

Indians enjoying that liberty in China; even the Chinese do not enjoy that liberty in China.

Laos

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- *124. { Shri A. M. Tariq:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shrimati Benu Chakravarty:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any, and if so what, progress has been made in the direction of re-activation of International Commission for Supervision and Control in Laos;

(b) whether there have been any negotiations between the Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference in this regard; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) There has been no progress towards re-convening the International Commission for Supervision and Control, Laos.

(b) There were exchanges of views between the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference on the situation in Laos.

(c) The Co-Chairmen could not come to any agreement on measures to deal with the situation. In September 1959, the Government of Laos referred the matter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and it is now before the Security Council.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know if Government is aware of the fact that the Soviet Government proposed that this matter should be discussed among the Co-Chairmen? Later on there

was a proposal from U.K. What was the reaction of our Government to that proposal of U.K.?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not know to which proposal of U.K. the hon. Member is referring. But the two Co-Chairmen have been in contact with each other by correspondence chiefly and that is continuing.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In view of the sending of the fact-finding mission, the recent visit of the Secretary General and the appointment of economic adviser to Laos, does it mean that the International Commission for Supervision and Control has been suspended?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Apart from the array of facts which the hon. Member has referred to, the International Commission was suspended even previously and it was laid down that if necessity arose, it could meet. But as a matter of fact, it has not met, because of the strong opposition of the Government of Laos to its meeting. It seems to me rather doubtful that it would meet in view of this opposition, because the Commission cannot meet if the Government is not agreeable to its meeting.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that tension is increasing in that country and if so, what steps Government propose to take to lessen that tension?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Tension there has been at a high level for some years. It may slightly increase or decrease; it has been at a high level and all these things that have happened recently indicate that tension. The Government of India cannot do anything at all about it. It is obvious that as members of the International Commission, we could have functioned if the Commission functioned. Since the Commission does not meet, we cannot function. All we can do is to draw the attention of the two Co-Chairmen to such information as comes into our possession and to suggest that they might take adequate steps.

Shri C. B. Fande: Is Government aware of the fact that the Laotian Government does not like the continuance of this Commission, because the presence of this Commission in Laos has helped the rebel Pathot Laos party?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon Member may perhaps be repeating what the Laotian Government has said about it. That is not my view.

Shri C. D. Fande: Does the Government of India not feel that we should not take part in the Commission because the existing government there does not like it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India is always prepared to take part in that Commission—it has never withdrawn from it subject always to the parties accepting the Commission. We cannot thrust the Commission if they do not want it. What the Laotian Government's view about it has more or less been expressed by the hon Member, that is not the Government of India's view.

Shri Kasiwal: May I know whether after the visit of the fact finding Commission and that of the Secretary-General, any suggestion has been made by either of them that the International Commission should be re-convened again?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have said it previously and I do not know how I can repeat it. We are prepared to function in the International Commission, provided it functions, and it can function only by the consent of the parties concerned. If their consent is lacking, it cannot function. By the very nature of the Commission, it cannot be thrust on those countries. Now, what the future would be, I cannot say. There is the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who has gone there, and there is the so-called fact-finding Commission, whose report has not been published yet. It appears that some rumours, bits of them, have appeared. I take it that when the Secretary-General goes back to the

United Nations, he will make a report on it.

Shri Nagi Reddy: In view of the fact that a fact-finding committee had been appointed, and in view of the fact that it is going to give a report to the United Nations, may I know whether the Government of India was consulted before the fact-finding committee was appointed and, if so, what the Government of India's views were when it was asked to go to Laos to find out facts?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. The Government of India was not consulted about this matter.

Shri Nagi Reddy: What was the opinion of the Government of India regarding the fact-finding committee?

Mr. Speaker: Opinions are not asked for here.

Shri Tangamani: What is the view of the Government on the recent proposal of the Government of Britain about the agreement of ICSC on Cambodia and Viet Nam?

Mr. Speaker: We do not ask for views or opinions during question Hour, hon Members can only ask for facts.

Shri Tangamani: What is the fact here?

Mr. Speaker: It is a hypothetical question.

Shri Tangamani: May I know whether the Government is aware of U.K.'s proposal about the agreement of ICSC on Cambodia and Viet Nam and, if so, what is its reaction?

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know whether these questions of Laos and China are not connected with the struggle going on between Russia and America for world control?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion. Next question.