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Collection No.

III-54-25

25

Pros.
Serial Nos.

hms

Subject.

Facilities to return to new zealand
for about fifty persons who
made representation to h.m.
at Bardoli.

Previous References.

Later References.



(1)

D.O. No. F. 210-P.S. 146

New Delhi,
13th May, 1947.

My dear Vallabhbhai,

Your letter of the 11th May about the Indians from New Zealand. We have been giving thought to this matter as we are anxious for them to return. We have also addressed the New Zealand Government to extend the period of their permits to stay abroad.

I am afraid it is not possible to transfer any of the Haj ships for this purpose. As a matter of fact these ships are under repairs at present and are not ready. By the time they are ready, they will be required for Haj pilgrimage for which they have been specially built. As it is we are very short of accommodation for the Haj pilgrimage, and we are trying our best to get an extra ship for them.

Meanwhile we are arranging with the Defence Department to give us accommodation for New Zealand. We are also trying to make some other possible arrangement for persons to go to New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,

Jawahar

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
Home Member, Government of India,
New Delhi.

2
NEW DELHI, 11th May 1947.

When I was at Bardoli about fifteen persons approached me in regard to very early facilities for return to New Zealand. It appears that the New Zealand Government have refused to extend their permits for return to that country and the permits of some of them expire this month and of others somewhat later.

2. I need hardly say that any delay on the part of these persons to return to New Zealand will put them to serious hardship and loss of rights and property. It would also cause considerable resentment not only amongst stranded Indians here but also among our compatriots overseas. In terms of local opinion this may not count much but measured in sentiment as well as monetary loss it would mean a great deal both to them and to us.

3. I understand from your Department that there is no possibility of accommodation sufficient to carry all these stranded persons to New Zealand for some months to come unless they succeed in persuading Defence Department to allot some out of military priorities. The position seems to me unsatisfactory and it is quite clear that we should not depend upon the uncertain factor of any portion of priorities being available, particularly since even then you cannot hope to get more than 15 berths a month. An alternative has been suggested viz. that one of the ships scheduled for Hajj pilgrimage should be diverted to take these Indians to New Zealand and Fiji. I see no reason why this should not be done. We may have to inconvenience a few intending Hajjis but there is still time for us to make alternative arrangements for them whereas there is none in the case of these persons.

To

The Honourable
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

My dear Shankar,

This refers to your d.o. of 7th May, 1947 addressed to Pai, concerning certain applications received by the Hon'ble Member for Home Department, at Berdoli and by post from Indians requiring urgent passages to New Zealand.

2. The original papers sent by you, together with the applications by Kana Nana Patel dated 7th April, 1947, and presented in person to the Hon'ble Member are returned herewith. The lists attached to both applications have been retained by me for action.

3. While a small ship (s.s."ORNA") left Calcutta on 4th instant direct for the Fiji Islands and New Zealand, it has been found impossible to arrange for a special ship to sail by the same route and to clear the many cases known of persons whose permits for re-entry to the Fiji Islands and New Zealand will shortly expire.

4. In the case of passengers for New Zealand, this Department has issued a cable to the New Zealand Government, asking them to extend the period of validity of permits for another eighteen months. As a further measure of relief, we are endeavouring to obtain from the Defence Department 10% of the 30% of passages on which they operate for military priorities. If we are successful in this, it will mean that in each month we shall be able to allot, approximately, fifteen berths to Indians who wish to go to New Zealand or the Fiji Islands, but who will have to travel via Australia.

5. While admittedly the situation is not satisfactory, nevertheless, it is hoped that the two actions we are taking will at least mitigate the difficulties being experienced by these people. On the assumption that the Defence Department agree to release 10% of their priorities, we shall introduce at once a priority scheme on the lines of the note enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

R. W. T. Webb

(Civil Passage Priority Controller
for Australia)

V. Shankar, Esquire, ICS.,
Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Member for Home Department,
Government of India,
NEW DELHI 3.

8/10
From,

Kana Nana Patel,

Khad Shupa, Via Navsari

4
Dated 24th April '47

To,

Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,

Home Member, Govt. of India,

NEW DELHI

Most Respected Sir,

I, the undersigned Kana Natha Patel, most respectfully beg to lay before your honour the following few lines for your ~~honour's~~ Honour's kind and sympathetic consideration.

