

Cochin Naval Base in the year 1965-66;

(b) whether any terminal benefits were paid to them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State (in the Ministry of Defence (Shri B. K. Bhagat): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Indian Rare Earths

5891. Shri Viswanatha Menon:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many workers were denied employment at Indian Rare Earths, Eloor, Kerala in the name of Police Verification; and

(b) if so, how many workers were denied employment till June, 1967?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): (a) and (b). No. Sir There was only one case in 1963 in which a candidate for a post in Indian Rare Earths was rejected in view of the police verification report on him.

Visit by Minister without Portfolio to Orissa

5892. Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister without Portfolio be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited the State of Orissa recently for studying the food situation there; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report submitted by him will be laid on the Table?

The Minister without Portfolio (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): (a) I visited Orissa recently to discuss with the State Government the question of continuing rice supplies to West

(b) No formal report was prepared but a note has been sent to the Prime Minister with a copy sent to the Food Department for further action. It is not proposed to lay a copy of the note on the Table of the House.

12.10 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE FAILURE OF TALKS ON THE REORGANISATION OF ASSAM

श्री नरु सिन्घे (मुंबई) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रतिगम्भीरता से कहूँ कि निर्माणित विषय की शर गृह-कार्य मंत्री का ध्यान दिवाना हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक कृतव्यवस्था :-

"आसाम के पुनर्गठन सम्बन्धी वार्ता का समयन हो जाना ।"

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): Sir, the hill areas of Assam comprising the Garo Hills, the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Mizo and the United Mikir and North Cachar Hills districts are now administered subject to the special provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution, which confer a certain measure of autonomy on these areas. There has been a persistent feeling among a large section of the people of these areas that the present political arrangements are not adequate to satisfy their legitimate aspirations and to secure accelerated development of these areas.

The question as to what changes should be made in the existing arrangements has remained under consideration for the last several years. A number of proposals had been considered in this connection and discussions took place with the representatives of political parties in the hill areas. In October 1963 the broad outlines of a scheme which sought to give full autonomy to the hill dis-

[Shri Y. B. Chavan]

tracts subject to the preservation of the unity of the State of Assam was drawn up. Later on, the details of the scheme were worked out by a Commission headed by Shri H. V. Potaskar. The main political parties expressed divergent views on the recommendations of the Commission. A Cabinet Sub-Committee, therefore, went into this matter further and had discussions with representatives of various political parties in the hill areas. This effort also did not lead to any agreed solution.

In January this year, we held further discussions with the representatives of the APHLC. We also availed of the presence of the Chief Minister of Assam in Delhi to discuss the matter with him. During this discussion we put forward a proposal that a federal structure composed of federating units having equal status not subordinate to one another should provide the basis for this reorganisation. The proposal was made bearing in mind the geography and the imperative needs of security and coordinated development of the north-eastern region as a whole and in the hope that at a later stage, other administrative units in this region may also join the regional federation. The proposal envisaged a limited number of essential subjects of common interest being assigned to the regional federation, leaving the rest of the State functions to the federating units, which could have their own Legislative Assemblies, Council of Ministers, etc. It was also indicated that the details of the scheme including the subjects to be allocated to the regional federation, would be worked out by a Committee on which all the interests concerned were to be represented.

The scheme was accepted by the representatives of the APHLC. The Chief Minister of Assam did not accept or reject it but said that it might be explored. The people of the Assam valley and also certain sec-

tions of the people in the hill areas, however, did not seem to be happy with the scheme. During my visit to Assam in May this year, I had further discussion with the representatives of the various political parties and organisations concerned. During these discussions I noticed that there was a general feeling that the present arrangements for the administration of the hill districts of Assam should be changed to meet the legitimate aspirations of the people of these areas, but when it came to the form and content of the new arrangements no agreed solution was forthcoming. It was then suggested that an effort should be made to reach a consensus on this matter through a joint discussion between the representatives of parties and areas holding different views on the subject.

We had the joint discussions on 8th and 9th July, 1967. Thirteen Members of Parliament from Assam representing different parties and thirty-two members of the Assam Legislative Assembly representing different parties in the Assembly participated in the discussions, but no agreed solution emerged. However, as most of the members desired that the matter should receive further consideration, a Committee consisting of the Chief Minister of Assam and some other members representing different political parties present at the joint discussion, was appointed under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare, to continue the efforts at finding an agreed solution. The committee will complete its work by the 31st August, 1967. All parties except the APHLC have agreed to cooperate in this Committee and I hope the APHLC will also signify their willingness to participate in its deliberations and the Committee will be able to find an agreed solution to this vital and delicate issue.

