

कितनी जनसंख्या के बीच में एक पोस्ट आफिस है और नाम भी बताने की कृपा करें ?

श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : मेरे एरिया में एक हजार, डेढ़ हजार पापुलेशन के ओ गांव हैं वहां पोस्ट आफिस हैं ।

श्री प्रकाश महरोत्रा : आदिवासी क्षेत्र के बारे में बताइये ?

श्री नरहरि प्रसाद सुखदेव सई : आदिवासी और जो हिल एरिया हैं वहां भी 15 सौ, एक हजार और 2 हजार की पापुलेशन जिस गांव की है वहां पोस्ट आफिस है । लेकिन यहां पर इतने बड़े विलेज बहुत कम हैं, यह बात सही है । इसलिए यहां पर जो ग्रुप आफ विलेज हैं, उनके लिये वहां पोस्ट आफिस खोले हैं और मेरे एरिया में भी हैं ।

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय : नाम नहीं बताया आपने ।

Armed conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia

*366. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA; Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether the Government of India have taken any initiative in any international forum to stop the recent armed conflict that is taking place between Somalia and Ethiopia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): The differences between Ethiopia and Somalia over the Ogaden Province of Ethiopia erupted in the form of a full-scale armed conflict last June. Last August the Minister of External Affairs had appealed to leaders of Ethiopia and Somalia through their Charged' Affairs in New Delhi for exercise of restraint and statesmanship and had also expressed the hope that a peaceful settlement of the differences would be arrived at and that the OAU Good Offices Committee on this subject would succeed.

The Minister of External Affairs had also expressed his apprehension that the armed conflict in the Horn of Africa between Somalia and Ethiopia would, inter alio, invite increased super-power rivalry in the region.

The current explosive situation in the Horn of Africa is a source of deep concern to us. Our Prime Minister has had an exchange of correspondence with President Carter of USA and President Brezhnev of USSR in which the developing situation in the Horn of Africa has been referred to. Our Prime Minister has stated that the conflict in the Horn of Africa require restraint on the part of external powers as it could become more complicated by increasing rivalry and foreign military involvement. He has suggested that ways and means of restraint should be found to bring about a settlement respecting principle of inviolability of established frontiers as enshrined in the OAU Charter and that an acceptable political solution under the OAU, UN or any other mutually acceptable auspices be urged.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Sir, the Minister has mentioned about the super-power rivalry in the region. I want to know from the Minister whether Ogaden is a territory of Ethiopia and whether with the occupation of Ogaden this Horn conflict started or not.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as we have always said, we must respect the established territories. We have also said whenever the occasion came that this matter should be settled peacefully.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Whether Ogaden is a territory of Ethiopia is the particular question to which I want an answer.

SHRI S. KUNDU: What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You wait, Mr. Raha. You have to wait. He has not yet completed his answer. Let him say. You please hear him fully.

SHRI S. KUNDU: If the hon. Member would listen to me a little patiently, I think he will get his answer. So, Sir, our point of view on this matter has been that this matter be settled by the Africans themselves.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: What matter would be settled? Sir, my question should be answered first. My question was whether with the occupation of Ogaden, the Horn conflict started or not, and whether Ogaden is a territory of Ethiopia or not.

SHRI S. KUNDU: He must be a little broader in outlook if this conflict is to be resolved. Just like in a school, he is asking me whether this is a territory of Ethiopia or not. I said, Ogaden is within the established territory of, is a province of, Ethiopia. Are you satisfied now? What is this? *(Interruptions).*

SHRI HARISINH BHAGUBAVA MAHIDA: Why does the Minister get angry?

SHRI S. KUNDU: I am not getting angry. Give me a chance to answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not angry. You go on.

SHRI S. KUNDU: That is all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Raha. Second supplementary.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Sir, if the answer is that Ogaden is a territory of Ethiopia, I would like to know whether the Government has considered it necessary that Somalia should be requested to vacate Ogaden in favour of Ethiopia. I would like to know whether this stand has been taken by the Government of India or not.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Sir, that is why I was going to explain, and there would have been no occasion for the second supplementary. Anyhow, our stand has been that unless both the countries want us to do something, we should not butt in. That has been

our stand. As I said, we would like that this matter should be first bilaterally resolved. If it is not possible then the Africans themselves should try to resolve it. We do not want to increase tension or encourage conflict.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: What tension? Sir, my simple question has not been answered. I asked whether Ogaden was aggressed by Somalia and, if so, what steps the Government has taken against Somalia.

