

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION No. 581 re: JUTE INDUSTRY

Shri Kanungo: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement correcting reply given on 27th August 1955 to a supplementary by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri on Starred Question No. 581 regarding Jute Industry. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1046] 58.]

RATIFICATION OF ILO CONVENTION

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement regarding the ratification by India of the ILO Convention No. 88 adopted in 1948 concerning the Organisation of the Employment Service. [Placed Library See No. LT-1047] 58]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS THIRTIETH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.08 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**STATELESS PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN IN CEYLON**

Shri N. R. Munsamy (Vellore): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

The problem of stateless persons of Indian origin in Ceylon.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Last month there were reports in the Press that a Minister of the Ceylon Cabinet had stated that Ceylon Government had decided to give citizenship rights to about one and a half lakh of plantation population in all, and that the next step would be to find means of encouraging the gradual return to India of the remaining

"Indians", as he chose to call them. These press reports have caused anxiety and concern to the members of the House and Government are glad of this opportunity to make a statement clarifying their position on this essentially human problem of treatment of persons of Indian origin who have chosen to make Ceylon their home.

The plantation population of Indian origin to whom the press reports referred, must be distinguished from two other categories of persons in Ceylon with whom they are sometimes confused. The first category are those known as Ceylon Tamils. They speak Tamil but they have been Ceylon nationals for hundreds of years and they are part of Ceylon in the same way as any other nationals of Ceylon. Then there are Indian nationals who have gone to Ceylon for professional or business reasons. We are responsible for these Indian nationals and look after their interests as best as we can. Hundreds of these, who had been in Ceylon, have returned to India or been sent back to India by the Government of Ceylon. Nearly half a lakh (46,303) came back from the beginning of 1954 to the end of 1957. The Government of Ceylon have the right to decide whether, and for how long they would allow the national of India or any other country to remain in Ceylon. These Indian nationals can remain in Ceylon only for the period of the visas given to them by the Government of Ceylon.

The plantation population of Indian origin constitutes a third category of Ceylon residents. They are about nine lakhs. They have been in Ceylon as plantation labour for a long time. Most of them were born there. The so-called Indo-Ceylon problem is the question of Citizenship rights for this estate labour which has contributed greatly to Ceylon's prosperity and which according to our views is entitled to Ceylon citizenship. It is about these persons resident in Ceylon that negotiations have taken place between the Governments of India and Ceylon. An agreement, as the House knows,