

DISCUSSION OF KOREAN PROBLEM

***987. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representatives of the countries whose troops are fighting in Korea on behalf of the U.N.O. met on the 19th February, 1953 at the U.N. Headquarters, to discuss the Korean problem; and

(b) whether India was invited to that Conference?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The Government of India have no information apart from the press reports which have appeared on the subject.

(b) The meeting was of representatives of countries which have armed forces in Korea. The Government of India were not invited.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: May I know whether the Government of India are in a position to give reasons why India was not invited.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Because we have nothing to do with it.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government of India tried to ascertain the truth of the press reports, and if so, what were their findings?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The truth of what reports?

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister stated that there were some press reports, of which the Government were aware. I want to know whether the Government have taken any steps to know whether such reports as those to which a reference was made, are true.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have made no inquiries in the matter, because we are not interested.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether in view of the fact that the Government were not consulted in this matter, they are considering the question of withdrawing the medical unit from Korea?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Shri Buchhikotaiah: Have the Government got any intention to call for a separate conference with independent peace-loving nations to consider this question?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our conception of peace-loving nations differs.

INDIA'S DELEGATE TO ELECTORAL COMMISSION FOR SUDAN

***988. Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Sukumar Sen has been nominated India's delegate to the Electoral Commission for the Sudan; and

(b) if so, what are the terms of the appointment and for how long will he be away from India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) At the invitation of the British and Egyptian Governments, the Government of India have selected Mr. Sukumar Sen to serve as Chairman of the Electoral Commission for the Sudan.

(b) It was suggested that the Members of the Sudan Electoral Commission should continue to draw pay from their own Governments so as to stress their freedom from local influences and their complete impartiality. The Government of India, in common with the other participating Governments, accepted this suggestion and will, therefore, pay Mr. Sen his present salary plus an allowance to cover incidental expenditure as well as the cost of travel between India and Sudan. The Sudan Government will provide him with accommodation and transport. Mr. Sen's assignment is likely to last from four to six months from the beginning of March.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know, Sir, whether in view of the extreme bad feelings between Egypt and Britain over the election arrangements in Sudan, Government have taken into consideration the extreme peril to our national honour and self-respect if something goes wrong over there in connection with Mr. Sukumar Sen's appointment?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I really do not understand the peril to our national honour and self-respect. At the request of the Governments concerned, we have sent one of our most experienced officers and he has been entrusted with a very difficult task. I have no doubt that he will discharge it to the best of his ability. I do not know where the peril comes to anybody.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Have the Government any idea of how Mr. Sen's appointment has been received by the Sudanese national political parties—not the Sudan Government?