

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (d). Do not arise.

(c) A few items like Binocular Prismatic, Director No. 7, and Theodolite Optical are supplied to meet defence requirements.

(e) No, Sir.

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported Killing of Seven Persons including Five Personnel of the CRP by Naga Hostiles

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

The reported killing of seven persons including five personnel of the CRP by Naga hostiles at Krikima, Nagaland.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : There have been three incidents recently in Nagaland, the first of which occurred on the night of the 1st/2nd August, the second on the morning of the 2nd August, and the third on the morning of the 4th August.

In the first incident, the underground Nagas opened fire simultaneously, at about 11.50 p.m., on two Assam Rifles posts in Kohima. They fired 2" mortar bombs in the direction of the post in the High School area ; two Assam Rifles men sustained minor injuries from splinters. There was also rifle fire in the direction of the post in Bada Busty area which was ineffective. The men of the Security Forces carried out a search for the miscreants who managed to escape under the cover of darkness.

In the second incident, at about 10.30 a.m. on the 2nd August, 1969, the Underground Nagas ambushed a 3-ton vehicle of a C.R.P. battalion working under the Government of Nagaland. According to information received so far, the vehicle was

driven by a C.R.P. constable and was carrying a police officer, and a C.R.P. constable, a local Government employee, two Naga civilians, and 3 others. The vehicle was also carrying mail from Pfutsero to Dimapur. When it was about 2 miles short of Chakabama, it was ambushed by armed underground Nagas who killed on the spot all except one CRP constable and the two Naga civilians. The second CRP constable who was wounded, died on the way to the hospital.

In the third incident on the 4th August at 10 a.m. a convoy of 3 vehicles was ambushed by the hostiles about 27 miles north of Kohima on the Kohima-Wokha road. The leading vehicle went through, but the remaining two 3-tonner vehicles were attacked, as a result of which 2 members of the Security Forces were killed and 4 wounded. The Security Forces also lost one Light Machine-gun, one Sten-gun and two Rifles. Both the vehicles were damaged. Reinforcements have been moved into the area to take action against the hostiles. Further details of this incident are awaited.

Between March and July 1969, 12 hostiles were killed, 1 wounded, 449 surrendered to the Security Forces and 567 captured or apprehended, including the members of the China-returned gang under the leadership of Mowu Angami. These figures include the recent surrender on the 28th July 1969 of 85 armed underground Nagas with several weapons and large quantities of ammunition. It is clear that the extreme wing of the underground Nagas have, out of sheer desperation, resorted to the above acts of violence to boost up the sagging morale of their followers.

The last elections held in Nagaland have demonstrated that there is a deep-seated desire for peace among the people of Nagaland. We intend to continue our policy of dealing firmly with acts of lawlessness. At the same time, it is the desire of the Government of Nagaland as also of the Government of India to provide every opportunity to the underground Nagas to eschew the path of violence and settle down as peaceful citizens after laying down their arms.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Sir, we have been told times without number that there is

[Shri Hem Barua]

peace in Nagaland at present. The Governor of Assam and Nagaland who came down to New Delhi sometime back met the Indian Government leaders and told them that there is peace in Nagaland. But these acts of lawlessness prove things to the contrary.

It has transpired recently that 18 Manipuri youths who got training in Pakistan in guerilla warfare have come back to Manipur. The entire eastern zone is in ferment. The hon. Minister, in his statement, hopes that there would be peace in Nagaland and he cites the instance of elections to show that they are for peace and all that. But events prove the contrary. Both China and Pakistan are encouraging these Naga hostiles to fight actively against our Government. In that context, may I know, if it is a political matter, whether Government propose to have talks with the Naga underground leader in order to arrive at a political settlement, and if they do not propose to have talks, whether they propose to ask our military authorities to wipe out the Naga hostiles who are involved in violent activities with the active help and support of our enemy countries like China and Pakistan?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : My colleague, the Minister for External Affairs, has clarified Government's policy in respect of the two points that have been raised by the hon. Member.

So far as the question of talks is concerned, it is essentially a matter in which the Government of Nagaland is concerned and Government of India will be guided by the advice of the Government of Nagaland in the matter of having talks or the timing of those talks and also the content of those talks.

About the second part.....

SHRI HEM BARUA : You were over the head of the Nagaland State Government, and you had seven rounds of talks with Naga hostiles. Now you say that you would be guided by the Nagaland State Government. What is the difference between the two? Are you not going to take initiative in order to bring peace to Nagaland?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : What I have said is not inconsistent with what the hon. Member has said. It is true that several months ago there were talks with the Government of India, but nothing came out of those talks and there was a great deal of feeling on this subject expressed on the floor of the House and also outside that we should keep the Nagaland Government very much more in the picture. It was in response to that that a decision was taken that we should, in the matter of even talks, be guided mainly by the advice that we receive from the Nagaland Government, and this, I think, is the proper policy.

