

of the Conveyer System with a view to augmenting transshipment capacity at the Gauge interchanges; and

(b) if so, the decision arrived at in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) It is considered that no appreciable advantages will materialise by the installation of mechanical Conveyers at transshipment points.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what other steps are being taken to augment these transshipments at gauge interchanges? It was said to have been under the consideration of the Government for nearly two years.

Shri Alagesan: I thought that all these things were given during the time when the Railway Budget was discussed. In Mandwadi and other points like Sabarmati and Viramgham, we have increased the capacity of transshipment. For instance, in Mandwadi, it has been increased from 120 to 200 broad-gauge. At Sabarmati and Viramgham we had created coal dumps and that has enabled us to move more wagons. Other steps are also being taken.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What other steps are being taken at Secunderabad station for these gauge interchanges?

Shri Alagesan: I do not have the information relating to the Secunderabad station. If the hon. Member puts a specific question, I may be able to supply the information.

**CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO
STARRED QUESTION NO. 2292**

The Minister of Labour (Shri Khandubhai Desai): I would like to correct a statement which I made in answer to a question by Seth Govind Das. The trainees have also been sent—some of them—to the United States of America. I *said that they were deputed only to the United Kingdom.

Short Notice Question and Answer

GOAN SATYAGRAHIS

S.N.Q. No. 8. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 50 Goan Satyagrahis including the President of the Goan National Congress, who were arrested on the 6th April, 1955 at Mapucca (Goa) were subjected to inhuman treatment by the Portuguese Government while in custody;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on the 7th April, 1955, a National worker, who was trying to hoist National Tricolour, was shot dead by the Portuguese Police in the village Choden; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action in the matter.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) to (c). In continuation of the struggle of the Goan people for the freedom of Goa from colonial rule and re-union with India, peaceful satyagraha has been carried on there for some months past. This satyagraha has taken the form of batches of Goans, and a few Indians from inside and outside Goa, shouting nationalist slogans and hoisting the National Flag on certain selected days. The 6th of April, 1955, was chosen by the National Congress of Goa for holding their open annual session in Goa. The Portuguese authorities mobilised their entire resources to meet popular demonstrations on this day. According to reliable reports, the Army was called out and in places like Partagal and Canacona even tanks and artillery were on display to intimidate the people. A number of local Goans, including girls, were arrested as a preventive measure in Margao, Mapuca and Pangim, the capital.

On the 6th April, Shrimati Sudha Joshi, President-elect of the National Congress of Goa, participated in this satyagraha. The open session of the

Congress could not be held, but Shrimati Sudha Joshi read a small part of her presidential address. She and over forty satyagrahis were arrested in Margao and Mapuca. Shrimati Joshi is said to have been abused and ill-treated during interrogation as a result of which she was reported to be fasting.

It is also reported that those arrested were beaten with rifle butts, kicks and batons. There is no reliable report to the effect that Shrimati Sudha Joshi was beaten. A report appeared in the newspapers about the death by shooting of Shri Madilkar for hoisting the Indian National Flag. This has not been confirmed.

Known arrests in Margao and Mapuca total 46. Probably the actual number of arrests was far in excess of this figure. Large crowds who gathered to witness the satyagraha were subjected to lathi and baton charges.

The Portuguese authorities have made increasing use of the military, as apparently they do not fully trust the Goan police force.

The Government of India have made repeated protests to the Portuguese Government about the repressive measures which they are taking to suppress this peaceful movement for the freedom of Goa from colonial rule and its re-union with India.

On the 11th April, they again lodged a strong protest against these measures and gave a warning to the Portuguese Government that if these measures were continued, there would be serious repercussions both in Goa and in India.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: In view of the fact that the Portuguese authorities have been consistently and persistently running rough-shod over the patriotic demands of Goans for freedom, and also in view of the fact that the Portuguese authorities have been carrying on a scurrilous campaign of bluff and slander against

India, will the Government of India revise their past policy and take steps, firstly, to close the Portuguese Legation in Delhi and, secondly, to see that the non-Goan Indian nationals are allowed to go to Goa for participation in the liberation movement?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The Government of India have been closely watching the situation and reviewing it from time to time. When proper occasion arises, the suggestions made by the questioner will also be taken into consideration.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether it is true that recently the Portuguese authorities have been concentrating troops and also large amount of ammunition in Goa, and is it true that the Government of India have not taken any steps to see that the import of ammunition to Goa and also the bringing of more soldiers to Goa is stopped by any other means?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Those who live by the sword perish by it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. the Home Minister said that protests have been made to the Portuguese authorities that the situation in Goa will have serious repercussions both in Goa and in India. May I know whether those protests have been turned down by the Government of Goa and, if so, what alternatives do the Government of India propose to pursue in this regard?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Protests cannot be turned down. We have made the protest, and made it with considerable force. The papers containing the protest were received by the Minister of Portugal on the 11th and returned on the 12th. So a grave warning was administered to him.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know what particular international complications, if any, are anticipated by Government in case Government lifts the present ban on the participation of Indian nationals in the movement for freedom inside Goa?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The question seems to be hypothetical.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if Government are aware that in this particular case of the recent event, while holding the National Conference of the Goans there, there were Indian nationals who were insulted and spat upon in their faces and, if so, what steps Government propose to take in order to protect their own nationals— if not the Goan nationals?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government have been watching with admiration the fight that Goan nationals have been conducting for the liberation of their country, and they are entitled to as much of respect from India as any Indian nationals that may happen to be there.

Shri Heda: In view of the fact that different versions about the treatment of the *satyagrahis* are appearing in the Press, have Government their own resources to find the things for themselves and, if so, what is their information?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Government are using all the resources that are available to them, and it seems to be true that the Goan Government has been behaving in a manner which cannot be regarded as civilised, in their treatment of these *satyagrahis*.

Shri B. N. Misra: In view of the original treaty between the British Government and the Goan Government under which for increasing their military strength they had to take the consent of the Government of India, may I know whether the Goan Government has taken the consent of the Indian Government, and, if not, what action is being taken?

Pandit G. B. Pant: About what?

Mr. Speaker: About the terms of the treaty. He says there is an old treaty between the British Government and the Goan Government under which they cannot increase their military strength without the consent of the Indian Government.

Pandit G. B. Pant: If true, that fact will be borne in mind in dealing with Portugal.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know how far our repeated declarations that we will not use force in Goa under any circumstances have resulted in giving a premium to the intransigence of the Portuguese authorities, resulting in untold suffering to the Goans there?

Pandit G. B. Pant: It may be true that persons who believe in violence do not easily surrender to non-violence, but are ultimately vanquished.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

*2285. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Council of Local Self-Government has started functioning;

(b) whether the Council has formulated any programme of work;

(c) the important recommendations that have been made by the Council; and

(d) the nature of decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No. It will start functioning with its first meeting proposed to be held in June, 1955.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

TOURISTS FROM U.S.A.

*2289. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of American tourists who visited India during the period July to December, 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): 5219.