Some fifty persons (as per list attached) including myself and three of my family members, who had come to India from New Zealand some six or seven years ago have not been able to proceed to New Zealand as we have not been able to get passages to sail for New Zealand. We have made all efforts which we could to get accomodation in the steamers sailing to New Zealand; but I ~~regret~~ regret to say that we have not been able to secure the Passage upto the present day.

The Governmet of New Zealand used to extend the time for which we were allowed to stay in India during the War but now that policy has been changed and we have been given

P.T.O.

a definite reply that no further extension of time will be given and that if we fail to reenter New Zealand within the time allowed to us, we would loose our right to re-enter New Zealand. In this way some five or six persons have lost their rights as they could not get the passage.

I am not in a position to give the exact dates on which the time of the fifty persons included in the list - attached, expires but I can say with certainty that the time begins to expire in some cases from May 1947, and in some cases from June 1947, and in some cases from July 1947. The time of myself and three of my family members expires on 7th July 1947.

So all the Fifty persons whose names and address are written in a list which is attached herewith are in an urgent need of passages to sail for New Zealand and want Steamer accomodation. We (all the fifty persons) are all ready to start on any date when we get steamer accomodation. If we do not get passages before the expiry of the time limit, it would be the greatest loss to us individually and also a loss to India as a whole.

I took opportunity to represent this matter to Your Honour when Your Honour visited Bandoli on 17-4-1947. and - Maniben and Your Honour's Secretary promised me to consider this case after I submit the exact list of the persons whose time -

5
5
-2-
expires shortly and who intend to start immediately.

I hope, that Your Honour will consider our case sympathetically and make such arrangements that we can get passages to sail for Newzealand as early as possible and I hope that Your Honour will give a favourable reply, at an early date. And for this act of kindness, we , as in duty bound shall ever pray.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant ,

Kana Patha Patel

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Behram Mahal, Dhobi Talao, Kalbadevi Road,
POST BOX 1022,
BOMBAY, 2.

BRANCH:
Station Road,
SURAT.

Date, 15-4-47. 194

Dear Kanabhai,

Thanks for your kind letter and am glad to note its contents. It is good idea that people are trying to forward a petition to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I was telling you from the very beginning that he is the right person to tackle such problems.

I have already sent you the telegram received by us from Singapore. They say that there is no chance at all from Singapore to Sydney mail. You will have to go by air mail. There is no other alternative. The rumour spread by other agents that there is a steamer from Singapore to Sydney is without any foundation. Let them take the risk and start their satyagrah in Singapore. From Madras one mail sails for Singapore almost every week.

That is all for the present. Nothing fresh to pen. No hope from Colombo. However we are trying our level best to find out new routes.

Yours faithfully,

For, Ismailbhai Vahed & Son

THOS. COOK & SON LIMITED

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BOMBAY 1.

P. O. BOX NO. 46.

GENERAL FOREIGN
PASSENGER AGENTS
PENNSYLVANIA
RAILROAD

REFERENCE P2/-

17th Oct, 1946.

Bhula Madhav, Esqr.,
S/o Nanu Madhav,
Satom,
Navsari.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 14th instant we are afraid the steamer leaving Bombay next month for Australia stands fully booked at the moment with passengers registered long before you. Consequently we fear there is no chance for you by this opportunity.

However, we are trying to book you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,
FEB PRO:THOS. COOK & SON, LTD.

MP.

*This man
booked
for about
5 years*

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

(THE LIABILITY OF THE SHAREHOLDERS IS LIMITED).

THE SHIP TO BE ADVISED:
MACKINNON, MACKENZIE & Co.
AGENTS,
BOMBAY.

TELEGRAMS: "PENINSULAR" BOMBAY.

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

No. 222/P.

BOMBAY, 10th October 1946.
(No. 1.)

POST BOX No. 122

K. N. Patel, Esq.,
At Khad Supa,
Via Navsari.

Dear Sir,

We are in receipt of your letter of the 8th instant and note that you require passages to New Zealand for yourself and four other persons. There is no direct service from Bombay to New Zealand and we can book your passages only up to Sydney. You will, however, have to make your own arrangements for travel from Sydney to New Zealand and you must be in possession of sufficient funds to pay for your maintenance in Sydney until you are able to secure passages to New Zealand.

We have added your name to our waiting list and shall be obliged if you will advise us the names of the four persons who wish to accompany you. For your information we would mention that sailings to Australia are very irregular at present and the names of approximately 1650 persons are already registered on our waiting list for passages to Australia. According to present indications therefore you may have to wait for some considerable time.