SHRI HEM BARUA : My question was different. The Nagaland Government has ordered a curfew in Kohima. I want to know whether this Government will take the initiative for a political settlement or not.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : So far as the political settlement is concerned, we have always been willing for negotiated political settlement, but even for talks to succeed we have to carry the lawfully constituted Government of Nagaland with us, and that is the policy. That, I presume, was the line which Mr. Hem Barua had been suggesting and urging, namely, that we should keep the Nagaland Government very much in the picture.

About the action to be taken, we have been taking action against the hostiles and it is as a result of that action that a large number of Naga hostiles have been captured ... (Interruptions)

SHRI HEM BARUA : Seven persons were pulled out of the truck and shot dead. They were all non-Nagas.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is as a result of the action that we have been taking from time to time that there has been, by and large, peace except these incidents. Of course, these incidents are bad and we will take adequate action. But at the same time we should not lose the thread of basic policy, namely, to continue our pressure to subdue the lawless elements, and also at the same time be willing to solve it by peaceful means. And in this respect the main responsibility and initiative should be left to the Government of Nagaland.

SHRI R. BARUA (Jorhat) : Normally the question on Nagaland is answered by the Minister of External Affairs, but today we find the Defence Minister answering questions. This is an important departure.

The hon. Minister might say that it is an act of desperation on the part of hostiles, but he cannot deny the fact that the problem is assuming a serious dimension because the Mizos are establishing their rule also in Tripura and Manipur. Also China-returned persons are coming and settling and here also there have been a series of activities perpetrated by the Nagas trained in China. So, our apprehension is that there is a deep-rooted strategy there to put the entire eastern region on fire. Therefore, may I know whether Government are taking a serious view of the whole thing so as to tackle it from a different angle, different from the usual way in which it is tackled such as its being the usual eruption of Naga discontentment, because it is something different from that? I would like to know from the Defence Minister whether he has prepared the grounds for defending that area including Assam.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is our responsibility and duty to protect the area in the eastern region as other parts of our country against disorders of this type. We have never hesitated to take appropriate action, and we have taken fairly stiff action in this respect. It is as a result of this action that lately there has been by and large peace. It is true that these incidents have taken place and they are disquieting. We do not take a light view of these things. They are serious incidents where a large number of persons have been killed, and we do take a serious view of them. But it is one thing to take a serious view and quite another to take an alarmist view. Whereas we would steadfastly and resolutely continue to take action, at the same time, there is at the present moment, no need to take an alarmist view of the situation.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (Rohrak) : There is no doubt about the fact that the days of the hostile Nagas and their nefarious activities are numbered. Thousands of them have been rounded up and most of them have surrendered. This is something very heartening, and I would congratulate the

hon. Minister and give him credit for this. The whole hostile Naga movement is crumbling. I am one of those Members of Parliament who went to Nagaland and I know the actual position there. The overwhelming majority of the Nagas want peace. Those who want to create mischief are only a very small number; they are just a handful. So the House need not be perturbed about this. There would, of course, be some sporadic acts now and then and they do create some anxiety. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us what steps he is taking for rounding up the people. Firstly, I would like to know the number of such people as are getting training in China and Pakistan. How many of them have been surrendered or rounded up? What is the number of such people in Nagaland now who are out to create mischief? Does their number run to thousands? How does the hon. Minister propose to check them? Of course, these are military secrets which may not be disclosed. But is he in a position to assure the House that he will be able to counteract the nefarious activities of the hostile Nagas? Every week-end we hear about the killing of our jawans and security men. Will he be in a position to assure the House that these incidents and happenings will be curtailed if not completely put an end to? Would he create a special squad or an operation to nip the evil in the bud so that unnecessary commotion is not created in that area? I personally feel that even a talk here about the Naga situation does not create healthy conditions. I am one of those people who feel that the Nagas there have come to feel that they are as good Indians as we are, and a climate is being created that something would be done within the framework of the Indian Constitution. Will the hon. Minister tell us the position of our security force there? What is the number of the miscreants there? Is it diminishing or increasing? If it is increasing, what steps is he taking to check them?

Secondly, there are local demands there. There are certain conditions for entry in that area. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want your uninterrupted attention, because it is a very important question.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has made a number of preliminary remarks. Now let him come to the question, and allow the hon. Minister to answer it.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : My second question is this. In that area, certain anti-social elements are creeping in. He should put an end to this evil. There are certain elements there who are raking up trouble and who are persuading the people there to do anti-national things and are giving them encouragement. Will the hon. Minister alert the intelligence wing in regard to such elements from Pakistan or China or even from our own country who are interested in creating a law and order situation there? Will he deal with such persons with a firm hand? Finally...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think that should be enough. Now, let the hon. Minister answer.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH : My name has come in the ballot after two years. So, kindly allow me some time. I have been talking notices after notices, and it is for the first time that my name has secured the ballot this time after two years.

