

tracing the trunk till now. The police have been requested by the Collector to make a fresh attempt in the matter, if necessary, by taking the help of Criminal Investigation Department.

(c) The security arrangements in the Collector's office have been tightened. A copy of the instructions issued by the Collector in this regard is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1628/68]

SCHOLARSHIPS TO MANIPUR STUDENTS

2814A. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many students of Manipur were given low income group scholarship for 1967-68 ;

(b) the amount spent for the same ;

(c) the range of income of the guardians against which the students were given this scholarship; and

(d) the range of income insisted upon by the Government of Manipur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) 53355.

(b) Rs. 21,13,871.

(c) and (d). Below Rs. 2,000 per annum. 12-07 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REVELATION MADE IN U.S. CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY RE. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION OF DEFENCE INTEREST TO U.S.A. FROM HIMALAYAN BORDER

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI (Berhampore) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"The revelation made in the United States Congressional testimony released on the 18th July, 1968 in Washington that the University of California Sociology Research Project in the Himalayan Border Region of India is financed by the Defence Department of the U.S. Government for collecting information of Defence interest for the U.S.A."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : According to the information which we have received from our Embassy in Washington, it appears that on May 28, 1968, in a testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee presided over by Senator Fulbright, Vice-Admiral Rickover made certain critical references to the Defence Department financing and conducting behavioural and social science research abroad. Senator Fulbright observed that he had received a letter from a Professor at the University of California also critical of Defence Department financing sociological research in India. The Professor from California has been identified as one Dr. Gerald D. Borroman. The Congressional hearing was made public on July 18, 1968.

From the testimony given by Admiral Rickover and the intervention of the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Fulbright, and from the letter written by Professor Berreman, it appears that a project was established at the University of California, Berkeley, in September, 1960 to coordinate and support research activities with a primary interest in the Himalayan area. During the first 6 years of its existence, a number of scholars have conducted field work in various parts of the Himalayan area.

Grants to support the field work and other research activities by scholars under the Project were received from various sources including the Institute of International Studies, the American Institute of Indian Studies, the Social Science Research Council and the National Science Foundation. However, for the period commencing 1967 and ending with 1970, the Advanced Research Project Agency provided funds for the Himalayan Border Countries to the extent of 60 per cent. It now transpires that this particular Agency is part of the Defence Department of the United States Government.

Under the Himalayan Border Countries Project of the California University, two research programmes were presented to the Government of India under the first programme, research was to be conducted by Professor J. Downs, Associate Professor of Anthropology of the University of Arizona in the language and culture of the Tibetan refugees living in and around

Mussoorie. The second programme, which was devoted to a study of an administrative-cum-religious centre in the Himalayas, was to be conducted by Professor Gerald Berreman who is Professor of Anthropology of California University.

Professor Berreman is already in India to attend a Seminar at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies in Simla. Visas were authorised for Dr. Downs and his associate research workers on July 3, 1968. Dr. Downs and his family arrived in India on July 28, 1968.

Government do not in any way wish to discourage genuine and legitimate research by foreign scholars and have indeed encouraged such research, however they view with concern the revelations made in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. In the light of these facts, Government are reviewing the advisability of permitting the continuance of the research programmes under the Himalayan Border Countries Project of California.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI
Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very unsatisfactory position and raises a number of questions. The first and foremost question that comes to the mind is whether the Government has any independent agency of its own to screen such proposals because from the United States and from other countries many such innocent looking research projects are sponsored. Only in the journal published here by the American information Office *Span* we read this month about the Institute of American Academy in Banaras and they are doing the innocent thing like archaeological research. Some do archaeological research, some do anthropological research and some do sociological research. May I know whether our Government have any independent agency to screen such projects? Here, Sir, three ministries are involved—the Education Ministry, the External Affairs Ministry and the Defence Ministry.

AN HON. MEMBER : Home Ministry also.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI
Yes, the Home Ministry also. Only the other day, on 2nd August, there was a question in this House about CIA activities. A book by Dr. Malder has been published in the United States and it has been broad-

cast all over India about CIA agencies and CIA activities, which institutes and which people are financed by CIA etc. The Home Ministry could very innocently say that they are trying to procure a copy of book. First our Members have to procure the news, then they have to send in notice of their question and only then the Government awakes to these things. This is an absolutely unsatisfactory position and threatens the security of the country. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government have any such agency. Secondly, I would like to know whether they will tell the American Government, in this instance as Senator Fulbright himself has said, that this makes all sociological and academic research sponsored by the United States in this country suspect, that this thing must stop once for all. Will the Government muster sufficient courage to tell the United States Government that this has got to stop?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As for the independent agency, it is true that we look into these cases with great care. The hon. Member did not mention Home Ministry. Home Ministry is primarily concerned with this. We go into these questions...

