

(c) whether registered Number plate of the taxi was noted by other persons and the police were informed;

(d) if so, whether some clues have been found out and if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the recovery of the rifle is expected; and

(e) the steps Government are taking to avoid such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) to (e). It is not a fact that a loaded rifle has been snatched. However, at approximately 2230 hrs. on 21st March, 1968, an unsuccessful attempt was made by some miscreants, who arrived in a taxi, to snatch the rifle of the Sentry at the Quarter Guard of the Air Defence Regiment (T.A.). On being alerted by the Sentry, the Guard Commander grabbed the driver of the taxi which was reversing and he continued clinging to the driver even while the vehicle speeded away until he was hit by the other occupants and thrown out some distance away. The number of the taxi was noted by the Guard Commander and the Sentry and communicated to the Police who have taken up the investigation which is still continuing. Meanwhile, the security arrangements have been further tightened.

Institutes Aided by Asia Foundation

6895. SHRI HIMATSINGKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the withdrawal of all assistance to the Asia Foundation by Government the organisations aided and assisted by the Foundation, like the Institute of Gandhian Studies, the Foundation for New Education in Banaras, the Young Farmers Association, the Indian Institute of Public Administration, the Institute of Historical Studies (Calcutta) and the Rajasthan University are facing difficulties;

(b) whether the Foundation had forwarded requests from these organisations for aid worth about \$400,000 to the Central Government for approval before Government's decision to wind up the Foundation; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made for assistance to these institutions?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Only the Institution of Gandhian Studies have indicated certain difficulties being faced by them. Government have received no communication from other institutions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Alternative arrangements to assist worthwhile projects which had been recipients of assistance from the Asia Foundation are under consideration.

12.27 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

VISIT OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO SIKKIM, BHUTAN AND FORWARD AREAS

SHRI D. C. SHARMA (Gurdaspur): Sir, I call the attention of the Deputy Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"His recent visit to Sikkim, Bhutan and Forward Areas."

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): Sir, in their recent visits to Delhi, the King of Bhutan and the Chogyal of Sikkim had extended personal invitation to me to pay a visit to their countries. I had not seen either of the two countries earlier and in keeping with the policy of the Government of India to establish close relations with the two friendly States, the invitations were accepted.

[Shri Morarji Desai].

The goodwill visit to Bhutan took place from March 23 to 25 and Sikkim from March 26 to 28.

In Bhutan, I held talks with His Majesty the King, with the Members of the Royal Advisory Council and with other important Bhutanese officials including the Indian officers currently on deputation to the Bhutan Government. The talks related generally to the problems of economic development of the country and of the working of the Plans which are under progress with Indian assistance since 1960-61. His Majesty expressed appreciation of the technical and financial assistance which had been given.

At the request of His Majesty the King, I performed the opening ceremony of the airfield at Paro, the first regular airfield in the territory of Bhutan. There were also several formal functions including visits to Monasteries, Local Institutions and Hydel Works at Thimpu. All statements on both sides reflected complete identity of interest and closeness of bonds between the two countries. The informal discussions were also very frank and friendly.

The visit to Sikkim was likewise an entirely goodwill visit. Naturally, the occasion was availed of to discuss with the Chogyal and his senior officials the progress of Sikkim's Plans since its initiation with Indian assistance in 1956. However, as in Bhutan it was found that the emphasis is on quickening the pace of development, but at the same time of increasing reliance on local resources.

The functions in Sikkim included a visit to the mines of the Sikkim Mining Corporation, owned by the Government of Sikkim, the Institute of Tibetology, the local Cottage Industries, Gangtok's main Hospital and a High School. The performance of various institutions appeared to be quite impressive.

On my way back from Sikkim on 28th March, 1968, I paid a brief visit to the forward areas near the Sikkim-Tibet border. The purpose was to get a first-hand acquaintance of the conditions in which our Armed Forces were living and functioning in a very vital sector of the Sikkim-Tibet border. There could be nothing but praise for the alertness and morale with which our Forces are discharging their functions.

Because of the complete understanding and wholly cordial relationship that exist between Bhutan, Sikkim and India, the people and Rulers of these States look towards India for assistance in their programmes of economic development. In recognition of their duty towards these neighbours, the Government of India have since some time embarked on a programme of furnishing economic and technical assistance to the two States. I not only reiterated Government of India's deep interest in the economic development and well-being of the peoples of Bhutan and Sikkim, but also of readiness to make such adjustment which could lead to quicker progress and larger generation of internal resources. Fortunately, the task was made easy by the attitude of realism and understanding displayed by the two Rulers.