What is needed in that strategic area is development. Of course, the hon. Minister is responsible for development from the defence point of view only. That is the hard core of our defence structure. I would like to know whether the Border Roads Organisation and the communications organisation will kindly look to the aspect of communications and roads, so that if such activities recur again, with the help of these communication facilities, the hon. Minister will be able effectively to check these things.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : We have been compelled to take action against the hostile Nagas, and it may be of interest to the House to know the achievement in this respect. The total number of Nagas including China-returned personnel, captured, surrendered or killed is as follows : Naga hostiles killed : 138 ; wounded : 50 ; surrendered : 1886.

SHRI R. BARUA : The figures are not of importance. We do not want these figures to be published.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not mind giving them. I do not mind if they are published. In fact, I want them to be published.

The number captured is 1972. Among the recent surrenders special mention should be made of a surrender by 85 Naga hostiles including seven self-styled officers who surrendered with three LMGs, one rocket launcher, one mortar, two sten-guns and 42 rifles. The total number of arms and ammunitions surrendered or captured from the Naga hostiles was 1842, including medium machine-guns, three-inch and two-inch mortars, rocket launcher, LMGs, rifles, sten-guns, pistols and non-service pattern weapons. The total number of weapons captured from the China-returned Nagas is 283, apart from a large quantity of ammunition.

Another question that has been put is about the training of Nagas in China and in Pakistan. There are no Naga gangs in Pakistan now...

SHRI NAMBIAR : (Tiruchurappalli) It looks as if a regular war is going on there.

SHRI SWARAN SINNH : A number of Members belonging to the hon. Members party had visited that area and are familiar with it, and I hope they have been keeping Shri Nambiar in touch with it.

SHRI NAMBIAR : It is too serious a matter to be disposed of like this.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I was saying that there were no Nagas in Pakistan receiving any training at present. No fresh gangs have left for China since April last year. That is the present position.

About the general political situation, this matter has been discussed from time to time, and on the whole, the assessment was that the vast majority of people of Nagaland wanted to live in peace. It is no doubt correct that there are some among those who have returned from China who are still at large. There are also others who have taken training from Pakistan, and they are the hard core which is keeping up this agitation. We have to deal with this both at the political and the security forces levels.

I agree with the hon. member that development is important, and the Nagaland Government with the help of the Govern-

ment of India have launched several development schemes in that region.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : (Ratnagiri) : In this morning's papers we see that this is the second time since 1966 that curfew has been imposed. What does the Minister think is the connection between three things which have come to our notice ? First, there has been a change of Commander there. General Maneckshaw who was there has now come over to Delhi. These incidents have been happening more often in the last six weeks. Second, there is a reconciliation move between the hostile Nagas and what are called the moderate Nagas. The Minister said that 4,000 of them have either been captured or killed, or have surrendered. What is his assessment of the hostile elements in Nagaland ?

The third thing is that we have a constitutionally-established government there. We heard from the Minister of the attempts made previously to have direct negotiations with the hostile Nagas. If the impression goes round that the Central Government will have direct negotiations with the hostiles, leaving aside the local Government obviously they are not going to help the local Government to put down the disturbances because thereby the authority of the local Government is eroded. So what is done to strengthen the authority of the local Government ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : I do not think that these incidents have any connection with the coming over of Gen. Maneckshaw as Chief of the Army Staff.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : When he was GOC Eastern Command, obviously the security arrangements may have been different from what they are today. That is what I meant, not his promotion.

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Let us not forget that the Chief of the Army Staff is in overall charge of operation including those in Nagaland and whatever action is being taken is under the overall direction and supervision of the Chief of the Army Staff who has got knowledge of, and is familiar with, that area, as he was in charge of that Command. He is in touch with the

area. The present Commander of the Army in that region also has experience of that region. We should not connect these incidents with the change of command.

As for the reconciliation going between various groups of the hostiles, there have been occasions when there have been factional fights ; on other occasions, there have been realignments and reconciliations. Possibly, these moves of sometimes quarrel on other occasions reconciliation, as having an effect on the incidents, cannot be excluded. There may be some connection, although it is not easy to establish it.

The third question is a reply to what Shri Hem Barua said. I agree with the postulate put forward by the hon. lady member that we have to strengthen the State Government. It is for this reason that for any talks the State Government has to be very much in the picture. We have helped them ; we have to see all the time that their authority is maintained and respected.

