

[Dr. P. Subbarayan].

the same time, I would like to point out that I have given all the information that is in my possession at the present moment.

Mr. Speaker: The matter is under investigation.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): Actually, the question that I wanted to ask has been partly covered by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri's question. As you know, Sir, warnings are usually given when a bore comes; also, usually, all the connecting wires are examined...

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is giving information.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: I want to know whether the connecting wires were examined.

Mr. Speaker: The matter is under investigation. The hon. Minister has placed before the House all the information that he now possesses. After investigation is made, he will try to keep the House informed.

I do not see any reason to give my consent to this adjournment motion.

REPORTED ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN BORDER DISTRICTS

Mr. Speaker: There is a third adjournment motion which reads thus:

"The situation of insecurity and subversion emerging out of the fact, as reported in *The Statesman*, dated 21st November, 1960, that 'the Communists have stepped up their propaganda in the newly-created northern border districts ... The propaganda being conducted through speeches, hand-written and printed literature and at secret meetings tends to justify the Chinese territorial claims on Indian soil'."

Has the hon. Minister anything to say regarding this kind of propaganda on the border?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I make a submission on this, before the Prime Minister makes a statement? The whole of this northern border is honeycombed with secret societies and anti-social and treasonable elements, and there are agents of Chinese expansionism that persist in the perversity, calculated perversity, I would say, that in the matter of this dispute, it is India and not China that is in the wrong; and Kalimpong, that was described by Peking once as the command centre of the rebellion in Tibet has, of late, become the spy centre for a particular country. There, all kinds of dyeing and cleaning shops, eating-houses etc. are springing up like mushrooms, not ostensibly for business purposes, because they worked as centres of espionage. At the same time, posters and subversive literature are circulated in this area and in the adjoining sensitive areas. There has been a systematic campaign against India in this particular area. If you visit Darjeeling and go to a tea estate there, in the houses of a certain community, you will find only three pictures, the pictures of Durga, the picture of Kali and the picture of Mao Tse Tung. This is the atmosphere that we are having in the northern areas.

In spite of the statement that the hon. Prime Minister made with pointed reference to this during his reply to the foreign affairs debate in August in this House and in the other House, Government have left these areas open for such infiltration. And we are afraid that a national tragedy might occur out of this negligence or because of this negligence on the part of Government.

Therefore, I want this motion to be admitted as an adjournment motion, and there must be discussion on it.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): As the hon. Member has said, I myself, drew the attention of the

House in August last, to certain attempts being made by persons, presumed to be members of the Communist Party, in doing propaganda in these border areas.

So far as this particular motion is concerned, it refers more particularly to the newly-created northern border districts. The hon. Member, however, has spoken chiefly about Kalimpong and other places.

Shri Hem Barua: I said, particularly Kalimpong.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Maybe, I am not sure. So far as I know, there is no district in Kalimpong newly created. In fact, it never struck me that it might apply to Kalimpong at all. Of course, we are aware of Kalimpong, and the West Bengal Government are constantly in touch with the situation, and they take such steps as they consider necessary. This particular motion refers rather to the areas in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh etc.

It is a fact that this kind of propaganda has continued to take place there. After I made that statement in August here, there was much objection raised in a particular press connected with the Communist Party, to my having made that statement here; it said that it was not justified. The fact is that probably this kind of thing has continued, though on a somewhat less public scale; previously, it was rather public, then it became, I cannot call it exactly secret, but still it has toned down somewhat, and more of it was in small meetings; and the propaganda was of the type mentioned by the hon. Member, mostly in regard to frontier troubles with China, that China was right, that our Government of India was wrong, that China wanted a settlement, but we do not want a settlement and so on and so forth, and that a basic proposition is that whatever the facts etc. may be, a socialist country; that is, a socialist country like China cannot possibly commit aggression at all; that

is a basic assumption with which probably most hon. Members here will not agree. However, this kind of thing has continued.

Mr. Speaker: Does it mean that whatever they take is their own property?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. They are so virtuous that they can never commit sin; it means that; it means that virtue is inherent in them.