Please confirm that all the members of your party are in possession of the following documents:-

Up to date passport.
Permits to enter New Zealand.
Valid Vaccination Certificate.
No Objection Certificate from the
Protector of Emigrants, New Custom House,
Bombay.

Yours faithfully,
Pro: Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co.,

Agent.

9
Kana Rama Patel
Khad Sagar
Vina Navsari
18th 4. 1947

Dear Sir ^{or}

Sardar Vallabhbhai

I wish to tell you that time
of our expiring permits up till
now has been extended. As very few
are expiring so we have not
need to trouble for more time
now if we can go four in
May and June and others
in every month so they can
reach in just a enough time
for them to reach N. I. by then
Could Your Honour arrange
for some tickets every month
by any company steamer
for travelling to Sydney and

as possible from Bombay
or Madras to Colombo or Calcutta
we know that from Calcutta
there is sailing for Fiji but
they are not taking passengers
for New Zealand. They only have
told us that we have to get
tranship permits from Fiji.
So I wired to Government
but it has been refused that
we have been given to you in
Fiji. I wish your Honor could
get permit for us to tranship
from Fiji. So Calcutta shipping office
could take us. Fiji boat is
sailing 25th April 1947. as
I know.

Yours faithfully

My family permit

valid upto 7 July 1947

I must go with

my family urgently.

We have property to attend.

Yours as ever K. N. P.

From,

Kana Natha Patel

Khadsupa, Taluka Jalalpure, District
Surat.

Dated 18th April 1947.

To,
The Commonwealth Relation Department,
New-Delhi.

Respected Sir,

We the undersigned Indian passengers bound for Newzeland via Sydney most humbly and respectfully beg to write the following few lines for your prompt attention.

That we were all residents of Newzeland, and came to India for a temporary visit. During the war period all shipping facilities were restricted and we are all stranded in India since then. Although we were given only four years permit to return to Newzeland, the Newzeland Authorities were kind enough to renew our permits from time to time upto now. But now as the situation improves, they refuse to grant war time extension facilities, and that if we do not return to Newzeland before the expiry of our permits we are on the verge of losing our right of entry in to that colony. Many of our friends had to leave for Singapore by steamer and from Singapore by air, thus incurring heavy expenses and undergoing various hardships, in order to save their right, although the expenses were beyond their means, as they are farmers and fruit merchants by profession. We still believe that there are nearly 100 Indians eagerly waiting for their turn. We are told by all the shipping Companies in Bombay and Calcutta that they can not promise any passage in the near future. Being disappointed, we only look to your department to view our case seriously and do your level best to charter atleast one ship, upto Sydney or upto Newzeland, and thus redress our grievances. We know that your good offices could make necessary travel arrangements for Hajis by requisitioning ships of the Mogul Line and the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. and we earnestly trust that you ^{will} be in a position to tackle our most important case successfully, and thus save lots of poor Indians losing their entry rights.

We beg to remain Sir,
Yours faithfully,

12 (12)

CIVIL PASSAGE PRIORITY CONTROL (AUSTRALIA).

On the assumption that this Department will, in future, operate on 10% of all passages to Australia, I now propose the following arrangements to implement this decision :-

1. Application Forms as per sample below (slip V) shall be printed and sent to all who have already applied for assistance in obtaining passages either to Australia, New Zealand or the Fiji Islands.

It is for consideration whether the scheme should be advertised. Should it be decided to do so, then I suggest that we should make it abundantly clear that the number of priorities available is strictly limited, and only cases requiring high priority by reason of expiry of permit or very special and urgent duty should make application.

2. We should ask Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd. to inform us as much in advance as possible of the date of sailing of each ship to Australia and the number of berths on that ship which is the equivalent of 10% of the total number of berths available on that ship. We should ask them at the same time to inform us if any deck accommodation is available, since some of our passengers may not be able to afford cabin rates. On receipt of this information, the Controller will send to Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd. a list of persons selected to fill those berths and it will be their duty to call them up to the port.

3. A copy of the Application Form and the general note concerning the scheme should be sent to Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd. at their various branch offices and to all travel agents.

4. I suggest the following schedule of passage priorities:-

PRIORITY I

Government servants on duty and non-officials travelling on Government business.

Applications under this category must be supported by a certificate from the Government Department concerned, stating the latest month by which the applicant must leave India if the purpose of the journey is to be achieved.

Families cannot travel under this priority unless the head thereof is to be out of India for at least 8 months.

