

Indian Boy Treated as Slave in London

-1841. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:
Shri Nath Pai:
Shri Assar:

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

(a) whether Government of India's attention has been drawn to an account of a Court proceedings in London (England) in connection with maltreatment of a domestic boy-servant of an official of the Indian High Commission in London having been published in British newspapers under broad headlines, "Indian Boy Treated as Slave in London"; and

(b) if so, full facts of the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes.

(b) A domestic servant, Chand Ram, aged 14, was engaged by Shri P. C. Kapoor, Railway Adviser in the High Commission of India in London, with the consent of the boy's guardians. His wages were fixed at Rs. 150 per month plus food but not including clothing. Chand Ram arrived in London on the 1st January, 1961, and his wages for three months have been fully paid.

On the 3rd April, 1961, Chand Ram disappeared from the house of his employer at 10-30 p.m. and went to the Police Station in the company of two outsiders to ask for help in collecting his belongings from the officer's house. The police, however, brought him back to his employer. Chand Ram left the house again on the 4th April and went to the Police Station in the company of his friends, alleging maltreatment. The police, therefore, produced him before the Juvenile Court the same day. The Court placed him in the care of the Middlesex County Council for two weeks. The case came up before the Court on the 19th April. As the Children's Officer of the County

Council required some more time to prepare his report, the case has been postponed for a fortnight.

Government are carrying out departmental enquiries into the matter. In the meanwhile, the guardians of the boy have expressed a wish to have him repatriated to India and Government have agreed to do so?

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if there are certain rules for granting passports to persons who are under age or who are minors and whether these rules were observed when the passport was given to this boy when he was taken as a domestic servant?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, Sir. There are certain rules and minors are not given passports unless they are accompanied by guardians. When a case like this is sponsored by a sponsoring authority which happens to be the Railway Board in this case passport and emigration facilities are granted automatically.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know by whom is this departmental enquiry being conducted? Is it by the High Commission in London or some other authority because....

Mr. Speaker: He need not say 'because' and all that.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The departmental enquiry must necessarily be conducted by the department concerned, by the very nature of things. But it is not being conducted at present to any extent because the boy is not there; the boy's evidence would be the essential part.

May I say, Sir, that this whole affair is most regrettable? I do not know the exact facts; we shall find them out. I think it is unfortunate and it is wrong for such young boys to be sent abroad to begin with and whoever may be at fault, something has gone wrong somewhere and the young boy has to go to the police to complain about his employer. We shall

find out. Meanwhile, I think the boy would rather best come back here. That will depend upon the police court there—whatever they have got to do with the children's court—if they agree that the boy will be sent back at Government expense to his parents here.

As far as the officer is concerned, it will be a matter for the enquiry which has begun and which will continue later.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister has given an answer in extenso. What more is to be done?

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The Deputy Minister has said that in this case the Railway Board perhaps acted as a guardian of the ward.

Mr. Speaker: Sponsored.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Yes, Sir; sponsored, of course. She also said that such boys are allowed only to accompany their guardians. How is it that the Railway Board acted, as a matter of fact, as the guardian? I want to know whether any action will be taken against the people....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am sorry that the hon. Member did not follow the answer. Normally, unless such minors are accompanied by guardians, passports are not given. But wherever an institution sponsors them, they do not look into the further details, and they act upon the advice of the sponsoring authority. In this case, the Railway Board sponsored.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Secretary of the Railway Board.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; they will certainly make enquiries as to how he went, sponsored and all that. All that will come about. I am sure the enquiry will be exhaustive.

Shri S.M. Benerjee: One question. The railway officer acted as the guardian. I want to know whether

they took permission from the guardians.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Members will wait and see. All that will be gone into. Next question.

Visit of a Press-Correspondent to Naga Hills

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*1842. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri S.M. Banarjee:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item published in *The Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, dated 11th April, 1961 to the effect that Mr. Gavin Young, correspondent of the *Observer*, visited the I.A.F. men at present in the custody of Naga hostiles of which a detailed account is given;

(b) if so, whether the press-correspondent concerned was given the necessary permit to visit the Naga Hills; and

(c) if so, what is the period for which this gentleman was allowed to stay in the Naga Hills?

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

(b) and (c). No permit was given to Mr. Gavin Young to visit Nagaland. It appears that he went there from Burma.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the whereabouts of these airmen are now located by Mr. Gavin Young, with photographs of the airmen published in the *Hindustan Times*—and one of the photographs has been sent to the father of Capt. Misra also—may I know whether the Government will try to contact them and then effect their release, if possible?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Broadly speaking, the whereabouts have been known, but the whereabouts is an area, not a