

Mr. Speaker: Let both the answers be given, and then let the supplementaries be put, and whichever Minister is willing may answer them.

Naga State

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*1593. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri P. G. Deb:

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

(a) whether the Working Committee of the Naga Peoples' Convention has asked for the removal of restrictions on the movement of rebel chiefs in order to consult them about the formation of a Naga State; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) Yes; such a request was made several weeks ago.

(b) Necessary facilities, consistent with considerations of security, were given to enable hostile leaders to move about.

Nagaland

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*1611. { **Shrimati Renuka Ray.**
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ragunath Singh:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governor of Assam has received a demand for the creation of a separate Nagaland within the Indian Union on the lines of the resolution of the Mockouchung Convention; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking in this respect?

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

(b) This matter is under consideration.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what facilities Government are giving to the leaders of the Naga People's Convention for expediting the request for formation of this State which they have placed before the Government? May I know whether Government have made up their minds, and if so, what is the utility of forming this new State?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: On the 8th and 9th April, the members of the working Committee had detailed talks with the Governor of Assam, and we have received the Governor's Report and the recommendations. These are under consideration. That is what I meant by my answer that this matter is under consideration. As soon as the Government decides what action it should take, it proposes to extend an invitation to the members to come to Delhi and have the next round of talks.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether, on the basis of the study of that area, Government feel that they should make any change in the political set-up of that area, or is it because of the demand placed by certain leaders who may or may not be enjoying the full confidence of the population that this demand is being considered?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have mentioned that the Governor's Report and the recommendations are under consideration.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know if it is a fact that the Prime Minister told the Naga leaders a few days ago that the Government would consider their demand if it is put to them?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Yes, Government would consider the demand in the light of the Governor's Report and the recommendations and also in the light of the discussions that the Prime Minister had with the leaders and also in the light of the situation in that area.

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether some of the Naga leaders met

the Prime Minister when he recently visited Assam and had a talk about it?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have no information, but I can say that the Prime Minister met the officers of that area and discussed the matter.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the talks between the rebel Naga leaders and the Naga People's Convention have ended in failure?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Yes, Sir.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Who organised the Naga Convention, and how were the delegates chosen for this Convention?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Naga Conventions were held three times in the last three years. The convention was convened by some of the Naga leaders themselves at their own initiative to find out a political solution under the present circumstances.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the rebel Nagas have turned down the suggestion of the Convention to form a State within the Indian Union?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Yes, Sir.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the holding of the Naga People's Convention has had any favourable effect so far as the activities of these Naga rebels are concerned and also so far as the law and order position in that area is concerned?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Yes, Sir. There has been a general effect. A large number of people joined there, and they co-operate with the Government.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether this demand of the moderate Nagas for a separate Naga State within the Indian Union is not a sad commentary on the Government that it has failed so far to impress even upon the moderate Nagas about the merits and virtues of the present administration there?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of opinion.

Shri Hem Barua: May I put another question?

Mr. Speaker: What is the meaning of asking questions like this?

Shri Hem Barua: I wish to put another, which is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Member ought not to ask similar questions.

Shri Hem Barua: It is a different one.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may ask for information regarding the facts, but not ask them to say that they have egregiously erred in this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether this demand of the moderate Nagas for a separate State visualises an autonomous Parliament, a cent per cent Naga army and financial assistance from the Indian Government for the development of the separate State? Is that a fact or not?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The sixteen points put forward by the Convention have already been laid on the Table of the House. As far as the Government of India is concerned, I have already stated that the whole matter is under consideration, and I cannot tell the hon. Member what is going to happen.

Shri S. A. Mehdi: It has been stated that the Governor's Report and the demand of the Convention are under consideration. May I know if the Assam Government will also be consulted before a final decision is taken?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Certainly, the Assam Government will be consulted.

