

avoid giving answers to my specific questions. I raised specific questions and he has evaded all of them.

Mr. Speaker: All these point can be raised only in a discussion.

Shri Swell: I am entitled to answers to the questions I have raised, not to something else. This is not the way how we are going to function in this House. I ask something and he goes on saying something else.

Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: May I know whether the Government has given any thoughtful consideration to rehabilitate people on the border of Nagaland and Assam and, if not, whether they will consider it for the sake of security?

Shri M. C. Chagla: It is a suggestion for action. I will, certainly, bear in mind what the hon. lady Member has suggested.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: May I know from the Government whether they have evolved a better method of getting intelligence reports from Nagaland. It seems that the Home Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry are all involved in it. I do not know how the coordination takes place. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government has decided on a policy to woo the hostile Nagas or to take action in accordance with the law of the land.

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are constantly, if not, daily, getting intelligence reports which are being studied by the External Affairs Ministry, the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry. We try to coordinate these reports and see what can be done about it. With regard to the second question, as I have said, our present policy is to continue the peace talks with the friendly Nagas and see if we can evolve a settlement which is in the national interest.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: I mean hostile Nagas, not friendly Nagas.

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are taking all action we can against them in preventing them from leaving India, in preventing them from importing arms, etc. How we can do that is a matter mostly for defence and security. We are taking such action.

Shri Ranga: May I take it that it is not taken to be a violation of the agreement that we have reached between the two sections, ourselves and the so-called friendly Nagas, if our security forces there are permitted, also authorised by the Government, to deal with such of them, the small minority, who do not agree with the so-called friendly Nagas and who do all this mischief?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I should not think it will be a violation of the agreement. The violation of the agreement is being committed by them. The agreement lays down that they will not import arms from any country and that they will maintain peace and, therefore, there would be nothing wrong if we take action . . .

Shri Ranga: Are we taking action?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are taking action.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Hem Barua: They are not taking action.

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion. Next Question.

Kenya Immigration Law

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*272. **Shri Sradhakur Supakar:**

Shri N. R. Laskar:

Shri P. K. Deo:

Shri D. N. Deb:

Shri K. P. Singh Deo:

Shri Chhitaranjan Ray:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kenya have recently passed a law on immigration, which will deprive about two lakh Indians and Asians of their right to trade in that country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect the interests of Indians in Kenya?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Surendra Pal Singh): (a) The proposed new immigration law for Kenya has not yet been passed, but it is expected that necessary legislation will soon be introduced in the Kenya National Assembly.

The proposed legislation will not affect citizens of Kenya whatever their ethnic origin. Under the new law such non-citizens whose continued residence in the country can be considered as being of benefit to Kenya will be permitted to remain.

(b) The majority of persons of Indian origin in Kenya are citizens of U.K. and colonies. The Government of India's representatives in Kenya (and elsewhere in East Africa) however have invariably provided to all persons of India origin assistance and guidance to the extent possible, in the context of their interests in Kenya (and elsewhere in East Africa). There is, moreover, no bar against entry into India of any person of Indian origin (including those holding British passports) who wishes to come to this country of his own volition. Such of those persons who have come here from various parts of East Africa for permanent settlement, have been granted by the Government of India certain special concessions in the matter of import of their personal belongings and also their stock-in-trade, machinery and motor vehicles.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: It is reported that Kenya is friendly with us. May I know if any action on the diplomatic level is being taken to see that those persons of Indian origin who are carrying on trade activities there are in no way prejudiced on account of this particular legislation?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: We agree with the hon. Member that our relations with Kenya are friendly indeed. But we must also realise that Kenya is a sovereign, independent country

and we cannot interfere in their internal working. If they want to bring out a Bill of this nature, we can hardly say anything to them by way of protest.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: I was asking about any action on the diplomatic level. I do not say that the Government of India should force them either to legislate or not to legislate. I want to ask particularly whether any action on the diplomatic level is being taken to see that the interests of the persons of Indian origin are really safeguarded. That is the pointed question.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Our views on this question have been conveyed to the Government of Kenya a number of times and do not think that there is any need for any diplomatic action or any approach at this juncture.

Mr. Speaker: You have conveyed through diplomatic channels?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Naturally.

Shri N. E. Laskar: Most of the Indians are British passport holders and I like to know, whether it is a fact that the British Government are not taking active interest as far as these people are concerned. I would like to know whether any diplomatic action is being taken with the British Government about these people.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Out of a total of 1,88,000 people of Asian origin in Kenya, only 1,30,000 are holding British passports. (Interruptions).

An hon. Member: People of Indian origin?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: There are some of Pakistani origin also. Out of a total number of 1,88,000 people of Asian origin, 1,30,000 are holding U.K. passports. I do not know what the hon. Member means. Why should we approach the British Government? The approach the British Government? They are their responsibility.

Shri N. E. Laskar: As it is reported they are not taking their responsibility.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: It is entirely a matter between the U.K. Government and the Kenya Government. I do not know where we come into it.

Shri P. K. Deo: The immigration law which is about to be passed in Kenya has created a good deal of panic and a lot of Indians are being repatriated to this country. May I know if the Government will give an assurance to these repatriated Indian citizens that they will be rehabilitated in this country if they come back.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I inform the hon. Member that the idea at the back of this Bill is not to expel or to deport all people of Asian origin from Kenya. This Bill is being brought forward merely to regularise the stay of foreigners in that country according to certain categories and we hope that a large number of such people there will be absorbed, and will be allowed to stay there to carry on their normal trade....

Shri P. K. Deo: Indians are being squeezed out from every country. We want an assurance from the Government that they would be properly rehabilitated.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I repeat that this Bill is not of a discriminatory character or of a racial character. This applies to all foreigners in Kenya irrespective of the fact whether they are Indians or African nationals or Britishers or anybody.

Mr. Speaker: His point is whether any steps are being taken to rehabilitate them in India.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Yes, Sir. Our policy is that we are keeping our doors open completely for these people, if they have to leave Kenya. (Interruptions).

Shri Ranga: He has not understood the word 'rehabilitation'. What is it that you are trying to do to help those people to establish themselves here?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: They are allowed to come. We do not place any bar on their coming to this country, they are quite welcome. But we do not accept them if they are deported from that country. (Interruptions).

Shri Ranga: The Cabinet Minister concerned will try to answer this question, Sir. By rehabilitation we mean . . .

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Nobody has so far come here and asked for rehabilitation help. Our policy at the moment is that we do not give any rehabilitation grant or financial help.

Shri Piloo Mody: Why don't you say so? Why are you ashamed of saying it?

Shri Ranga: For these unfortunate country-men of ours, the compatriots of our country, what is it that the Government tries to do in order to help those people to establish themselves here in some employment or industry? That is what we mean by rehabilitation.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Actually the question has not arisen yet because nobody has come from there and asked for help. As I have said earlier on, if any of those people are expelled from there or they have to leave because of certain circumstances, they can come to India, and we give them necessary facilities; they can import their personal belongings, their cars etc.; the question of rehabilitation or financial aid does not come in; if they ask for it, we shall see what can be done.

Shri P. K. Deo: They cannot bring their own assets...

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: They have not come here yet...

Shri P. K. Deo: The persons coming from Burma have been treated so shabbily that they have not got any shelter to stay in here. Those who come from Kenya may also have the same fate.