

Burmese Press Delegation

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*1954. { Shri Bhogji Bhal:
Shri Rameshwar Tantis:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a deputation of Burmese Press has been invited to visit India; and

(b) if so, which Burmese newspapers are represented on the press group visiting India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The Burmese newspapers represented on the group are:—

(i) "The New Times of Burma", Rangoon.

(ii) "The Hantawaddy", Rangoon.

(iii) "The New Light of Burma", Rangoon.

(iv) "Myanma Lanzin", Mandalay.

श्री भोगजी भाई : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस शिष्ट-मंडल पर जो खर्च होगा, वह भारत सरकार देगी या बर्मा सरकार देगी ?

श्री सादत अली खाँ : खर्च का अन्दाजा कोई तीस हजार के लग भग हुआ है और डेलीगेशन चूँकि यहाँ आया था, इस लिए जाहिर है कि खर्चा भारत सरकार देगी ।

श्री भक्त बहान्न : यह जो प्रखबारों का शिष्ट-मंडल भारत में आया हुआ आया है, उस ने भारत के कौन कौन से भागों का दौरा किया है और कहाँ कहाँ जाने का उस का प्रोग्राम है ?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Delegation arrived at Calcutta on the 26th March, 1958. After visiting Rourkela and Bhilai steel plants, it toured the

States of Madras, Kerala, Mysore and Bombay and visited Bhopal, Agra, Delhi, Bhakra-Nangal and Srinagar. The Delegation is due to return to Rangoon on the 30th April, 1958 after visiting Banaras, Gaya, Sindri, Chittaranjan and Calcutta.

Shri Joachim Alva: Government spends quite a lot of money on Press Delegations coming from abroad. I would like to know whether Government or the Chief of Protocol takes any special interest in seeing that these foreign journalists are in touch with all the members of the Journalists Union here or in other important cities and also Members of Parliament who are journalists belonging to all parties in the House.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The programme is normally fixed after consulting their side and our side. So, it is chalked out by mutual consent and all the items are included.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member suggests that when journalists come here, journalists in Parliament and outside must be consulted or given opportunities to mix with them.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The hon. Member's suggestion will be borne in mind.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is the Government in a position to inform us as to who it was that selected the different papers represented in this Delegation? Is it the Government of Burma or any independent Press body in Burma, because I find that some of the important Burmese papers are not represented?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Our Ambassador in Burma in consultation with the Burmese Foreign Office drew up this list of journalists who would visit this country.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is the Government or our men in Burma in touch with any independent Journalists' Association in Burma and was their opinion sought?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I could not answer that question offhand. I will have to make enquiries.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the Burmese Press Delegation has so far visited Parliament?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is always here.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Not so far as I know.

Mausoleum of Maulana Azad

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*1905. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Nek Ram Negi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken by the Government of India with regard to the construction of a mausoleum in memory of Maulana Azad;

(b) whether any other steps are being taken to perpetuate his memory; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) In view of the location of Maulana Azad's tomb in front of the Jama Masjid, it is not proposed to erect any elaborate structure there. It is intended to have a garden round about the tomb as well as on the other side of the approach road to the Jama Masjid.

For the present, a simple temporary but artistic covering will be put up for the tomb. The further question of any permanent arrangement will be considered later.

(b) and (c). It is understood that the Working Committee of the Congress have issued an appeal for a fund with the object of honouring the memory of Maulana Azad. A copy of this appeal is laid on the

Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix, VIII, annexure No. 47].

The Sahitya Akademi intends to bring out a collection of Maulana Azad's writings. Steps are being taken to collect all his writings from his early days.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long it will take for the committee to determine the kind of mausoleum which is mentioned in the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Working Committee has already proposed certain steps which should be taken for this. I think it appeared in the newspapers.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Parliamentary Secretary has referred to an appeal of the Congress Working Committee. The question was intended to elicit information as to what steps Government has taken. Since when has the Congress Working Committee become the Government?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can leave the Congress Working Committee alone. The Parliamentary Secretary could easily have said: These are the steps that Government are taking. Other persons who are interested are also taking steps. Whether outsiders take steps or insiders take steps, it is a memorial in memory of the late Maulana Saheb. Therefore, he has given outside information to us but not to give increased importance to the Congress Working Committee, so far as this House is concerned. Any contribution from any other source also is welcome provided it fits into the scheme.

Shri Yajnik: I want to ask if in response to the appeal of the Working Committee an all-parties Maulana Azad Memorial Committee has not been appointed and funds are being subscribed by all the Members of this House for a portrait. So, it is no use saying that it is the Congress Work-