

Nanda: (a) and (b). Every effort is made to present dependable statistics of National and Per Capita Incomes. The possibilities of making improvement in compiling these statistics are being earnestly explored through several studies which are expected to be completed by about the end of this year.

12.00 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE

Shri E. G. Dubey (Bijapur North): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported news about the Chinese rejection of the proposal regarding talks on the basis of no posts in the demilitarised zone."

The Minister without portfolio (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): On April 13, during the course of the reply to the demand for grants, our late Prime Minister made a reference to the question of civil posts in the demilitarized zone in Ladakh. This question of posts had come up because of the Chinese refusal to accept the Colombo Proposals in full. The House will recall that one of the two Chinese reservations to the Colombo Proposals was that while the Chinese would maintain their so-called civil posts in this demilitarized zone there should be no Indian civil posts in this area. As the deadlock over the Colombo Proposals centred mainly round this Chinese objection, attempts were made by parties friendly to both India and China to find a way out, without departing from the substance of the Colombo Proposals.

On April 13, the House was informed that Mrs. Bandaranaike, in one of her recent letters, had asked us whether the withdrawal of all the Chinese posts in the demilitarized area, could

be considered by us to be a fulfilment of the Colombo Proposals. The same idea had been advocated by the two representatives of Lord Russell who had come and seen the late Prime Minister, last summer. The representatives of Lord Russell as well as Mrs. Bandaranaike were informed that such a proposal could be considered by us if a proper approach was made by China. Our position on this question remains unchanged. We have declared our willingness to solve the border question through peaceful negotiations. We have demonstrated this willingness by accepting, without reservations, the recommendations of the Colombo Conference.

The statements emanating from Peking are not encouraging in this matter. The Hon'ble Members must have seen reports of the comment made by the New China News Agency on the question of the withdrawal of posts. The suggestion has been characterized as a 'pre-condition for holding negotiations between the two countries' and as an 'attempt to cover up India's stubborn stand against holding direct negotiations on the basis of the Colombo Proposals'. If the New China News Agency's comment represents the considered stand of the Government of China, it would be clear that, despite all their professions to the contrary, China is not interested in accepting the Colombo Proposals or in direct negotiations with India at present.

Shri R. G. Dubey: In view of the optimistic tone of the condolence message sent by the Chinese Prime Minister . . .

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): How is it optimistic?

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): It is not optimistic, but it is sycophantic. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member may put the question directly without giving any opinion

on their behalf; that might or might not be correct.

Shri Nath Pai: Let them not be sycophants.

Mr. Speaker: Shri R. G. Dubey might put the question directly.

Shri R. G. Dubey: Shri Nath Pai may be a wise man, but I have the right to ask my question.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Nath Pai may have patience.

Shri Nath Pai: How can we have patience when he says like that?

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know whether our *Charge d'affaires* in Peking has had any personal meeting with the Prime Minister of China and other dignitaries and tried to find out how exactly their mind is working towards the offer made by the late Prime Minister?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: No.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): May I know the implications of this new move and how it affects our original stand?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Materially, nothing has happened so far. As the hon. Member has just heard, the New China News Agency has completely ruled out the consideration of any such suggestion from our side.

So far as the implications are concerned, I think we need not discuss them. But in any case, what our late Prime Minister had suggested was to make the position more or less the same both for China as well as for India. If the seven check-posts are withdrawn by the Chinese and we have no check-posts there, it will bring us to an equal level. That is perhaps the implication of the proposal.

Shri Jashvant Mehta (Bhavnagar): The late Prime Minister had given a broad hint at the AICC meeting at

Bombay. The hon. Minister has stated just now that there is no further development. May I know whether there is any change in the original stand of the Government or whether they continue to keep their original stand or original policy as before?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: This is no major or substantial change. Our stand remains the same, that is, the original stand.

12.07 hrs.

RE. LEADERSHIP OF COMMUNIST GROUP IN LOK SABHA

Mr. Speaker: Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): Before you proceed to the next item, I would request you to clarify the position on a procedural matter.

On the 29th May, 1964, when respectful homages were paid to the late Prime Minister, you, Sir, had called the Deputy Leader of the Communist Group, when the leader Shri A. K. Gopalan was present in his seat. This created a misapprehension in the minds of all as to whether you had withdrawn the recognition given to Shri A. K. Gopalan as the leader of the Communist Group here. We would like to know the real position.

Mr. Speaker: Has not the Speaker the right to call anybody he likes? That is one thing.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Anybody who catches the eye?

Mr. Speaker: I am coming to that.

The difficulty has arisen because I have been receiving some contradictory communications from the Communists. It seems that there are two factions just at this moment.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): Factions?

Mr. Speaker: Factions inside the group itself.