

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 30th August, 1974/the 8th
Bhadra, 1896 (Saka)

The house met at eleven of the clock, Mr.
Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-Burma Border Demarcation

*813 DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: +
SHRI PRAKASH VIR SHASTRI
SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on demarcation of the boundary line between India and Burma has been completed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of demarcation, a portion of Indian territory has gone to the Burmese side; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) No,
Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister the basis on which the line of demarcation between India and Burma is going to take place? What is the basis or what is the map on which this demarcation is going to take place? Was this map made before the partition or, rather, before the separation of Burma from India? Will this demarcation be based on a 19th century map or on a recently prepared map?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, this agreement actually formalises the old traditional boundary between India and Burma and the actual demarcation is taking place on the basis of maps which have been accepted and agreed to by both the countries.

+The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. R. K. Chakrabarti.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI: In this century or in the previous century?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Well, I cannot say exactly. But, this map has been attached to the agreement between the two countries.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI: I want to know whether this map was prepared in the 19th century or the 20th century because earlier Burma was an integral part of India.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have no information on that point.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Shri Buragohain.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI: Sir, my second question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I thought that this was your second question.

DR. R.K. CHAKRABARTI: Sir, I was seeking only a clarification. Sir, I want to know whether it is a fact that after the demarcation of this boundary takes place, there will be separation of some Naga population into two distinct parts—the part coming to India and another part going to Burma, which will result in the division of families and villages between the two countries.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, as far as my information goes, no part of Indian territory in the Naga sector is being given over to Burma. So, there will be no surrendering of Indian territory as such. Difficulty has, however, arisen because there are some tribes living on both sides of the boundary line and they have their relations and cultivation on the other side of the boundary. To that extent, of course, some difficulty will be created for those Nagas who are on our side of the boundary because after this boundary is formalised it becomes an international boundary and it will not be very easy for them to cross over as they have been doing uptil now.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि श्री नागालैंड की कोई एक प्रमुख राजनैतिक कार्यकर्त्री महिला है श्रीमती रानी शेयजा—या ऐसा ही कुछ उनका नाम है—उन्होंने पीछे एक वक्तव्य दिया था कि नागालैंड की कुछ सीमा है जो कि भारत सरकार ने बर्मा को स्थानांतरित कर दी है। क्या यह जो सीमाकन हुआ है इसमें भारतवर्ष का कुछ प्रदेश बर्मा के लिए स्थानांतरित

किया गया है। किया गया है तो कहां और कितना और यदि यह किया गया है तो संघ की स्वीकृति के बिना आपने इस प्रकार का स्थानान्तरण कैसे कर दिया।

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इसका तो जवाब मैं पहले ही दे चुका हूं। भारत वर्ष की कोई भूमि बर्मा को नहीं दी गई है। यह जरूर है कि ऐसा बयान हम ने सुना है कहीं नागालैण्ड के किसी लीडर ने दिया है। वह बयान गलत है। कोई भूमि नहीं दी गई है। और मैं यह भी सदन को बतला दूं की जिस वक्त यह डिमार्केशन का काम चला इस सैक्टर में उस वक्त नागालैण्ड के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव हमारे साथ हर वक्त रहे हैं उनकी मौजूदगी में हुआ यह डिमार्केशन हुआ है और कोई भूमि हमारी वहां नहीं गई है।

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGO-HAIN: Sir, at no time in history any habitation of Naga people was a part of Burma. Now according to the 1967 Indo-Burma Agreement about 67 villages inhabited by Nagas have been pushed towards Burma. So, there is a strong resentment in Nagaland on this account. May I ask the hon. Minister whether he will start any dialogue afresh with the Government of Burma to assuage the sentiments raised in Nagaland for the purpose of bringing back those villages falling within Burma?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, the question of opening a dialogue with Burma on this issue does not arise at all. As I have said earlier, no part of Indian territory or Nagaland villages belonging to India have been handed over or given over to Burma at all. I merely said that the Nagas on the Burmese side and on the Indian side had in the past some relations and certain connections and now they will have certain difficulties in crossing over and meeting the other Nagas on either side. It does not necessarily mean that we have actually given our territory to Burma.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. O. P. Tyagi.