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI
The Home Ministry have not procured that book even though it is broadcast all the country.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am confining my answer to this particular question. So far as giving permission to people to move about is concerned, it is our definite policy not to allow people to go into this area and very careful scrutiny is exercised and in the past whosoever has been allowed has been allowed only for purely academic purposes, for research and study. We have seen some of the books that have been produced by some of these authors. They are very objective and books of scholastic interest. So, we have taken that care. But, since these new facts have come to light certainly we will examine this question. As to the question which the hon. Member has raised about research projects becoming suspect in the eyes of the world I think more than us it is the American reputation which is at stake and I think it is certainly... (Interruptions) Please hear me. If the hon. Member sees the testimony in

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

the Senate, he will see that it is a professor who himself raised the point that research should not be connected with the defence department or government departments. I entirely agree with the hon. Member that if research projects are suspect with political or other motivation, they have no value and even the American Government will realise it. We will also make it known. As I said, we are examining all these questions in the light of the information that we have received.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore) : Sir, I think you should advise the Minister not to be so worried about American reputation as to his own reputation.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am sorry, the hon. Member asked me a question whether the American Government is aware and so on. I was answering that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The news report which appeared here in our Indian papers regarding this particular project by the University of California says that the grant received from the Defence Department of the United States amounts to \$282,840 for a project which is to last for three years beginning from 15th June 1967. That means that if it has begun already it is of very recent origin, and most of the three years is still to go. Subsequent to the appearance of this news item, the United States Mission led by Mr. Katzenbach came here and Shri Bhagat had three or four days of very intimate *tete-a-tete* about which he refused to divulge anything in the House. I want to know, firstly, whether during these talks this question about the desirability or otherwise of this type of seemingly innocent academic research projects sponsored by American universities but financed by their Defence Department or by the CIA, or God knows what—because, they do not know anything; our government does not know anything; they have no means of knowing; they are not interested in knowing and they have no mechanism of knowing or finding it out; once this news item has appeared, he should have been alert about it—I want to know whether this question was at all raised by him with Mr. Katzenbach during these talks and, if not, why not. Secondly, since this makes this type of project suspect because until they reveal it to us there is no means for us to know it, I want to know

whether government is seriously considering banning all projects of this type which are sponsored by American universities unless they are in a position to know thoroughly what are its antecedents, who is financing it etc. Thirdly, about these two gentlemen who have already arrived in this country he has read out the names—in connection with this very project, will they kindly be asked to go back and their facilities withdrawn ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : He has brought in the question of my talks. The CIA question was not raised. The question of this project was not raised.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why not ? What were you doing ? You are supposed to defend our interest when you talk to these people ? Why did you not raise this at all ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Certainly, we will defend our interests. We have said that we have received these facts, we are examining these matters and, certainly, we will take it up. So, the hon. Member should not create the impression that we do not defend our interests. We are defending our interests.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH (Khalilabad) : Do you know what our interests are ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : For this project, as I said, two scholars have come. One of them is Dr. Berreman, who himself has raised this. He is here and we will certainly talk with him. We will examine this project and if we find that it is not of a desirable nature, we will certainly ask them to wind it up.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : This is no reply. Obviously, when they come here on some project to study fauna, flora or something like that, the only thing that they will show to Shri Bhagat is what they are doing in that connection. The real purpose of this project may be something which is secret and he has no independent agency as he told Shri Chaudhury just now, for finding that out.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The hon. Member is drawing wrong conclusions, probably deliberately. I have never said that we have no independent agency. I have definitely said that at the moment two projects are under consideration and in the

light of this information we are going to look into it. If we do not find it in our national interest, we will ask them to wind it up.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDRA GANDHI) : Dr. Berreman has himself refused to take part in the project assigned to him. At this moment he is in India not in connection with this project but to attend some seminar in Simla.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That makes it all the more suspect.