Shri Dinesh Singh: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to see that the delegates who had attended this conference enjoyed the confidence of the people?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Yes, we presume so.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: May I know whether an assessment would be made of the reaction of the dissident Nagas to the proposed separate Naga State within the Indian Union, before discussing it with the Convention leaders?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: I said that the leaders of the Naga People's Convention will still try to convince the leaders who are still underground.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the leaders expressed their hostility at the idea of a Naga State within the Indian Union?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That has already been answered.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether the Naga People's Convention represented the whole Naga people or only partially they represented the Naga people?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: The total number of delegates assembled was 4,000 in the Second Naga People's Convention, and they represented 16 Naga tribes.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether the Naga People's Conventions are being held for the last three years, and whether they had put their demands earlier, and if so, whether those demands have been considered?

Mr. Speaker: He means all the demands made hitherto.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: They are political demands, and they are under consideration.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the exact difficulties which Government are experiencing in restoring normalcy there, and whether this is the only way to bring about that situation in that area, and whether that will strengthen the overall position in Assam and other areas of the North-Eastern Frontier?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: I have already replied that the law and order situation in general has improved.

Pandit D. N. Tiwari: May I know whether this demand for a separate Naga State has been put this year or it has been put previously also, and if it has been put previously, what the decision of Government was on the previous demand?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The political demand has been put forward for the first time, in the third session of the Naga People's Convention at Moko'chung from the 22nd to 26th October

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know whether any assessment has been made as to the percentage of the Naga population that owes allegiance to the people who attended this Convention and those who owe allegiance to the rebel Nagas?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that question already, and stated that there were 4,000 delegates and 16 tribes.

Shri Goray: Now, there are only two clear positions before us. One is a separate Naga nation, and the other is a State within the Indian Union. What was meant exactly when the Prime Minister said that he had an open mind on this question?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It means that he will consider this without any prejudice.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that Mr. Phizo is operating from his hide-out in the unadministered area in the Indo-Burma border, and, therefore, he has turned down the original proposal of the moderate Nagas for greater autonomy under the External Affairs Ministry? May I know whether this is a fact or not?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have no information about the whereabouts of Mr. Phizo.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: A sixteen-point memorandum has been put by the Naga People's Convention. May I know whether the demand of the Naga rebels is the same or it differs, and if it differs, in what form?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The Naga rebels have not put forward any demand. The demands were put forward by the Naga People's Convention.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The original question of Dr. Ram Subhag Singh was whether they were being granted some sort of amnesty so that they could come for discussion. Part (a) of Question No. 1593 reads thus.

"whether the Working Committee of the Naga People's Convention has asked for the removal of restrictions on the movement of rebel chiefs....."

This was asked only just to ascertain their views also in the matter of a solution. My question is whether this sixteen-point memorandum submitted by the Naga People's Convention is dittoed or supported by the Naga chiefs. Otherwise, no solution can be achieved.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: It was not supported by them. It is obvious. Therefore, attempts were made by the Naga People's Convention leaders to have their consent, through this Convention, for the creation of a separate State inside the Indian Union.

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether the opinion of the people in general will also be taken into consideration when a decision is taken?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: All these things will be taken into consideration before a decision is arrived at.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The Parliamentary Secretary said that 16 tribes were represented. May I know how many tribes were not represented in this Convention?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: The main tribes have all been represented; maybe, there is a small section here and there which may not have been represented.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that when these restrictions were removed, and discussions were held with some leaders of the rebel group, they turned down the original proposal of the Mokckchung Convention, and then this new demand has been made in the light of the new situation?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: All the demands are continuous ones, and they have been made by the Naga People's Convention by the liberal group. The rebel group demanded full independence outside India.

Shri Hem Barua: My question was whether the moderate Nagas had certain discussions with the rebel leaders and whether the rebel leaders put this idea into their heads, and they want to make a compromise with their own draft resolution and the new demand coming from the rebel Nagas.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: If the idea for the creation of a separate hill-State inside India had been suggested or was in the mind of the rebels, probably, they would have agreed to this, but they have not agreed.

Prices of Yarn

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*1594. { Shri Pangarkar:
Shri Nagi Reddy:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri K. S. Ramaswamy:
Shri Sampath:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 521 on the 2nd December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether the steps taken by Government to bring down the prices of yarn have been effective; and