

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether the purpose of his visit has been ascertained?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The purpose of his visit was to interview the Naga hostiles and get from them whatever information he wanted

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that Mr Johnstone, Assistant Manager of the Kotombari Tea Estate, who actively assisted the representative of the *Daily Express*, has not been externed from this country, but on the other hand Government made an informal request to the management to transfer him from Assam? If so, may I know whether the steps taken by Government are commensurate with the mischief that has been done to this country?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: An externment order was served on Mr Johnstone and he left India on 3rd June, 1959

Mr. Speaker: It is more than a month now

Shri P. C. Borooah: Did the *Daily Express* correspondent interview the Naga rebels or Naga contractors?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Through the son of a Naga contractor he managed to get an interview with the Naga hostiles

Dr Ram Subhag Singh: What is the harm if some enterprising newspaper man gathers some information, especially when we did not ourselves go there to get accurate information?

Mr. Speaker: This is a matter of opinion

Shri Hem Barua: This representative of the *Daily Express* has reported that in the course of two years 35,000 Nagas were slaughtered by the Indian Army and that type of information we do not want in foreign papers

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is it a fact that a very young English lad of about 20 years of age who came to India only

3 or 4 months before the incident was unnecessarily harassed and ordered to leave Assam even though he did not actually help the *Daily Express* correspondent?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: As far as the young man is concerned—his name is Rigby—the Government had served an externment order on him and by the intervention of his mother who pleaded that he was not really guilty of the charges against him, the externment order was withdrawn: and he is still in India

Shri Hem Barua rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member who comes from that area must be informed about the man who was externed more than a month ago and he should not have put a question

Shri Hem Barua: It is not about that, Sir I want to know from the Deputy Minister whether there is any ban imposed on Mr Johnstone's re-entry into this country. He has gone on leave for two months

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: He has been externed. An externment order was served on him

Indians in Goa Jails

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Shri Goray:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri Damar:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the Portuguese authorities in Goa have released any of the Indian nationals from their jails during 1959, so far,

(b) if so, their names,

(c) the names of persons still in Goa prison,

(d) the terms of their imprisonment; and

(e) the steps taken to secure better treatment for them?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). The following Indians have been released in 1959:

Shri Madhusudan Guntak.
Shri Gangadhar R. Manjrekar.
Shrimati Sudha Joshi.

(c) to (e). One Indian, Shri Mohan Laxman Ranade, sentenced to 26 years, is still in prison. The Government of India have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Portuguese authorities in a variety of ways to the need for proper treatment of all political prisoners.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the hon Minister tell us what are the variety of ways in which the attention of the Portuguese Government has been drawn to this problem?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: May I have the question repeated?

Shri D. C. Sharma: The hon. Deputy Minister stated in her reply that the Government of India has been trying to draw the attention of Portuguese authorities to this problem in a variety of ways. May I know what are those various ways in which their attention has been drawn?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Through the U.A.R. Embassy which is acting for us. The Counsellor of the U.A.R. Embassy went to Goa, interviewed the prisoners, inspected the jails and made certain suggestions for the improvement of the conditions. These were taken up and some changes have taken place there.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when the First Secretary of the U.A.R. Embassy visited the Goa prison last and when his report was sent to the External Affairs Ministry?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The last visit was in October, 1958.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the difference between October 1958 and 4th September, 1959 is so negligible that some other visit

could not even be arranged by that gentleman so that we could have known the situation much more precisely than now?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: From the report it was evident that much of the allegations made about the treatment of prisoners were not true, and some of the difficulties experienced by the prisoners were brought to the notice of Red Cross as well as Portuguese authorities as a result of which action was taken in order to provide increased facilities for prisoners.

Shri Vajpayee: There was some dispute between India and Portugal in regard to the nationality of Mr. Ranade who is still in jail there. May I know what steps have been taken by the Government of India to convince the Portuguese that Mr Ranade is an Indian national?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I do not remember any dispute with regard to the nationality of Mr. Ranade; the dispute was about the nationality of Sudha Joshi.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know what concrete steps are taken by Government to render assistance to these prisoners and their families on their release?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There is only one prisoner left—Shri Ranade.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether on their release any assistance is given by the Government.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I want notice for that.

Shri Vajpayee: Some time back the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom offered his services to mediate between India and Portugal on the Goan issue. May I know whether that offer had been explored?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No offer was made.