SHRI O. P. TYAGI : No question, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Subramanian Swamy.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, the honourable Minister said just now that a representative of Nagaland was sitting with the Government of India when the demarcation took place. The fact is that the Government of Nagaland was asked for an opinion and they gave a set of six principles according to

which they wanted the treaty to be concluded. Now, is it not a fact that a large number of Nagas living in the border areas cultivate their lands on the other side of the border? Now, is it not one of the things that the Government of Nagaland did suggest to the Government of India, that is not to have a formal treaty at this time because of the fact that the people are cultivating their lands on either side, across the border now proposed by the Government? It is not a fact that the Government ignored the proposal and the suggestions of the Government of Nagaland?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH, : Sir, the Government of Nagaland did make certain proposals in this regard and they were given due consideration. But may I tell the honourable Minister that we have not delineated or demarcated any new boundary in this sector. The boundary is an old one and it had existed there for years and years on the maps. It is now merely a question of translating the boundary on the map to the ground and that work has been carried out and, as a result of that, no territory belonging to India has been given to Burma.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This is not what I said. I asked whether they did not want a formal treaty at that time because they were cultivating lands on either side of the border.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I agree I have already said that the Nagas living on our side have certain trans-border privileges and rights and they are also cultivating land on the other side of the border and that is also a fact. All these have been taken into consideration. But the fact remains that the boundary is a valid one and no new boundary has been created.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : In other pacts of this nature, the rights of the fishermen are protected. Here also the cultivation rights of the Nagas should be protected.

(Interruptions)

श्री सवाई सिंह सिसोदिया : माननीय मंत्री जी से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इंडिया और बर्मा के बीच में सीमा सम्बन्धी क्या विवाद था, बर्मा की क्या प्रोटेक्शन थी और कब से झगड़ा चला आ रहा था और क्या निर्णय हुआ ?

श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह : बर्मा और भारत के बीच न को विवाद था न कोई झगड़ा था बाउण्डरी के बारे में या टेरीटरी के बारे में। हमने उसी बाउण्डरी को फार्मलाईज किया है जो मैप पर थी। न कोई झगड़ा था और न है।

SHRI I.T. SINGH : Sir, it is a known fact that the demarcating of the boundary line has not yet been completed. May I draw the attention of the honourable Minister to the fact that some milestones, that is, the demarcation stones, in the Morey area in Manipur bordering on Burma are still missing? May I draw the attention of the honourable Minister to the fact that the bridge which connects Burma and India, near the border in Manipur in the Morey area, was a bridge which was repaired by the Government in 1950? May I know from the honourable Minister whether that was repaired, the repair work was done, by the Burmese side?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Sir, the total length of the India-Burma border is 906 miles out of which over 835 miles have already been demarcated. As regards this particular matter which the honourable Member has raised about the Manipur sector, 250 miles in the Manipur sector have been more or less completed except for relocation of 9 pillars which have been found to be out of alignment with the agreed positions on the map attached to the 1967 boundary agreement and we are now going into this matter and all these pillars will be put back exactly at places to which they belong.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : Sir, the honourable Minister said that this is the border which was existing between India and Burma for years and years he also admitted that certain trans-border facilities—this is what he said—trans border facilities were being enjoyed by the Indian Nagas across the border. Sir, I am interested in knowing when this new alignment is going to come and whether those facilities, the trans-border facilities, will also continue or whether the Government is going to enter into certain other arrangements.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We have taken up this matter with the Burmese authorities. They have not said anything categorical as to whether they would allow these facilities to continue or not. This matter is still under discussion with them.

* 814 [The questioners (Shri J. C. Anand, Shri I. D. Singh and Shri L. Mauhapatio) were absent. For answer, vide col. 31-32 infra.]

Aluminium Plant with Hungarian Collaboration

*815. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD: †
SHRI S.G. SARDESAI:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the aluminium plant being built with Hungarian collaboration in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the commissioning of the plant will be according to the schedule; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Bharat Aluminium Company, a public sector undertaking, has set up an alumina plant at Korba (Madhya Pradesh) with the technical collaboration of M/s hemokomplex of Hungary. The plant was commissioned in April, 1973.

श्री भोला प्रसाद : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बताएंगे कि इस प्लान्ट में पैदावार का क्या लक्ष्य है और शेड्यूल के मुताबिक वह लक्ष्य हासिल करने में कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : जो यहां पर प्लान्ट्स की योजना है उस में एक तो हंगरी के साथ कोलाबोरेशन द्वारा दो लाख टन एल्यूमिना वहां पैदा किया जाएगा बाक्सइट से और दूसरे एक लाख टन स्मेल्टर से एल्यूमिनियम मेटल का उत्पादन किया जाएगा।

श्री भोला प्रसाद : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस में पैदावार कब से सटार्ट होगी और इस में जो शेड्यूल के मुताबिक देर हो रही है उसका कारण क्या है यह साफ साफ नहीं बताया गया है।

श्री के० डी० मालवीय : जहां तक एल्यूमिना का सवाल है उस का उत्पादन तो शुरू हो गया है और उस का निर्यात करने की भी योजना है जो बहुत शीघ्र हो जाएगा। ग्राइंडिंग भी मिल चुके है और भी कई पार्टियां है

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhola Prasad.