

dignity of Parliament and acted as an agent of another country. If however, the reported statement by the Chinese dignitary is shown to have no foundation, Parliament and the country will be relieved to know that none of us, members of Parliament, has been at fault. For the sake of posterity, Parliament, however, must take note of this incident for otherwise the reported Chinese claim would remain unchallenged and leave an impression entirely derogatory to our country.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara): Sir, it is a very important matter. The Minister should say something about it.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, with your permission, I wish to make the following observation on the special submission made by the Hon. Member, Shri Singh Deo:

I have stated in Parliament that delicate and complicated matters such as the border between India and China do not admit of examination, much less solution, through the medium of Press interviews. The same is true of correspondence between Ministers and individuals. Therefore, whenever this matter was raised in letters written to me by individuals, including Members of Parliament, I refrained from detailed discussion and only sent them courteous communications, acknowledging their letters and saying that they would be looked into. As I have also stated Government who have kept abreast of all research and other such material on the subject, are fully convinced that the alignment shown in our maps conforms to the true international border and that Government are not aware of any so-called new document, which, in any manner, disproves our stand.

(iii) PROBLEMS FACING THE NATIONAL LIBRARY CALCUTTA.

PROF. RUP CHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, National Library, Calcutta, has a

place of pride in the cultural life of our country. It has a long glorious record of catering to the needs of scholars, research workers of several disciplines and many others belonging to different parts of the country. Of late, this great institution of national importance is plagued with a number of serious problems, which require immediate and urgent attention of the Central Government.

Although the three year term of the Director of the National Library expired on June 30, 1980, the Central Government has not yet announced the name of a successor. The Director whose three year term expired on June 30, 1980 had been requested "to continue till further orders".

Furthermore, there is no librarian at present. One who joined in the National Library earlier this year as Librarian resigned after serving the Library for a few weeks. The appointment was also made after several years during which period the National Library had no Librarian. The Centre has not announced anything with regard to this question of Librarian. A third difficulty facing the National Library is in respect of the implementation of the Delivery of Books Act which provides for compulsory deposit of copies of all publications of India with National Library. The provisions of this Act are alleged to be grossly violated and it is reported that only 10 per cent of the books published in India are received by the Library. Moreover, adequate fund is not being made available for procurement of books and journals which is causing great inconvenience and hardship to the scholars and research workers of various parts of our country visiting the National Library.

The Central Government is urged to look into the grave problems facing the National Library, Calcutta and come forward with suitable steps to solve the problems at an early date.