

Shri Basumatai: According to the Constitution of India NEFA is gradually to be integrated with the neighbouring State. What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in view of this constitutional provision?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That has already been answered.

Shri Hem Barua: Apart from the measures proposed to be taken to give an opportunity to the people of NEFA to taste the pangs and pleasures of democratic set-up, may I know what steps Government have proposed so far to accelerate the process of integration of NEFA with the rest of India?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The same question has been answered.

Shri Hem Barua: This is not the same question. I want the barrier of separateness to be broken and the psychology of oneness to be created and a comprehensive Indian mind to be created. What steps have the Government taken to achieve that comprehensive Indian mind, so far as the people of NEFA are concerned?

12.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over. Question No. 637 has been asked by several Members. If the hon. Minister has no objection, it might be answered.

Anti-Indian Propaganda by Sheikh Abdullah

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Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachhavaia:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Gulshan:
Shri Balmiki!
Shri P. H. Ebeel:

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Shri Tan Singh:
Shri M. P. Swamy:
Shri Abduj Ghani Goni:
Shri Radhelal Vyas:
Shri Sheo Narain:
Shri Panna Lal:
Shri Braj Bihari Mehrotra:
Shri Sivamurthi Swamy:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Daji:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri D. J. Naik:
Shri Chhotubhai Patel:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the adverse effects of the anti-Indian propoganda made by Sheikh Abdullah, the Kashmir leader, during his recent foreign tour, to Cairo (UAR), England and other countries; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to counter this propoganda?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Government have seen statements made by Sheikh Abdullah in the UAR and Britain. In most of them he has been contradicting his earlier statements on the facts of accession, Pakistan aggression, etc.

(b) Our Missions have been instructed to counter any anti-Indian propoganda by Sheikh Abdullah. Some of them, as in Cairo and London, have issued Sheikh Abdullah's own statements upholding the finality and irrevocability of accession, emphasising the unbreakable bond between Kashmir and the rest of India and exposing Pakistan aggression, including atrocities committed by Pakistan invaders on the innocent people of Jammu and Kashmir. This material has been issued in Arabic and English.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : विदेश यात्रा का जब यह पासपोर्ट दिया गया तो क्या यह सत्य है कि उन्होंने अपने को भारतीय नागरिक

न लिखा कर काश्मीरी मुस्लिम लिखा और इतने पर भी प्रधान मंत्री, विदेश मंत्री और उच्च स्तर पर उन को पासपोर्ट देने का निर्णय किया गया, यदि हां तो उस का कारण क्या था ?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): This passport was issued to him some months ago and on this present occasion it was only a question of extension of it. This was issued, I think, in May last year when he wanted to go to Pakistan. It is a fact that there he had described himself as a resident of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir is part of India and let us not try to read in this something which does not exist . . . (*Interruption*).

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Swaran Singh: He has accepted the passport as an Indian national and, therefore, we are quite clear that by doing this, we have not compromised our position at all.

Shri Kapur Singh: The question has been wholly side-tracked. The question is not as to what place he is resident of. The question is whether he described himself as a national of India or not, and if he did not describe himself as a national of India, why was the passport granted to him?

Shri Swaran Singh: We have issued the passport which he has accepted in which his nationality is described as Indian. That is enough from our point of view.

Shri Kapur Singh: No, Sir. You have to come to our rescue.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. When an Indian has to put in his nationality, then Kashmir Muslim is no nationality at all.

Several hon. Members: Yes; hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: When it came before the External Affairs Ministry to see whether all those things and columns had been filled up properly, did they care to see that the column 'Nationality' really contained the nationality that was his.

Shri Swaran Singh: This passport was issued before I took over . . . (*Interruption*).

श्री बागड़ी : आप से पहले विदेश मंत्री कोन थे ?

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to clarify that in view of the points that have been urged, it is our intention to issue strict orders that in future if there is any passport application where in any person does not describe himself clearly as an Indian national, they have not to take any notice of such an application.

Shri A. P. Jain: Will you kindly listen now to my question? . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am listening to the question.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am addressing this to the External Affairs Minister because he is gossiping there.

Has the External Affairs Minister seen the news item in today's paper that Sheikh Abdullah has been invited by China, and if so, what is his reaction to it?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing altogether.

I have already received a notice about it, and I have sent it on to the hon. Minister. That would be dealt with separately. That would not come within the scope of the present question.

Shri A. P. Jain: Then, please let me ask another question.

Mr. Speaker: No. Shri Kapur Singh.

Shri Kapur Singh: Do we understand the External Affairs Minister to have told us that although it is now conceded that a mistake was made in this particular case, yet, in future, strict instructions will be issued that if a person does not describe himself as an Indian national, no passport will be issued to him? Have we understood him correctly?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has said.

Shri Kapur Singh: Have we understood him correctly in regard to the first part also, namely that a mistake has been made?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has said.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The hon. Minister has said that inadvertently Sheikh Abdullah was given his passport even though he had not described himself as an Indian national but as a Kashmiri Muslim. That came out in answer to your question. May I take it that Government was so unconscious of the possibilities of this kind of mistake being exploited against the interests of India not only by the person concerned but by other people, and in spite of that, allowed this mistake by inadvertence or whatever it may be, to go through, and in that case, what steps are being taken in this regard?

Shri Swaran Singh: In the first instance I would like to say that I have not said that the passport was issued inadvertently. . . .

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Deliberately? You had issued it deliberately?

Shri Swaran Singh: The only alternative to inadvertence is not deliberation; there are other intervening things.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: That is the definition of your carefulness.

Shri Swaran Singh: About the other part of the question, I may say

that this position has not at all been utilised by Sheikh Abdullah in any of the countries, and he has not said anywhere that he got this Indian passport notwithstanding the fact that he did not describe himself as an Indian national. So, that question does not arise at all. In view of my clear statement that in future it is our intention not to issue a passport unless the person concerned clearly describes himself as an Indian national, I feel that the House should be satisfied.

Some hon. Members: May I ask one question?

Mr. Speaker: I should suggest that we should not take it up further. We should stop here. But I must make one suggestion to the hon. Minister. If it had been done by oversight by some official in the Ministry. . . .

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: . . . then, certainly some inquiry might be made and some action might be called for. If it was done at a high level, then I have nothing to say.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Now, let us take up the next item. I have already allowed a sufficient number of questions. I had allowed this question to be answered, even though the time allotted for questions had been over, and the Question Hour also had been over.

Shri Hem Barua: My name is also there in the question.

Mr. Speaker: Now we should not pursue it.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : 35,000 की विदेशी मुद्रा स्पेशल सैंकशन की है ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let there be an inquiry.