

shared the founders' commitment to genuine non-alignment. He added that client governments of the Soviet Union which had long since lost their independence had flocked into the NAM and, once inside, had worked against its true purpose.

India's reaction was spelt out by the Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi at a luncheon meeting of the United Nations Correspondent Association in New York on 30th September. It was pointed out that Non-alignment meant that the member countries did not belong to any military bloc; made their own assessment and took independent decisions.

Protest over Indian Police entry into Nepal

1239. SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Nepal had lodged a strong protest with the Government of India against illegal entry, killing of people and looting of property by the Indian police personnel in Sustain Nepal's territory; and

(b) whether Government have made any inquiry into the incident; if so, what is the result thereof and what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) and (b) A gang of criminals led by a notorious dacoit Munna Khan, operating on the Indo-Nepal border entered the Madanpur jungle, in West Champaran district on 15th September and started illegal felling of trees. The Bihar Forest Department officials arrested two of the criminals and handed them over to the Valmikinagar Police Station where a case under sections 379 and 447 IPC was registered. The leader of the gang, Munna Khan, having escaped arrest retaliated by kidnapping two forest guards. The Valmikinagar Police station immediately registered a case of kidnapping and sent a police party who, having received information that the dacoit and his associates were hiding in Rampurva village, surprised them. The

police party, however, was outnumbered and was in turn attacked and surrounded by 35 members of the gang equipped with firearms. In the ensuing exchange of fire, one Home Guard and one police constable died on the spot and the officer in charge was also killed. The fourth body, found in the area after the encounter, was identified as that of M. D. Mohamadin, brother-in-law of Munna Khan.

On the 16th September, the local police established contact with their counterparts on the Nepalese side and were assured of full assistance in the arrest of the criminals involved. The Bihar Police also learnt that Munna Khan, who had been injured in the leg, had surrendered to the Nepalese police and handed over to them one rifle, reportedly belonging to the dead home guard.

Rampurva village, where the shoot-out took place is in Indian territory under the jurisdiction of the Valmikinagar police station. The above incident is of a purely local character, involving some criminals. In accordance with the existing practice such incidents are dealt with at the local level. The Government of India do not regard it as a border incident in any way. It is of no political significance and a protest on the part of the Government of Nepal which was lodged on 22nd September, 1983 was not really called for.

Quality control of pesticides

1240. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promulgate a Central order on the distribution, price and quality control of pesticides; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Pesticide is an essential Commodity under the Essential Commodities Act. The possibility of formulating a Central Order on

the distribution, price, etc. of pesticides has been under examination of the Government for some time past. However, taking into consideration the complexities of the measure, it has been decided to study the various aspects of bringing pesticides under statutory price control in consultation with the various concerned Ministries and Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices.

(b) Does not arise.

Laboratory for testing quality of Fertilizers

1241. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in order to control and to ensure effective quality control on fertilizers supplied to farmers a number of regional quality control laboratories are being set up; and

(b) if so, what would be the number of these laboratories with the locations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There is a proposal to set up 3 regional quality control laboratories. These laboratories are proposed to be located one each at or near Calcutta, Bombay and Madras.

Distribution of land among SC/ST families

1242. SHRI CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of landless and homeless SC/ST families in the country, State-wise;

(b) how many of them are likely to be given house-sites and agricultural land during the current plan period; and

(c) the details of surplus land detected up to 1982 and the land distributed to landless SC/ST in the States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARINATH MISHRA):

(a) to (c) A statement prepared on the basis of the Rural Labour Enquiry Report, 1974-75 indicating the number of labour households belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes without land is enclosed. It is estimated that there will be 14.5 million home-less families by the end of the Sixth Plan. The information available indicates that 7.7 million eligible families were allotted house sites prior to the Sixth Plan. During the Sixth Plan house-sites are to be provided to 6.8 million eligible landless families so as to cover all eligible families by 1985. According to available data, by the end of 1982, 41.6 lakh acres of land had been declared surplus under the ceiling laws enacted in the light of the national guidelines. Of these 26.8 lakh acres had been taken over out of which 19.6 lakh acres had been distributed. Of this area 10 lakh 11 thousand acres had been distributed to 6 lakh 78 thousand beneficiaries belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. How much more land will be distributed to the eligible members of these two categories of persons till the end of the current plan period will depend upon such factors as the availability of surplus land, its location, etc.

Statement

Statement showing the number of agricultural labour house hold belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes without land as compiled by the Rural Labour Enquiry Report, 1974-75.

(Number in thousands)

State/UT	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1	2	3
Central Zone . . .	800	233
Uttar Pradesh . . .	610	26
Madhya Pradesh . . .	189	207
Eastern Zone . . .	1271	270