन के संबंध में कब तक अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया जायगा ?

**प्रधान मंत्री, बंदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री तथा अणु-शक्ति मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) :** वह खत जो लंका के प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भेजा है वह बहुत लम्बा है और दो चार शब्दों में मैं नहीं कह सकता कि उसमें क्या है। उन्होंने

ज्यादातर यही बहस पेश की है कि जिन लोगों को हम कहते थे कि वह स्टेटलैस परसन्स हैं वे स्टेटलैस नहीं हैं, वे हिन्दुस्तान की जिम्मेदारी हैं और हिन्दुस्तान के नागरिक हैं।

एक बात और मैं कह दूँ कि हमारी और भी कोशिश हो रही है, खाली खतो किताबत ही नहीं हो रही है। अभी कुछ समय हुआ हमारे कामन वल्य सेक्टरटी भी वहाँ गया थे और उन्होंने लंका के अफसरों से बातचीत की थी।

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know if it is a fact that talks are proposed to be held between the two countries on the basis of the Nehru-Kotela-wala pact of 1954 and the talks are to be centred round the scheme to induce persons of Indian origin in Ceylon to opt for Indian citizenship on a guarantee that they will be allowed to live and work there till they reach the age of 55?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I did not quite follow, but I think, if I am right in understanding the hon. Member's question, one of the points at issue has been lately that Indians there who are employed by the Ceylon Government should be allowed to work there till they reach the age of fifty-five. That is the matter at issue.

**Shri Hem Barua:** My question has not been replied to, Sir. May I repeat it? May I know whether talks are proposed to be held between the two countries on the basis of the Nehru-Kotela-wala pact of 1954 and the talks are to centre round the scheme to induce persons of Indian origin in Ceylon to opt for Indian citizenship on a guarantee that they will be allowed to live and work there till they reach the age of fifty-five?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** If and when talks are held again they will not be limited to any particular statement previously made or any particular thing. They will cover the whole ground. All this question has arisen in our correspondence and that is why I mentioned it: about people being more or less assured that they

will be allowed to remain there and be employed till fifty-five.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Has the question also arisen of providing these Stateless people who opt for Indian citizenship with any sort of financial inducement to return to India and did the Ceylon Government at any stage propose that India should make a loan to finance such inducement?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir; no such question arose.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** In view of the contention of the Prime Minister of Ceylon that Indian citizenship may be granted by the Government of India to the Stateless persons in Ceylon, may I know if the Government has been considering to grant such citizenship to those persons and at the same time issue passports to be renewed every three years so that they can stay there?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The stand of the Indian Government has always been that all those who are in possession of Indian passports belong to India and all those who are eligible for Indian citizenship under the Indian Citizenship Act, 1954, are also Indians.

**Shri P. K. Deo:** My question was regarding the Stateless persons—Indians—in Ceylon, and whether the Government has been considering the issue of passports in their favour.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Our position has been that those who are entitled under our Constitution they will be accepted and registered as Indian citizens and there is no objection to it provided they are not compelled, no coercive methods or force is employed and they decide it voluntarily. Originally, in 1954 or thereabouts, the agreement stated that both the Governments of Ceylon and India will proceed to register these people, either as Ceylon nationals or as Indian nationals. It was hoped then that the great majority of these people would be dealt with in that way and a small number might be left over which, we said, we will

consider later. As a matter of fact, that process has not gone very far. Some have become Ceylon nationals and some Indian nationals, but a very large number still remains and it is about them that the difficulty has arisen now.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जब कि भारत सरकार उन्हें इंडियन ओरिजिन का मानती है, तो क्या उन लोगों को कोई निश्चित तारीख दी जा सकेगी जिस तारीख तक कि उनकी जो दिक्कतें हैं वह दूर हो जायेंगी ?

**Shri Dinesh Singh:** The question is not clear.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** जो हमारे भारतीय लंका में हैं उनको यहां लाने के लिये या उनकी पासपोर्ट आदि की दिक्कतों को दूर करने के लिये क्या कोई निश्चित तारीख दी जा सकेगी ?

**श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू :** मैं नहीं समझा। शायद माननीय सदस्य समझे नहीं हैं कि क्या सवाल है इसलिये उन्होंने य सवाल पूछा है। सवाल दूसरा है। कोई तारीख देने का सवाल नहीं है। यह तसलीम कर लीजिये कि आप भारत के हैं तब तो सब बातें निकल आती हैं। हमने कह दिया है कि उनको यहां लाने को तैयार हैं अगर उन पर दबाव न डाला जाय। उनमें से बहुत से तो वहां पैदा हुए हैं, एक दो पुस्त से वहां रहे हैं। वहीं काम करते हैं, उनका कोई खास संबंध भारत से नहीं रहा है। आम तौर पर उनको सीलोन का नागरिक समझा जाना चाहिये। यह पेचीदा सवाल है।

#### Fresh Chinese Intrusion in India

- Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:**  
**Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri B. N. Chander Seth:**  
**Shri P. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:**  
**Shri P. K. Ghosh:**