Shri Vajpayee: They only liberate, they do not commit aggression.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think this matter has come very well before the notice of the State Governments concerned. They are quite aware of this; they are taking action, wherever they think necessary. If any further action is necessary, they or the Government of India will certainly take it. They have taken some action in regard to individuals or others.

But I should like to point out that while all this is happening there, to say that it is creating a situation of insecurity or subversion in the border is not correct. It is being done by odd individuals making speeches or having private talks or distributing some paper etc. That certainly, I admit. But there is no question of insecurity in our border areas, or of subversion being noticeable in those areas.

I do not know what profit it will do to have a discussion in an adjournment motion on this question.

Mr. Speaker: Tomorrow, we are having the foreign affairs debate . . .

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central) rose—

Mr. Speaker: I have heard the hon. Member who has tabled the adjournment motion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The name of the Communist Party has been

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

brought in by way of an adjournment motion.....

Mr. Speaker: It is there in the adjournment motion.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I do not wish to associate the Prime Minister with the practice of Communist-baiting wherever a chance offers itself. I do want to say, since the party's activities have been mentioned, that on the last occasion, in this House, I had asked the Prime Minister to specify concretely the instances where it has come to his notice that members of the Communist Party are taking part in subversive propaganda in the border. It is very necessary for us also, as members of the Communist Party, who among us, if any, are conducting the kind of propaganda which is sometimes being alleged against us.

An. Hon. Member: Oh! you do not know?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: On that occasion, I did not get a concrete reply, and today I am told that perhaps the methods of these allegedly communist people have changed, and they are behaving privately, and not in as public a manner as before.

Now, all these are allegations in the air. I want to put it as quietly and as mildly as possible: we are functioning here and we are here to answer whatever charges are made against us. If the charges are made against us in the courts of law of our country—it is open to anybody to do so—we can defend ourselves, if that becomes necessary. But by way of adjournment motions, by way of answers to the kind of discussion which is started by certain Members of this House in this part of the House to go on making reflections on the Communist Party, when we have made our position very clear that we ourselves want to know who among us, if any, are conducting treasonable propaganda in private or in public in

these border areas, does not appear to be proper. So I do not see why this kind of proceeding should persist. Hence I would beg of you to exercise your discretion in this matter and see that unnecessarily and gratuitously the waters are not muddied by references which help nobody at all.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): May I ask Shri H. N. Mukerjee whether the Communist Party has any members or workers in these areas and whether any inquiry has been made by the Party itself as to the sort of activities they are conducting there?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I may tell you, as the hon. Minister has put this question in the House to me, actually the Secretary of our Party, as far as I know—I have got a copy of the letter—has written to the Prime Minister so that we can get some assistance from the Prime Minister in finding it out. Because as far as we are concerned, we do not know of anybody in our ranks who is conducting subversive propaganda. If there are any, the Home Minister with his *danda* is there to do whatever he can against us.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): Recently the Communist Party has put forward a demand that an autonomous State should be created in Northern Bengal. My esteemed friend, Shri H.N. Mukerjee, also went there and he advocated it.

Mr. Speaker: What State? A separate autonomous northern State?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes. My hon. friend, Shri H. N. Mukerjee, also went there and addressed several meetings and there he has advocated it. I would like to know from him what sort of autonomy he wants to be given to Northern Bengal, whether it is going to be of the Chinese or Russian type.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: There is no question—I never advocated it—of the separation of certain areas of West Bengal or the Gurkhas, Nepalese-speaking people who form about 80 per cent of the population there. There is no question of the separation of that area from West Bengal. But there is a long-standing demand on the part of the Gurkhas of that region that there should be inside the State of West Bengal a kind of regional autonomous arrangement (*Interruptions*). In view of recent happenings in Assam and the talk about amendment of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, the Gurkhas today are very keen—they are naturally—to have in their area an autonomous arrangement, Congress Members of Parliament, including Shri Manaen, speaking about it in this House have supported this idea of regional autonomy for the Gurkhas but always inside the State of West Bengal. Because a particular paper, which I shall not name, absolutely falsely says that there has been propaganda about the separation of this area from West Bengal, my hon. friend, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, who is supposed to be well-informed, puts this question. This is the demand of the people of that area supported by the Congress Party, the Communist Party and also the PSP... (*Interruptions*). This is a demand to be examined in the present context of our country.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether Government intend to introduce any measure to put a curb on such activities in the entire northern area?

