

be accepted or not. That is the mistake in allowing suggestions to be made on the floor of the House! I am not going to allow such things. (Interruption). Hon. Members think that the Minister should carry all the information with him and immediately accept their suggestions. Next question.

**Boundary Agreement between
Nepal and China**

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*212. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Narasimhan:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Agadi:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1229 on the 5th September, 1961 and state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received a copy of the agreement regarding the Sino-Nepalese boundary;

(b) whether the same has been studied with a view to find as to the principles that have been generally followed in deciding disputed points: and

(c) whether decisions regarding trijunctions of Nepal, India and Tibet are to the satisfaction of India?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Sino-Nepalese treaty not only accepts but reaffirms the principles of custom, tradition, known geographical features and watersheds as basis for determination of international boundaries, vindicating our stand on the boundary question.

(c) Although the description of the two trijunctions in the treaty in a

general way points out the trijunctions as on our maps, it is not as precise as the geographical co-ordinates of these points. The maps attached to the treaty have only now been received and are under study.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the Government of Nepal consulted the Government of India with regard to the position of the trijunctions of Nepal, India and Tibet and, if so, what was the suggestion given to the Government of Nepal?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: On a previous occasion, I have answered that we have given definite information about the trijunction to the Nepalese Government.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Deputy Minister referred to the principles of custom and tradition. May I know what has been the tradition and custom regarding Mt. Everest and what is the position that the Government of India recognise in regard to that?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The question of Mt. Everest was not referred to us by the Nepalese Government or by any other authority. We are not directly concerned with it. That is a boundary between Nepal and Tibet. The matter does not require our consideration directly. Indirectly, of course, we are interested.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I would like to know what position we have been observing so far in regard to Mt. Everest.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The question never came before us. Broadly we have always considered Everest as within Nepalese territory.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Has the Sino-Nepalese proposal, emerging from these talks, to have a road link between Nepal and Tibet, been examined by the Government of India from the point of view of defence strategy and Indian views communicated to Nepalese authorities?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a different question. There is no question of any close examination. Broadly, of course, we considered this and even communicated informally with the Nepalese Government; informally because, formally it was not considered necessary.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the traditional boundary and the watershed principle were accepted as basis for negotiations so far as the Nepal-China agreement was concerned, may I know whether it has been ascertained from China what are the reasons for not applying the same principles in the case of the border dispute between India and China? If so, have they replied to it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member is quite right in applying the same principles and we have been laying stress on this. I do not quite understand to what he is referring. Do we again refer this matter to China?

Shri Hem Barua: My question is, the principle of traditional boundary and custom was accepted as also the principle of watershed in the case of Nepal. I want to know whether it has been ascertained from China why the same principles could not be accepted in the case of India as well?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is a question really for the Chinese Government to answer the hon. Member. His point, I think, is perfectly legitimate that though the same principles have been accepted in the case of Nepal boundary or for the matter of that in the case of Burma boundary also, why they should not be applied here. We say they should be applied.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know why after this arrangement was entered into between Nepal and China on this basis, once again negotiations were not started on this basis. If it is good for Nepal, it should be good for India also.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is, whether we have broached this question again on this basis?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not since this matter. In between, we have done so several times. No doubt if an occasion arises, we shall do so again.

Shri Nath Pai: Mr. Speaker, Shri Hem Barua never mentioned that new negotiations should be started. (Interruptions). I am here present for my party. All he maintains, as the Prime Minister rightly understood, is this. My party spokesman did not suggest that fresh negotiations be started once again, because we have had enough of negotiations. As the Prime Minister pointed out, we have been defending the position that the watershed principle should have been accepted.

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this. All questions that are put must be understood by all people alike. Nepal matter arose after our negotiations practically ended, and no more negotiations are being carried on now. Again and again, the hon. Member asking the Prime Minister, "Why it was not done?" would only create the impression that we must take it up again. Unambiguous questions must be put hereafter, not leaving doubts even with respect to me.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: There is some little doubt in our minds. How is it that Burma and Nepal can negotiate and settle the matter and we have not been able to settle the question so far? May we know the reasons for that?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is a pertinent doubt in the hon. Member's mind. I fear I cannot remove that doubt from my part.

Shri Hem Barua: In the case of India, there has been actual aggression. In the case of Nepal and Burma, there was no aggression; there was only a claim. Therefore, it was easier of solution.