

for two minutes. Accommodation once means accommodation for all times, and I am in a very difficult position. I cannot go against my ruling.

*520 [Transfer to the 18th December, 1968.]

EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS WITH CHINA

*521. SHRI KRISHAN KANT †:

SHRI R. P. SINGHA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to exchange ambassadors with China ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : Government do not at present have any such proposal under consideration.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know the Government if it is a fact that rethinking is going on in China that Ambassadorial level connections must be established with India? May I know, Sir, if they have received any indications from China directly or indirectly ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We will be glad if there is rethinking. But so far they have had no indication of it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know, Sir, if the Government is aware that in America there is a lot of thinking going on during the last two or three years that they should have a detente with China? Some connections have also been established in Hong Kong and other places besides Warsaw. If it is so, what are the implications for Asia, and India particularly, of the developing relations of America with China ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It does not strictly arise from this question. But we are aware of the fact that certain talks are going on between the Americans and the Chinese at Warsaw. But we do

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमन्, पकिस्तान की तरह चीन भी हमारी प्रगती के मार्ग में कदम कदम पर रोड़ा अटकाने की जो नीति

रख रहा है, तो क्या इस संदर्भ में सरकार बताने का कष्ट करेगी कि हमने जो पहले मांग की थी यू० एन० ओ० में चीन को राष्ट्र का दर्जा दिलाने की, वह मांग अभी तक आपकी जारी है या उसे आपने छोड़ दिया है ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We are still in favour of China's entry in the U. N. and we are pursuing that policy.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know, from the hon'ble Prime Minister—she is credited to have told foreign correspondents on September 5 last—whether India is willing to enter into a dialogue with China provided there was a right atmosphere and right circumstances. Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what she means by "right circumstances" and "right atmosphere", and does she think that she has got something to do beyond the stated position of India, namely, no negotiations unless China accepts the Colombo Proposals *in toto* ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : What I meant was that we have an open mind on this issue. We do not believe that just because the country is extremely hostile to us at this moment, this situation should necessarily continue to be the same. If there is a change in the situation, obviously we also will rethink about it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : May I know, Sir, whether the Government has considered the advisability that precisely in view of the strained relations between these two countries efforts should be made to re-establish relationship at the Ambassadorial level, and whether the Government is aware that excepting in case of war, normally the States do seek to establish Ambassadorial relations amongst themselves even when there are conflicts and disputes among them. In view of that, do I take it that the Government stands in principle for the re-establishment of relationship at the Ambassadorial level. No matter what China does we have an image to project to the world and we should also show to the world as to how we view this matter.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: The hon. Member is correct when he says that we stand by our principles and policies regardless of what other nations do. But China has behaved in a very unpredictable way, and I think that just now there are few countries where they have fu

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

Ambassadors, I do not know whether they would like to make an exception with regard to India. When we decide to send an Ambassador we have also to consider what sort of reception he would have and how effective he would be in the circumstances.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : Sir, the Prime Minister said that we have no indication of a change in the attitude of China. May be, the Chinese feel that they have no indication of a change in the attitude of this country. In view of this, may I know if the Government has considered the feasibility of taking the initiative in establishing normal relations with China ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : I think I have already replied to this, Sir, that a particular atmosphere has to be created. On our part we have repeatedly said that we have not taken any rigid attitude and we have an open mind. I think that that by itself, is, in a way, an initiative.

SHRI A. D. MANI : May I ask the Prime Minister in connection with this question whether at least there is a disposition on the part of the Chinese authorities to remove the humiliating restrictions on the movement of Indian personnel at the Embassy in Peking because they are not allowed to go about freely? Has there been any move on the part of the Chinese Government to lift these restrictions because this thing is bound up with the exchange of Ambassadors?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Not to our knowledge.

FEEDING OF RATS IN THE TEMPLES OF INDIA

*522. **SHRI ABID ALI :** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 377 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th May, 1968 and state :

(a) whether it was printed in widely circulated newspapers and magazines in Germany that a large number of rats are fed sumptuously, particularly in temples, in India and therefore food scarcity results in India ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these reports have not been contradicted by the Indian Missions there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINCH) : (a) and (b) A prominent weekly published in the Federal Republic of Germany did refer to the practice of the feeding of rats in a particular temple in India. The Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation in West Germany, whose attention was invited to this by the interviewer, stated that while he knew of such instances, "one could not generalise them". As the report published in the weekly was not entirely incorrect, it was not considered necessary to issue any contradiction.

SHRI ABID ALI : Sir, on a former occasion it was denied that a publicity of this kind took place. Therefore, I had again to submit this question. May I know, Sir, why the correct position was not explained. It cannot be completely untrue or completely true. Some explanation ought to have been given on behalf of the Indian Mission there.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Explanation was given by our Mission.

SHRI ABID ALI : It is a fact that nothing was published in the newspapers or this particular magazine on behalf of our Mission.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : This is an unfortunate case, and I must say that the truth is not favourable to us in this matter because the fact remains that if the rats were not fed with the American wheat they are fed with bajra and other things which, I think are equally needed for the nourishment of human beings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bhandari.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : With the permission of Mr. Abid Ali . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Abid Ali cannot give any permission.

SHRI ABID ALI : No permission. Sit down. He should obey me.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भन्डारी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बीकानेर के पास जो करणी माता का मंदिर है क्या यह रिपोर्ट उस के संबंध में है ? अगर है तो क्या सरकार को इस बात का पता है कि उस मंदिर में ही केवल धार्मिक दृष्टि से यह मान्यता रखी है कि वह किसी भी जन्तु की हत्या नहीं होने देगे चाहे वह चूहा ही क्यों