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: That is the main point (*Interruptions*).

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member opposite reminded me that he had previously also asked me to give particulars. That is true. I had hesitated to give a list of names and other things. Normally it is not done. But I have here two or three, not from the list, but they happen to here, and I shall read them out. Apart from this, I should like to point out that I am not used to baiting the Com-

munist Party or any other Party. What I said was that even the Communist Party, as is well-known, is at the present moment pulling in different directions. The Communist Party of Bengal—I speak naturally subject to correction—is pulling in one direction, opposed to the general wishes expressed by the all-India Party. So also I think the Communist Party of Punjab, microscopic as it is, is pulling in a different direction again. I am just mentioning one or two names rather reluctantly. But I do not want this to be treated as a kind of precedent for the future.

“At the District Executive Committee meeting of the CPI held on October 8 at Darjeeling, S.N. Mazumdar, MLA, of the Communist Party urged CPI workers to conduct propagand on the Sino-Indian border issue on the lines that China would never attack India and any propaganda to the contrary was designed to bring the CPI into disrepute that China had granted regional autonomy to the minority communities and she was manning her borders to meet likely aggression by America through Indian territory; and that China would help India in the event of an attack on India by Pakistan”.

“At a secret meeting of CPI workers held at Garhwal on April 18, 1960, Krishna Bhatt, endorsed the claim of China over certain parts of India and said that there were two villages near Joshimath in Chamoli District, namely, Chanyee and Thanyee, which clearly indicated that these areas were under Chinese occupation at one time”.

“At a secret meeting of the Party held at Simla on 14th September 1960, Kameshwar Pandit, Secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Council said that India should give concessions to the Chinese in Ladakh by acknowledging their suzerainty over the disputed area

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

through which the Chinese had constructed a road, while on the eastern border, China should withdraw her claim to the territory situated across the MacMahon line in India".

I have casually mentioned two or three cases, but this is the nature of the cases through which information reaches us in considerable numbers from time to time. It is because of that that I made the statement I had previously made.

Shri Mahanty (Dhenkanal): May I know what is the source of the information? . . . (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members will kindly bear with me. We are having a discussion on foreign affairs tomorrow and if hon. Members get a chance, they may say what they like with a view to strengthen the defences in the northern border.

Shri Tangamani: It was contradicted in the newspapers.

Mr. Speaker: I have already admitted the motion. It comes up for discussion tomorrow.

So far as this matter is concerned, enough has been said. Shri H. N. Mukerjee raised a point and appealed to me. If any allegation is made against any member of the Communist Party or any other Party working in this House as a member, I would hesitate and would even call him before I read it out in the House. But the adjournment motion refers to Communists—the 'Communists have stepped up propaganda' and so on.

Shri Tangamani: By Congressmen.

Mr. Speaker: It is not Congressmen. If a Congressmen behaves in a like manner and says that part of the territory which has been occupied by the Chinese belongs to the Chinese, certainly it is open to him to move an

adjournment motion here to seek clarification. Then the hon. Minister would also say whether those meetings have been held or not. There is no good interrupting me like this. It is a serious matter.

So far as India is concerned, by no label can any man escape if he does anything contrary to the interests of India. And I am here to allow reasonable discussion of all these matters. I am interested in safeguarding, along with hon. Members of this House, the interests of this country. It is not a question of a label. Whoever he might be, including Member of this House, if serious allegations are made and he has no explanation to offer, I will certainly allow this House to go into the matter, if the interests of India require it.

So far as this matter is concerned, it is clear that there are certain activities going on. The Government also are aware of it. They have taken note of it. The only point is whether I must allow an adjournment motion on that. To say that merely because Communists are referred to, I ought not to allow it or bring it up is not right. No Party will be allowed to do anything which is subversive. When serious allegations are made, depending upon newspaper reports and also supported by the statement of the hon. the Prime Minister, here, I would certainly have allowed this adjournment motion but for the fact that this matter is coming up in some form or other tomorrow. I am not allowing it now for the reason that it comes up tomorrow.

Shri Hem Barua: Are you going to allow a foreign affairs debate tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.