

this matter a lot of informal consultations take place and when the election comes to the General Assembly, it is more or less a formal affair.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We will support you. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Your support will not help me much. In this matter there is a lot of consultation and the Security Council has also first to agree, which means that the permanent members have first to evolve a consensus. So, it is not just anybody being elected by a majority of votes.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Some time back there was a consensus among several countries to confer this post of Secretary-General on our External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh. What was the reaction on the Government to that ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is a little embarrassing for me to say anything, but I am not a candidate at all.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : His name was not proposed formally, but there was a consensus. What is the reaction of the Government of India to that ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I have myself first to agree before there is anybody's reaction.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : In view of the very important office of the Secretary General being now open to election, may I know if the Government has brought it before the world forum that the present incumbent, by his calculated connivance in the tragedy and horror perpetrated in Bangla Desh by the Pakistan Government, has put himself out of bounds ? India, I expect, is pulling her weight in this matter, just as India has given the first Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding to U Thant. May I know whether the Government of India are telling the world community about the default of this particular gentleman, and by that way trying to bring into the picture the perspective in which the election of the Secretary-General should take place ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : U Thant, Secretary-General, has already made a very

clear statement that he is not a candidate. So, there is no point in our trying to highlight that aspect which the hon. Member has mentioned. We may not agree with the assessment made by an international civil servant, but we should be very careful in adopting our attitude. International civil servants have got difficult duties to perform, and it may not perhaps be wise to make this type of statement.

Anti-Indian B. B. C. Broadcasts Re. Bangla Desh Refugees

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*1505. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :**
SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the B. B. C. has been broadcasting anti-Indian programmes regarding refugees of Bangla Desh during the last three months ;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Broadly speaking, B. B. C. coverage of the problem of Bangla Desh refugees has not been anti-Indian.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Visit of Foreign Parliamentary Delegations to India and Bangla Desh

*1508. **SHRI RAMSHEKHAR PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of parliamentary delegations from various countries visited India and Bangla Desh to have a knowledge of the situation that had arisen out of the heavy influx of refugees from Bangla Desh ; and

(b) if so, how many delegations and from which countries and what was their impression ?