

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** Yesterday, one hon. Member said that he had asked for tea and it had not been served. Tea, if it is asked in trays, is served in trays. If somebody wants to have one cup served to him, there is the tea stall. One has to go to the tea stall and get tea from the tea stall. Tea from the stall is not served in trays.

The talks held by him with the King of Nepal.

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** I went to Kathmandu on the 2nd of this month on an invitation from the Nepai Government and returned here yesterday after a stay of four days in Nepal.

In spite of all this, we have had complaints. We have analysed them. The average comes to 1 complaint for 12,000 meals that are served. Even one complaint, we take it, is bad enough. It is our constant endeavour to go on improving departmental catering. I would like to reiterate that we have no intention to give up departmental catering. We will bring it to the standard and see that people are satisfied. (*Interruption*).

I should like to express my deep sense of thankfulness to His Majesty the King of Nepal and His Majesty's Government for their kind invitation. I shall long cherish this visit as it was most pleasant and rewarding. I am also deeply grateful for the heart-warming reception and generous hospitality extended to me, and to those accompanying me, by the Government and people of Nepal.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Shah Nawaz Khan:** There is a catering school at Andheri. We are sending our people for getting training in cookery and service in this Andheri school so that we can give better service.

During my visit I had the benefit of meeting and having long and informal talks with His Majesty on several subjects of mutual interest. I also had several discussions with the Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, the Hon'ble Dr. Giri. There were separate talks with the Hon'ble Home Minister of Nepal, Shri Vishwanandhu Thapa and I had the opportunity of meeting other Ministers of His Majesty's Government as well. While there was no specific agenda for these talks we discussed a variety of subjects. I should like to say that all these talks were very helpful and productive.

13.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

TALKS WITH THE KING OF NEPAL

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Kamath may put his Calling Attention notice.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** My name is there.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes. Shri Banerjee.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad):** That is what I thought.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

During my talks with His Majesty and His Majesty's Ministers, I apprised them of the situation prevailing in our region as it concerns India, and also of our assessment of the general world situation. I shared with them our anxieties resulting from this situation and conveyed to them our Government's desire for peace and friendship with all. I am inclined to think that our position is well understood by the Nepalese Government and it is recognised by all responsible people in Nepal, as indeed in India, that we have a stake in each other's well-being, prosperity and

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

progress in conditions of peace and stability.

Nepal is a small country with a small population and small resources. But during my brief stay in Kathmandu, I attempted to make it clear beyond any doubt that we in India are not given to thinking of ourselves—far less acting—in the way of a big brother. We are living in a world in which new concepts are fast replacing the concepts of yesterday or the year before. It is not enough in these times to think in terms of age-old ties of history and culture alone. Ours is an age of revolutionary economic change and progress.

Both India and Nepal are underdeveloped countries and they face similar problems. However limited our resources, and whatever the magnitude of our own problems, it would be our earnest endeavour to render such assistance as we can to the Government and people of Nepal in the task of Nepal's development.

I feel that my visit to this closest neighbour of ours has been useful. But the fostering of the close friendship is a continual process and His Majesty and the Ministers in the Government of Nepal agreed that our two countries must maintain intimate contacts. I, therefore, suggested to His Majesty that he and Her Majesty the Queen may honour us with a visit in the near future and I am glad that His Majesty was good enough to favour the suggestion.

For two good friends, which Nepal and India are, it is essential to look to each other with faith and trust, for understanding, sympathy and help.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee :** I want to know this. While addressing the press conference in Kathmandu, the hon. Home Minister, as reported in the press, has said that differences with the Nepal Government are not of a big nature. I want to know how far these differences have been

narrowed down by the discussions and what are the actual differences which remain to be solved ?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri :** I do not think we need go into those matters. There were, as I said, some minor matters and some important matters also. We have discussed with them. I do not think it will be possible to disclose all our talks here.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath :** During the talks which the sweet and suave negotiator, the Home Minister, had with the King, Ministers and other people in Kathmandu and its environs, did he get the impression that Nepal was, and is being, subjected to blandishments and pressure by China, and if so how and in what manner are the Government and the people of Nepal reacting to it ?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri :** I was not told so either by the Ministers of Nepal, nor did His Majesty mention anything about that.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath :** The question was, did he get the impression or not from the talks ?

**Mr. Speaker :** It was about the talks ?

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath :** During the talks, did he get the impression ?

**Mr. Speaker :** The question is confined to the talks that he had.

Therefore, he says....

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath :** Talks in a vacuum ? I plead with you—talks take place in an atmosphere.

**Mr. Speaker :** Mr. Kamath would not insist on the disclosure of certain things that probably the Home Minister might not like. He should not insist.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath :** If he had said that it is not in the public interest to disclose, I would accept that.

**Mr. Speaker :** I am sure he understands the attitude of the Home Minister.

**Shri Daji (Indore):** May we understand that as a result of the discussions, the attitude of the press in Nepal, particularly regarding anti-Indian propaganda, shall cease and we shall have a good friendly press there?

**Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri:** I made a request in the press conference itself in Kathmandu. All the representatives of the Nepal Press were there. I might also add that some of the papers in Nepal are not of much importance. It is regrettable that those papers which have practically no or very small circulation and things appearing in those papers are quoted in India. It would be advisable that the Indian papers also do not quote what appears in those papers.

13.10 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—  
RAILWAYS—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 1. (RAILWAY BOARD)—  
*contd.*

**Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly):** On this particular Demand, the Deputy Minister has just now replied in regard to catering, and there was so much heat generated in the House on the question of departmental catering. So far as we are concerned, at least it is known that we want, and in fact, we have been all the time asking for, departmental catering, and we have been asking that the catering by the other agencies should be done away with. But, to our surprise we find that since the change-over of the catering from the hands of the contractors to the railways, both in the dining cars and also at the stations, the catering instead of improving has deteriorated.

For instance, I may point out that even in the dining car so far as the bearers are concerned, they are kept on commission, and because of this and also because of the bad food and the way it is being served, the sale defi-

nately is going down. And off and on, there are agencies coming in. There was an agency formerly in the Eastern Railway and that agency has now come over to the Northern Railway. I do not know the reason for changing over that agency from the Eastern Railway to the Northern Railway. Already, in the Eastern Railway, the service was bad, and now in the Northern Railway it is worse. This changeover also costs something, and yet it has been done.

So far as overcrowding is concerned, I would say that in the Sealdah-Ranaghat line, which is one of the most congested lines, and where almost every train is overcrowding, almost every day, there is some incident or the other. It is because of the overcrowding that a tussle arises every day between the railway officers and the passengers. It is not my suggestion that either the one side or the other has been doing something wrong on account of which this tussle takes place. But it is because so many people are travelling and during the peak hour they are travelling on the foot-boards and they are not being accommodated inside the compartments that the people naturally get agitated and there is some trouble or the other. Very recently, we had some troubles in the Belgharia station and other stations. I would like to know how long it will take to ease the situation.

I understand that the electrification is going on but I would like to know how long more it will take to complete the electrification of this line, and whether it is going to be phased properly so that the overcrowding on this particular line which is perhaps one of the busiest line in the whole of the railways could be minimised to a certain extent at least.

Then, I would point out that according to the railway rules, the crossing of the lines is punishable under law. But if there are two