These visits had no particular political or defence significance and were fulfilled entirely as a goodwill mission. For me this has been a very pleasant trip and a rewarding experience.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA: I am very happy that our Deputy Prime Minister had a holiday there. Because, he says that it had no economic significance, no political significance, no defence significance and that it was only a goodwill mission. All the same, I would like to know from him if the Government of India is considering the stepping up of economic aid and the enhancement of the defence aid, whether to our own contingents or the contingents of these two countries of Sikkim and Bhutan which he found in the forward areas.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Sir, I am very happy that my hon. friend is always in a holiday mood and he naturally expects that I should also be inflicted by it. Well, I am inflicted by it. Our defence is sound and the hon. Member need not have any anxiety over it. As regards aid to be given to these two neighbours, as I have said, we have assured them that whatever is necessary we will be prepared to do, considering our resources.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : भूटान सिक्किम, नेपाल, सीलोन और पाकिस्तान हालांकि भ्रम सब भ्रम-भ्रम हैं लेकिन सब पुराने भारत के भ्रम थे। इन सभी को एक भागे में पिरोने की जरूरत है। स्वर्गीय डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया कहा करते थे कि पहले कनफेडरेशन करो, तब फेडरेशन की और आओ। डा० लोहिया की यह पालिटिकल बात थी। इन्होंने अपनी विजिट का मिशन नान-पोलिटिकल रखा। इकोनोमिक डिवेलपमेंट पर इन्होंने ध्यान दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितना काम भारतीय लॉज और ग्रान्ट्स से वहाँ विकास का हो रहा है और खास कर यातायात और सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से क्या काम हो रहा है? कहां तक कार्यक्रम पूरे हुये हैं और कब तक आशा है कि ये सब पूरे हो जायेंगे?

भारतीय मदद से जो वहाँ पर काम हो रहे हैं हमारी आंखों से नहीं बल्कि वहाँ की जो जनता है, भूटान, सिक्किम की जो जनता है, उसकी आंखों से भ्रमर देखा जाये तो क्या प्रभाव पड़ा है और जहाँ तक बाहरी हमले का सम्बन्ध है उसके बारे में उसका मारेल कैसा है?

श्री मोरारजी वेसाई : माननीय सदस्य ने जो सबल पूछा है उसको उन्होंने इतना पेचीदा बना दिया है कि मेरे लिये तो कम से कम उसको समझना जरूर मुश्किल हो गया है...

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : आप सीधा कर के उत्तर दें।

श्री मोरारजी वेसाई : दूसरे तो पेचीदा बनाते जायें और मैं सीधा करता जाऊँ और यही मेरा काम हो तो इस बात को मैं नहीं मानता हूँ। यह काम मेरा नहीं है।

वहाँ जो भारतीय काम कर रहे हैं उनका जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, वे जितने लोगों को चाहते हैं उतने लोग ही काम करने के लिए जाते हैं। मैंने उनको यही कहा है कि जितनी जल्दी से जल्दी हो वहाँ के ही लोग तालीम पालें और वहाँ के लोगों के ऊपर ही यह भार डाला जाए। उनको भी बही पसन्द है और इसी तरीके से वे काम कर रहे हैं।

यातायात का मामला भी सुधर रहा है, रास्ते भी बना रहे हैं, सब कुछ हो रहा है। लेकिन समय जरूर लगेगा। इस में हम जो कुछ मदद कर सकते हैं, कर रहे हैं।

पहली तो बात उन्होंने कही है डा० लोहिया की उस बारे में मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना।

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : जनता का मारेल कैसा है?

श्री मोरारजी वेसाई : मेरे मित्र के मारेल से बेहतर है।

12.34 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF PANDE
COMMITTEE, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (DR. CHANNA REDDY): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Report on implementation of the recommendations of Pande Committee for Durgapur Steel Plant in pursuance of an assurance given on the 21st July, 1967 during Half-an-hour discussion on the subject. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-792/68].

(2) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Bokaro Steel Limited, for the year 1966-67 under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 (Hindi and English versions).