

Voting in U.N. General Assembly on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

625. SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:
SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI HEM RAJ:
SHRI K. N. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India abstained from voting in U.N. General Assembly on the International treaty on nuclear non-proliferation; and

(b) if so, the reasons for India's abstaining?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We abstained from voting on a draft resolution which commended the Treaty, because we regard the Treaty as unsatisfactory and unequal. Abstention is a recognised method of indicating lack of support; it is not essential to cast a negative vote.

Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964

626. SHRI D. C. SHARMA:
SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress which has been made in settling the issue of persons of Indian origin in Ceylon in terms of the Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in the rehabilitation of the persons who have come over to India?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). Public Notices were issued by the Government of India and Ceylon on April, 24th, 1968 inviting applications for Indian/Ceylon citizenship from persons covered by the Indo-Ceylon Agreement of 1964. A time-limit of two years ending 30th April 1970 has been fixed within which the applications will be entertained. Since the date of the Agreement viz. 30th October, 1964 upto 30th June, 1968, 23,432 persons covered by it have been granted Indian citizenship. Of these 5,542 have returned to India. These repatriates have not applied for any rehabilitation benefits from the Government of India. A statement showing the steps taken and the proposals under consideration for the rehabilitation of repatriates is attached.

Statement

1. Priority has been accorded to repatriates from Ceylon for appointment under the Central Government through Employment Exchanges.

2. Upper age limit has been relaxed to 45 years (50 years for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) for appointment under Central Government through the Employment Exchanges.

3. Upper age-limit has been relaxed by 3 years and fee concessions have also been granted in respect of appointments made through competitive examinations held by the Union Public Service Commission.

4. Special Employment Liaison Offices, appointed at Visakhapatnam and Madras, will render employment assistance to repatriates.

5. It has been decided to extend to repatriates from Ceylon the following loans and concession:—

(i) loans for carrying on a trade or business or profession;

(ii) loans for construction of houses and business premises; and

(iii) educational concessions and stipends.