SHRIMATI INDRA GANDHI : We are not saying whether we do or do not suspect the programme. We shall look into it very carefully.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI (Mandsaur) : This research project in the Himalayan border region appears to be link in the long chain of espionage centres in the country. Sometimes, we find, these centres are American centres, sometimes they are Russian centres and sometimes probably of some other countries. But the basic thing is that they are not innocuous or innocent centres of educational and sociological research but are camouflaged centres for espionage. Their ramifications also appear to be wide. Almost with monotonous regularity, we have some exposure or the other every month or every two months. What is the Government doing to develop or to set up, or if they have already got one, to activate a counter-intelligence department? It particularly concerns the Home Ministry and, I think, the Home Minister should have taken up this issue. In any case, they should activate it. That centre must have the latest instruments and electro-magnetic devices. The world has gone far ahead of what Shri Bhagat thinks and where he is. With all those devices, they should have effective counter-intelligence in this century. Why should this country be allowed to be a happy hunting ground for international espionage?

Secondly, in the border region, we must particularly be careful to ensure that foreigners who go there do not go for the seditious purpose of subversion or international espionage.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why should they go at all?

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Yes, why should they at all be allowed in border areas?

Another important point is that there are certain Indian nationals who are also indulging in subversive activities. For them—I would repeat it; I have said in the past also—there should be severe deterrent penalties so that Indian nationals do not assist in such activities.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not a part of it.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : This all connected. It is a question of sabotaging our defence efforts.

Would Government, firstly, carefully examine the links that this Himalayan centre has established in the country and snap those links; secondly declare those persons who are indulging in these activities as *persona non grata* and expel them; and, thirdly, close down this centre? Finally what long-term measures is Government taking to ensure that espionage in this country is controlled?

MR. SPEAKER : The reply need not be so long.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : I am in agreement with the hon. Member that we must have our counter intelligence machinery and do whatever we can with our resources. Certainly, it is the primary duty of Government to prevent it.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : What about this project? What are you doing about it?

DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) : This is not the first time that instances of attempts on behalf of the American Government, either the Defence Department, or CIA or State Department, have been revealed in this House. Though our friend, Mr. Kothari, tried to introduce unsuccessfully that there was some other country also, may I know whether it is known to the Government of India that in this Himalayan region certain foreigners, mostly Americans, go there as bird-watchers, some as artists and painters enamoured with the landscape of Himalayas.

AN HON. MEMBER : Yogis also.

DR. RANEN SEN : ...and yogis also, not only as visitors but some of them get settled in the Himalayan border. There was an instance of one American lady who was over-staying in Darjeeling, in the Kalimpong area, and she was, all of a sudden, missing from that area and she was found in Madras.

AN HON. MEMBER : Americans were responsible.

DR. RANEN SEN : The Americans were responsible. About the friends who are always trying to equate Soviet Union with America, this House knows their colour and complexion. I need not go into that. What I meant to say is : Has it come to the notice of the Government that the intelligence system which is mostly engaged to find out the faults of the Communists instead of going into the activities of the foreign agents, mostly Americans and West German agencies operating in India in the form of tourists, bird-watchers, painters, artists, etc. and, if so, may I know what steps Government of India have taken, after all these revelations in Parliament, to stop this ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : As far as the Himalayan region is concerned, it is recognised that it is a sensitive area. We do not allow foreigners to go there. In the inner region, no tourist, no foreigner, can go. Only in some cases, for making the studies, we have been permitting a very few people. About this also, we will examine it. We want to protect this area. There should not be espionage or other intelligence activities. We will do our best.

12.28. hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

UTTAR PRADESH ANTARIM ZILA PARISHAD (RE-ENACTMENT AND CONTINUANCE) ACT, 1968

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING) : On behalf of Shri M.S. Gurupadaswamy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Uttar Pradesh Antarim Zila Parishad (Re-enactment and Continuance) Act, 1968

(President's Act No. 19 of 1968) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 1968 under sub-section(3) of section 3 of the Uttar Pradesh State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1968. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1588/68]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CUSTOMS ACT, 1962, ETC.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the Table :—

1. A copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

(i) G.S.R. 1315 published in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1968 containing corrigendum to G.S.R. 987 dated the 25th May, 1968.

(ii) G.S.R. 1383 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th July, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1589/68]

2. A copy each of the following Notifications under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 :—

(i) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1968, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 937 in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 1968.

(ii) The Central Excise (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 1963 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1300 in Gazette of India dated the 13th July, 1968.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1590/68]

3. A copy of the Delhi Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1968 published in Notification No. F. 4(28)/68-Fin. (E) (I) in Delhi Gazette dated the 27th June, 1968 under sub-section (4) of section 26 of the Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act, 1941, as in force in the Union territory of Delhi (Hindi and English Version).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-1590/68]

ANNUAL REPORT OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION FOR 1966-67 AND AUDITED ACCOUNT THEREOF

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHU RAMAIAH) :

I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas