

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) Suggestions were made by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry for discussion at the Meeting of the Export Promotion Advisory Council held in March, 1961.

(b) Restrictive Policy for the export of Sillimanite has been necessitated in view of our industrial requirements *vis-a-vis* reserves. However, besides the normal quota of 5,000 tons for 1961, *ad-hoc* quotas have been allowed to cover firm commitments. The target of export for Sillimanite thus comes to 10,000 tons for 1961, this approximates to the highest exports of Sillimanite since 1954. The present restrictions, therefore, do not hamper the export of Sillimanite.

Export of Ferromanganese

1724. Shri P. C. Borooah: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry had of late complained that the export of ferromanganese was being pushed out of foreign markets because of the uncompetitive prices and had suggested certain measures to Government for promotion of export of this item;

(b) if so, what measures were suggested by the Federation; and

(c) what is Government's decision thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):

(a) and (b). Some suggestions were received at the last Meeting of the Export Promotion Advisory Council regarding reduction in Railway freight rate and supply of cheap electricity.

(c) In order to assess the quantum of help that would be necessary from the export promotion angle, the producers of ferromanganese have been requested to furnish the data regarding cost of production etc. so that an analysis could be made of the problem involved *vis-a-vis* the international ruling prices.

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

APPREHENSION OF ALLEGED SPY

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of two Adjournment Motions both relating to the same matter, from Shri Vajpayee and Shri Hem Barua. There is also a Calling Attention Notice from Shrimati Na Palchoudhuri. She is not here. The subject of the Adjournment Motion, as given by Shri Vajpayee, reads as follows:

"The discovery of a sinister espionage ring which maintained contacts inside the Army and an agent whereof has been apprehended at Bareilly on August 17th with documents revealing that he was in close touch with saboteurs in Kashmir."

There is also a Calling Attention Notice on the subject by Shrimati Maimoona Sultan. What is the position?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I shall place before the House such information as I have. I might, to begin with, say that from the information thus far we have received that this has no connection with spying or any connection with any foreign country. Of course, we cannot be absolutely positive, but thus far, this is the information about a man who is a confirmed cheat, who has been to prison several times for cheating and smuggling, and who, because he was employed originally in some very, very subordinate capacity—I think he was an orderly at one time in the Army to an officer—got hold of some uniforms and cards, etc. He usually tries to get money out of military people; because of his posing as some kind of officer, it is a bad case of cheating in so far as we know. But this is only a preliminary information.

He himself has given a statement to the police yesterday, I believe, saying that his father was a Havildar in the Royal Garhwal Rifles and re-

tired in 1947. He joined the Army Headquarters as a messenger in 1949 in the E Block Sanitary Wing and in the period up to 1951 worked as an orderly of Gen. Cariappa. His regimental Number was such and such. He was discharged in 1951 but was re-recruited on Gen. Cariappa's recommendation at Lansdowne the same year by one Col. Puar. After training for six months he was posted to M. T. Section, Meerut. His regimental number then was such and such. Subsequently he was transferred to Ferozepur and then to Jhansi and was discharged in 1956. He could not find a job and so he took to smuggling. This is his own statement. He took to smuggling in 1957 along with one Ramesh Chandra of East Vinay Nagar, Delhi. He was arrested for smuggling opium in 1955 at Saharanpur and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment. He was again arrested at Lansdowne under section 171. I.P.C. and served a brief sentence. After coming out, he was arrested at Dahnpur in District Bijnur in 1961. In June, 1961, he was arrested in Delhi under section 468 I.P.C. but was acquitted. He has been posing in these areas as an army security officer and extracting money from army personnel. He got identity cards, which have been recovered, printed at the Fine Arts Press, Hewett Road, Lucknow. In July he had come across one Rama Shankar of Kotah Bundi and he helped him in his activities. From the documents recovered from him, there is a paper on which he has written the details of Ranbir Singh Sehgal's case which he says he copied down from the *Tribune*.

It appears that the man is a cheat and he is impersonating. He has not mentioned any contact with Pakistan. Of course, his statement may or may not be correct; if his statement is correct, that he has been in jail a number of times, his connection with foreign countries appears to be unlikely, though we are further enquiring into the matter. That is all the information I have got.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I submit that the Bareilly police has claimed that they have recovered some papers from this cheat? These papers show that this man has collaborated with certain Pakistani saboteurs. May I know if the information given by the hon. Prime Minister was received from the Bareilly police or from the Army, and are we to go by the statement of the impostor or by the information from the Government sources?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The information I have received is from Defence, from the Central Intelligence Bureau. We telephoned to Bareilly. The District Magistrate was not available. The Assistant District Magistrate knew nothing about it. At any rate, he said he is enquiring and will let us know as soon as he comes to know anything about it. We have been approaching the necessary persons since this morning, because we have not heard of this. It may well be, as it sometimes happens, that some police officer concerned in Bareilly has dramatised this rather, to gain importance! It is possible, of course.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I have listened to the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on this matter. But then there is another thing. A man belonging to this gang of this orderly was responsible for disorderly behaviour. He, with a pistol, went to the officer and told him at the point of the pistol that the papers which he recovered from this man should be returned. Whether he is an impostor or a man connected with some foreign country is a different matter. But that man threatened the officer to give the papers back to him. This establishes the fact that this man has a very deep-seated ring, whatever it might be, all over the country.

The statement also reveals the fact that whatever it might be, the tentacles have been spread out even to the capital city. We are concerned about this thing. On a previous occa-

[Shri Hem Barua]

sion, it was revealed that some of our citizens were actively connected with some espionage work in this country and there is information that our country, especially the border areas, are honeycombed with secret societies and espionage activities by people who indulge in anti-Indian or anti-national activities. I want the Prime Minister to find out the position.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I can appreciate the anxiety of hon. Members to see that our country is as safe as possible. But on every occasion, we ought not to import any element of anxiety as to what all has happened or what may possibly happen hereafter. We are only concerned with this point, which has now arisen. The Prime Minister has given a full and complete statement and in addition to that he has made enquiries. This Adjournment Motion is based on a report in the *Hindustan Times*. No doubt the report says that the police have found some papers on some person which show that that person was in touch with saboteurs in Kashmir. The Prime Minister was asked to give information about this, and he has said that he has been able to receive no such information, notwithstanding the fact that.....

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have stated all the facts that I have been able to get hold of since this morning, and they are from our Central Intelligence Bureau chiefly and partly from Defence. And we are trying to get into touch with the Uttar Pradesh Government, with Bareilly. I have stated that we could not get anything till now from them because the Assistant District Magistrate does not know anything about it. Apparently, this is less known in Bareilly than in Delhi at the present moment, because of the headlines, etc., in the newspapers. I cannot deny anything. The enquiry is proceeding, and I do not think we need rush to conclusions because of the headlines in the press.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a complete statement by the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Further enquiries will be made.

Shri Nath Paj (Rajapur): The hon. Prime Minister just stated that it is conceivable that a police official in Bareilly was tending to dramatise or alternately, it is possible that the reports are absolutely baseless and purely sensational. In that case, will the House be told what was the truth and will proper action be taken either against this kind of sensational report on the part of the reporter or against the police official? It is an alarmist report.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I agree with the hon. Member that an alarmist report without due enquiry should not be printed. I entirely agree, but I cannot say off-hand in such circumstances what action should be taken, except to deplore such exhibitionism, if I may say so. Obviously this will be enquired into fully. They are enquiring into it fully and if any relevant fact comes up, I shall place it before the House for the information of the House.

Shri Vajpayee: It is not the reporter who is at fault; it is the Bareilly police which has given the information to the paper which is at fault.

Mr. Speaker: There is no need to pursue this matter. On the newspaper report, an adjournment motion was tabled. The hon. Prime Minister has placed before us all the information he has now got regarding this statement in the newspaper that the police suspect some saboteurs being responsible for all this. He will make further enquiries regarding this matter and if he finds that there is any such thing, he will certainly inform the House. At this stage, there is absolutely nothing more that has to be done. I am not giving my consent to the adjournment motion.