PRIORITY II

Indians whose permits of re-entry will expire within the next 2 months in the case of Australia, and within the next 3 months in the case of passengers for New Zealand or the Fiji Islands.

PRIORITY III

Indians whose permits of re-entry will expire within the next 3 months in the case of Australia, and within the next 4 months in the case of passengers for New Zealand or the Fiji Islands.

PRIORITY IV

(a) Compassionate cases of Indians when private or domestic circumstances justify a passage in the desired month.

(b) Adult Indians going to Australia or New Zealand for higher education.

Applications must be supported by proof of admission to an University, Technical Institution, etc.

5. Persons who apply for priority but who do not come under one of the priorities mentioned above will be advised to register themselves with Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd. for a berth within the 50% of accommodation on each ship operated upon by that company. If they do not obtain a passage within 3 months of expiry of their re-entry permit to Australia or, in the case of passengers for New Zealand or Fiji Islands, within 4 months of expiry of their permits, they should apply again for priority to this Department.

Secretary.

7. 5. 47.
(A.W.T. Webb)
P.R.O.

APPLICATION FOR PRIORITY PASSAGES TO AUSTRALIA.

14 (14)

N.B. This form is intended also for passengers proceeding to New Zealand or Fiji Islands via Australia.

Before completing this form, read carefully the instructions overleaf.

1. (a) Name of applicant [redacted] (see note i)
[redacted]
- (b) Full postal address in India, with telegraphic address (if any), to which information and instructions are to be sent. (see note ii)
2. Names of all individuals for whom passages are required showing age, sex and relationship. (See note iv).
3. Final destination (Australia, New Zealand or Fiji Islands).
4. Month in which passage is preferred. (See note v).
5. Date on which permit of re-entry (to Australia, New Zealand or Fiji Islands) expires.
6. Reasons for journey.
7. Name of Travel Agent employed.
(If you have already booked with a Shipping or Travel Agent, give date of booking and name of Agent.)
8. Whether prepared to accept deck accommodation.
9. Is your Passport in order ?

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above statements are correct.

Date.....

Signature.....

Place.....

On completion, this form should be submitted to:-
The Civil Passage Controller (Australia),
Government of India,
Department of Commonwealth Relations,
New Delhi 3.

24

15

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM.

- Note i. The applicant is the person responsible to the Shipping or Travel Agent for the passage money of the party. You will not be permitted to embark without a passage ticket obtainable from your Shipping or Travel Agent. Surname in Block Capitals.
- Note ii. If you are likely to leave your present address before you receive orders to embark, it is better to have correspondence addressed to your Travel or Shipping Agent.
- Note iv. Priorities are not allotted to young persons under 18 years of age but to their guardians.
- Note v. Against this item is required information as to the target date by which the applicant must leave India or reach Australia, as the case may be.
- Note vi. Sea passages cannot be allotted to women who are more than five months pregnant.
- Note vii. In addition to this application you should register with a Travel Agent, or Shipping Company's Agent. Agents issue passage tickets, labels, etc. and call passengers to port of embarkation.
- Note viii. Persons making false statements ~~on forms~~, render themselves liable to prosecution under Sec. 132, Indian Penal Code.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

- (a) The Civil Passage Controller (Australia), allots priority and informs the Shipping Agents (Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd., Ballard Estate, Bombay) of the names of priority passages selected for each ship. It is the duty of M/s. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd. to call passengers down to the berths and to allot berths.
- (b) Enquiries regarding the allotment of priority should be addressed to the Civil Passage Controller (Australia). All other matters including enquiries as to the cost of passages should be addressed to M/s. Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., Ltd. or to the Travel Agent appointed by the applicant.
- (c) No priority can be given for travel beyond Australia. Those wishing to proceed via Australia to New Zealand or the Fiji Islands must make their own arrangements for onward passage from Australia.
- (d) There is no objection to Indians landing in Australia for transhipment to New Zealand or the Fiji Islands provided that such persons hold:-
- (i) authority to enter New Zealand or Fiji,
 - (ii) through tickets, or orders for first or second-class passages by sea, or for berths by air, to their ultimate destination; and
 - (iii) sufficient money to enable them to maintain themselves during the period of their stay without having to engage in employment.
- (e) As regards passages to New Zealand and the Fiji Islands from Australia, the position though not good is improving. Passengers on arrival in Australia should contact shipping or travel agents for latest information.
- (f) If you find it necessary to postpone your date of sailing you should inform your Shipping or Travel Agent as early as possible. Last minute cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to substitutes who must frequently be offered berths at very short notice.