SHRI S. KUNDU: My most humble submission is this and we are proceeding on these lines. We have never been allowed to settle disputes. But we have said, that this conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia is causing us deep concern for various reasons. It leads to side-tracking of certain vital problems for instances in South Africa. And both the countries are non-aligned countries. So our approach has been that this matter should be settled, and our hope is that this matter is going to be settled.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if it is a fact that this conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia has divided the African countries into two camps and, therefore, it is not easy to say to which particular country this part belongs because Somalia also had this part in its occupation. So I would ask the hon. Minister if it is a fact that it is because of Russian intervention that the situation is worsening in that part and whether Government will take the initiative and ask the Russian Government not to intervene in matters of African countries and divide the African countries between themselves.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Precisely on the same line, our Prime Minister has written to the two leaders of the super powers, and he has suggested that this conflict should not be allowed to continue. He has also said that the conflict in the Horn of Africa requires

restraint on the part of the external forces as it could become more complicated by increasing rivalry and foreign military involvement. Let us hope that peace is restored to the area.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: As far as the desire of the Government to have this thing settled is concerned, We all share it. Everybody wants that the two non-aligned nations should not get into this kind of conflict. That is not the point at dispute. Is the hon. Minister aware that after Haile Selassie was overthrown and a new regime came into existence and announced a programme of social progress, certain things started from the other side? Today Ogaden has been aggressed against. They want to seize this territory, make it Somalia's territory. And currently the United States of America, West Germany, Britain and other NATO powers are supplying arms to Somalia to commit and carry on aggression and ^{seize} that territory as a part of destabilising the situation in the whole of the region, far from allowing it to stabilise. This is the situation. Why under such circumstances again is this theory of super power business brought in? I can't understand. Is it to escape the responsibility? If Ogaden is a territory of Ethiopia as the honourable Minister has rightly said, then take Ogaden by force—but not with the help of the imperialists. It is a gross violation of the charter; it is an aggression; and it is creating tension in this region. Why should not Mr. Morarji Desai's letter—if he has sent one; I do not know; we read about it in the newspapers—to Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Carter say that the NATO powers should persuade Somalia to stop that aggression? Ethiopia has a right to carry out social reforms and measures. Instead of that, this kind of a thing only confuses and we as a non-aligned nation do not play our part. Shutting our eyes to the reality by raising the theory of super powers again is entirely misconceived and wrong, when everybody knows that

in the Horn of Africa a crisis is being created by the imperialists by supplying arms to Somalia and trying to provoke them.

SHRI VIREN J- SHAH: What about the Ugandan troops in Africa?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You do not understand anything except dynamite.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough. Please sit down.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Mr. Chairman, Bhupesh Dada did not really ask any question. He wanted to make a speech and he has made a speech. But if I do not give an answer, Bhupesh Dada will be angry with me. Therefore, I would only say—even if I put it hypothetically—even if there is a conflict on any established territory, there are two methods of resolving it. One is through armed conflict and the other is through bilateral and other peaceful talks. So we will encourage—as we have been doing throughout according to our tradition—bilateral discussion or peaceful talks or mediation through some friendly countries. That is the idea we are pursuing.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: But why bring in super powers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Shyam Lal Yadav. Please be brief.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Yes, Sir It is good that the Government has written to the super powers to restore peace. If this Government thinks that its voice should be heard, I do not know how we can have double standards. On the one hand they want their voice to be heard and on the other when the Zambian Prime Minister, Mr. Maini Chona, expressed his unhappiness and regret over what he described as harassment of Mrs. Indira Gandhi by the Janata Government and he had expressed the hope that such a thing would be stopped, the Government called the Ambassador of Zambia and expressed surprise. I would like to know how

they can do this when they themselves are asking the super powers. This sort- of double standards are not understood by us. I think the Government would do well to heed the ^{ao}-vice that the Zambian Prime Minister has given. The Zambian Prime Minister has taken courage to say that and I congratulate him on the stand taken by him in the world forum. I think the Government should reciprocate that feeling . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want a reply or not? Please finish.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Instead of accepting this advice, the Government unnecessarily summoned their Ambassador. A most derogatory phrase has been used by the Government of India. And I condemn the action of the Foreign Secretary; he has no right to behave like that. It is absolute nonsense on the part of the Foreign Secretary . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want a reply or not?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: . . . to summon a friendly country's Ambassador in this manner. I request the Foreign Minister to express regret.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are absolutely no double standards. The question which the honourable Member has raised does not relate to the main question. But I say, I hope the honourable Member has seen this morning's newspapers, we have strongly repudiated the Zambian Prime Minister's allegation. I can say this that perhaps it is only in this country—in India—that the people who try to subvert the Constitution and completely finish democracy are allowed to move as free citizens. And I hope the honourable Member would inform those other countries that if such a thing had happened there, the situation would have been completely different and such people would be rotting in jail.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: All over the chanceries of the various countries, this Government has brought shame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pending Industrial Disputes

*362. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB
BURMAN:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of industrial disputes at present awaiting settlement pending receipt of the Boothalingam Committee report; and

(b) what steps are being taken to solve the outstanding labour problems during the interim period?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b) No industrial dispute has been kept pending by the Central Government to await the report of the Boothalingam Committee.

Strike by the workers of the Electrical Resistance Weld Pipe Plant of the Rourkela Steel Plant

*S64. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the workers of the Electrical Resistance Weld Pipe Plant of the Rourkela-Steel Plant were on strike in the month of January, 1978: and

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor and whether Government have considered their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. 300 workers of the Electrical Resistance Weld Pipe Plant of the