SHRI SWELL (Autonomous Districts) : He has not answered the question about Government's assessment of the strength of the Naga underground, hostile elements.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : On call attention, I cannot allow other members.

SHRI SWELL : What are we here for ? When a question has been asked, the whole House is entitled to an answer.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon. lady is there.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : I have been getting up to ask : what is the Government's assessment of the underground Nagas, the strength of the hostile Nagas ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : It is not easy to give an assessment but the number could easily be from 4000 to 6,000.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा (कोटा) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे पास इसी साल के प्रखबारों की 70 कटिगज हैं—पार्लियामेंट की लाइब्रेरी में वे सारे प्रखबार रखे हुए हैं। उनको देखने में मानुस पड़ता है कि सात दफा

[श्री श्रीकारलाल बरवा]

रेलगाड़ी उड़ाई गई है, गाड़ी पटरी से उतरी है। तीन गाड़ियों में बम रखे गए जिससे डिब्बे उतरे। 19 बसेज लूटी हैं। 160 दफा मुठभेड़ हुई है जिनके अन्दर 213 आदमी मारे गए— 45 नागाओं के और बाकी हमारे आदमी मारे गए हैं। इसी साल में चार दफा समझौता-वार्ता हो चुकी है और तीन दफा उनकी मियादें बढ़ाई गई हैं कि अभी नहीं, एक महीने बाद करेंगे, अभी नहीं दो महीने बाद करेंगे। इसी माल में पाकिस्तान और चीन से अलग-अलग ग्रुपों में 5,900 नागा गुरिल्ला युद्ध की ट्रेनिंग लेकर आये हैं और हमारे रक्षा मंत्री कहते हैं कि उन्होंने तो आत्म-समर्पण कर दिया—तां ये जो बाकी रह गए हैं क्या उन्होंने आत्म-समर्पण नहीं किया ? यह सरकार अपनी दबू नीति के कारण एक तरफ तो उनको दिल्ली में बातें करने के लिए बुलाती है, समझौता-वार्ता करने के लिए बुलाती है और कहती है कि इनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही नहीं करेंगे। मैं समझ नहीं पाया, अभी बंगाल के अंदर जो केस हुआ जिसको कल परसों यहाँ पर उठाया गया तो सरकार कहती है कि यह तो राज्य का मामला है, जगको केन्द्र में नहीं उठाना चाहिए और अभी जो रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि यह दिल्ली का मामला नहीं है, नागालैंड का मामला है—याने तो नागालैंड में करें—तो फिर आप यहाँ दिल्ली में क्या भाड़ भोकने के लिये आते हैं। सरकार को चाहिए कि वहाँ पर ला एंड आउट ठीक करने के लिए राष्ट्रपति शासन करें और फिर दिल्ली में बात करने के लिये बुलाये जायें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो समझौता-वार्ता की उसको रद्द करके सरकार नागा विद्रोहियों के खिलाफ कड़ी से कड़ी कार्यवाही करेगी ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्काट पादरी जैसे लोग जो हमारे खिलाफ प्रचार करके भड़काते हैं, क्या उनको सरकार किसी तरह से काबू में करने का

प्रयत्न करेगी ? इस सम्बन्ध में रक्षा मंत्री महोदय क्या करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI SWARAN SINGH : Three-fourths of the question was a speech to which I have no intention to reply. Towards the end he put two questions. One was : is it Government's intention to cancel the agreement about the suspension of operations ? The answer is : no. The second question was : after the cancellation do Government propose to take stiff action ? That question does not arise because we are not cancelling the agreement. At the same time wherever there are lawless elements we shall continue to take stiff action against lawless elements.

12.34 hrs

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : A question of privilege was raised by Shri S.M. Banerjee, Molahu Prasad and Kalita. In that connection as is the usual practice, we have addressed a communication to the party office and we have received a reply... (Interruptions) Swatantra party. I shall read it out for the information of the House ... (Interruptions.)

Our usual practice is that we address the party concerned, place before them the facts and try to ascertain what are the facts and what they have got to say about it. That is the usual practice. We immediately took up the matter with the Swatantra party and they have replied. Their party leader, in the House, Shri Ranga, has also written to me. I will read those letters, and then I am entirely in the hands of the House. That is the usual practice. This is the Swatantra party's letter :

"I have looked into the matter referred to in your letter No. 17/43/C1/69, dated 1st August, 1969, addressed to Prof. Ranga and would like to explain the circumstances in regard to this development.

A press summary of Mr. M. R. Masani's speech regarding Bank Nationalistaion, delivered by him in the Lok Sabha on the 25th July, was prepared from the preliminary notes available to our office. Copies were