श्री यशु शिखर : अध्यक्ष महोदय
एक बरस से वह सहायी हस्ताक्षर का विवाद

बल रहा है। एक मुक्त तब राज्य के आधार पर एक नया नया राज्य बनाने का है और कभी भी पाँचों इलाकों का अलग राज्य बनाने की बात भी आती है। इसके बारे में मेरी राय में सरकार को जल्द फैसला करना चाहिए क्योंकि इसकी पुष्टि यह है : इस इलाके में, पूर्वोत्तर हिन्दुस्तान में, 5 किस्म के विदेशी हस्तक्षेप हो रहे हैं। एक है विदेशी पादरियों, मिशनरियों के द्वारा, दूसरा है जो भागान के मासिक हैं विदेशी उनके द्वारा, तीसरा है अमेरिकी लोगों का जो पूर्वोत्तर हिन्दुस्तान में निष्काम आदि में और दूसरे इलाकों में यह सब कर रहे हैं, चौथा है चीन का और उनके तब फड करने वाले भारत में जो साथी हैं उन का और पाचवा पाकिस्तान का तो मैं इनको और ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि 1954-55 में नागा लं. को जो मांग थी सितका उन्होंने पूरा नहीं किया, इन्होंने जा धागे जाकर उस से ज्यादा दे दिया, नागा प्रदेश दे दिया, वह पहली मांग उन से कम थी, लेकिन समय पर कबूल नहीं किया। मैं मंत्री महाशय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन पांच विदेशी हस्तक्षेपों का मद्देनजर रखते हुए और मैदानी भाग और पहाड़ी भाग इनका यह मामला है यह ध्यान में रखते हुए (मैदानी लोगों के बिल इतने चौड़े नहीं हैं कि वह अपने में उनका शामिल कर सकें) सब राज्य का फैसला पसन्द है। तब उन आधार पर वाकिली दूसरे आधार पर इस मामले का जल्द से जल्द हल करने ताकि यह पांच विदेशी हस्तक्षेप खत्म करने पर तारा ध्यान लगाया जाय?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: It is a very welcome suggestion. Really speaking, the persistence with which we are pursuing this matter for the last two months show that we are very keen to find a solution. I hope to get the sympathy and support of this House to pursue the matter more energetically.

Shri N. K. Sengupta (Bhagpur): I do not know if the Committee under the chairmanship of the Planning Minister is official, semi-official, non-

official or incidental. From press reports, it appears that the Committee has been appointed and is to submit its report by 31 August. It appears also that the two leaders of the APHLC have already announced that they are not going to associate with this Committee and its working in any way. May I know if it is still the intention of Government that this Committee should go on with its work, that is, despite the non-cooperation of the leaders from the Hills and, if it is not, is it the intention of the Home Minister to give his own award on the lines suggested by Shri Limaye?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I think the Committee should certainly continue its work. Whether the other members come or not, their point of view is known to the Committee. The Committee can continue its work keeping their point of view in view and seeing whether they can be accommodated; at the same time, they can also pursue their efforts to persuade those members to join them, because it is very wrong to accept the defeat of non-cooperation by those members. I would also continue my efforts to persuade them to join the Committee. But even if they do not join, they have also taken one very constructive step: they have not decided to start any agitation because the necessary atmosphere conducive to the parties arriving at some agreed solution is still there. I therefore think that the Committee should function.

As regards its character whether official or otherwise, it can be said to be semi-official, because the Minister is there and it has been appointed as all the sections represented in the conference were keen to sit and discuss this matter. For the first time, I found that except the APHLC other political parties also wanted to give a sort of concerted attention to this problem. I would make an appeal to the members of the Committee, some of whom are here also, to take a constructive attitude and try to arrive at an agreed solution.

Shri Nath Pal: What about my award part?

this matter has been discussed and we are likely to discuss it again later.

Mr. Speaker: They have objection because it was discussed already...

12.19 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE SECURITY FROM ATTACKS BY NAGA HOSTILES IN BORDER AREAS OF ASSAM AND MANIPUR

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua desires to move an adjournment motion. I would suggest to him to seek the leave of the House.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): It may be read:

Mr. Speaker: The dismal failure of Government to ensure security to bordering areas of Assam and Manipur, a blatant result of erroneous policy pursued by Government, as evidenced from the two successive attacks by Naga hostiles in the Tamenglong division of Manipur killing 23 armed constables on the first occasion and 3 others on the second occasion.

श्री प्रमोद कुमार झा (रापुर):
इस तरह के घोर भीषणता का प्रभाव है।

Mr. Speaker: It is an adjournment motion.

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai): Is there any objection coming from the other side?

Mr. Speaker: Let him seek the leave of the House.

श्री हेम बरुआ : यह प्रस्ताव उठावेगे
उसी वह तब तक जाता है।

Shri Hem Barua: I seek the leave of the House for my adjournment motion.

No objection—I think.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Dr. Bhanu Singh): We object because

Shri Nath Pal: This is delayed objection. Objection should be prompt and immediate. Delayed objection is no objection at all. Objection should be prompt and immediate.

Mr. Speaker: Those in favour may rise in their seats.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Leave is granted. More than 50 Members are there. I think we will have it at 4 O' Clock in the evening.

12.21 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT ON DERAILMENT OF ASSAM MAIL

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the derailment of Assam Mail on the 11th July, 1967. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1063-67].

STATEMENT REGARDING REPATRIATION OF DR. DHARMA TEJA

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): I beg to lay on the Table a statement, under direction 19 of the Directions by the Speaker, in reply to Half-an-Hour discussion raised by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia on the 23rd June, 1967, regarding Repatriation of Dr. Dharma Teja. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1064/67].

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (कलकत्ता) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा अनुरोध, का प्रश्न है कि
क्या वह आवेक नहीं महीनद को दिया है—
नं० 19 के अनुसार। नं० 19 में लिखा
हुआ है कि अगर कोई व राह हो संपन्न