

it. Italy says that it is commerce. In these circumstances . . .

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: They have sanctioned.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: In these circumstances and considering our past experience where we had to be contented with sending Protest Notes only on such strategic matters where the security of the country is itself in danger, may I know from the Prime Minister whether she will also be contented by sending a Protest Note or whether she proposes to take up the matter at the highest personal level with the heads of the different States so that this sort of things are not done in future?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: We can hardly interfere with what one State gives to another State. We can only protest and point out the grave consequences of this kind of military help.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमत्, अपने भारत की तरफ से इटली में दो रिप्रेजेंटेशन के स्थान हैं, एक तो वेटिकन स्टेट में और एक इटली में, तो क्या आप यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि यह अधिकृत सूचना सबसे पहले कहां से मालूम हुई, इन दोनों में से किससे या किसी बाहरी देश से या अमेरिका से किसी संसद से मालूम हुई कि पाकिस्तान सौ टैंक से खरीद रहा है। एक बात। दूसरी बात यह कि जो पहले से पैटन टैंक पाकिस्तान के पास अमेरिका से आए हुए थे उनकी क्षमता में और एम 47 की क्षमता में क्या अन्तर है, क्या यह टैंक पैटन टैंक से बड़े हैं। और तीसरे यह कि समाचारपत्रों में यहाँ प्रकाशित हुआ है कि उनको सिखलाने के लिये इटालियन लोग और इटालियन भी पाकिस्तान आये हैं तो यह बात कहां तक सही है।

श्री बी० आर० भगत : यह कहना कि कहां से सूचना मिली यह तो उपयुक्त नहीं होगा, यह सारी बातें तो अखबारों में भी छप चुकी हैं,

यह कह नहीं सकता कि मुझे कहां से सूचना मिली और जहां तक वेटिकन का सवाल है वह तो इसमें आता नहीं, इटली तो अलग और वेटिकन अलग है इसलिये वेटिकन का नाम लेना ठीक नहीं होगा। और जहां तक पैटन टैंक की बात है यह नैटो सरप्लस से है, इनको नये ढंग से बना कर उनको बेचने की बात हो रही है। जहां तक ट्रेनिंग वगैरह की बात है, पाकिस्तान के पास तो पहले से भी पैटन टैंक थे और ट्रेनिंग में कौन आया है, इटालियन आये हैं या नहीं, यह तो अभी डील होने वाला है, हुआ नहीं है, यह तो बाद में पता चलेगा कि कौन आयेगा या कौन नहीं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have spent more than 18 minutes on this question. Next question No. 94. Prof. Shantilal Kothari.

ANTI-INDIA ACTIVITIES OF REBEL NAGAS

*94. PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI:†

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:

SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-national activities of the rebel Nagas have been on the increase recently;

(b) whether the rebel Nagas are frequently violating the cease-fire agreement and are introducing their so-called "armed police" in Nagaland posing a threat to the peaceful population of the State;

(c) whether there is any foreign hand behind these activities; and if so, the details thereof;

(d) what steps are being taken by the Central Government to curb these activities; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Prof. Shantilal Kothari.

(e) whether Government are contemplating to extend cease-fire agreement; and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) to (e). The House has been kept informed of the range and extent of the activities of the underground Nagas. The attention of the Hon. Members is invited to a statement made by the Prime Minister in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th March, 1968 in response to a Calling Attention Notice. Undoubtedly, establishment of contacts by the extremist elements amongst underground Nagas with China, in addition to their contacts with Pakistan, have added a new dimension to their anti-national activities. Violations of the agreement in respect of the suspension of operations by the underground Nagas have been firmly dealt with by the State Government and in case of Manipur by the authorities in the Union Territory concerned. Adequate and suitable measures are always taken to curb the unlawful activities of the underground.

As for the extension of the cease-fire, Government have decided that the period of the Agreement on the Suspension of Operations be extended by the Governor for another two months, i.e., up to the 30th June 1968. This decision takes into account the overall law and order situation and the wishes of the people of Nagaland State as expressed through their constitutionally elected Government.

PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI: May I know if the news published in the Herald, the Australian newspaper, dated the 30th March, 1968 that there was a joint conference in the Zunnar Province of Southern China of the rebel Karens, Kachins and Nagas from the Burmese side and the rebel Nagas from the Indian side which included the attendance of the

Naga rebels like Mowu Angaml, Issac Swu, Mui and Va Laldong, is correct?

May I know also if the P.T.I. (Kohima, datelined April, 3, 1968) sent any such report describing a section of the Nagas who are rebellious and traitors as, "fierce and proud Naga warriors who have battled from over 20 years for independence from India now turning to China for help, the P.T.I. reported yesterday" and as reproduced in World Press Review (External Publicity Division, Ministry of External Affairs—No. 119/68 page 5 para 2) summarising the news item from Canberra Times April 4, 1968 issue.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have not got the information about this news item in the Press of Australia. But this much is a fact . . .

PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI: This has been released by the Foreign Ministry to me. These are the news cuttings.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: . . . that certain extremist elements among the Underground Nagas have gone to China—it has already been admitted by the Government—and it is quite possible that they might have taken part in this meeting which the hon. Member has referred to.

PROF. SHANTILAL KOTHARI: The second part of my question is not replied to. This is about an Indian Press agency heavily financed by the Government of India, the Press Trust of India, as referred to earlier?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I am not aware of it.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know from the hon. Minister how and why the underground Nagas are being referred to as federal Nagas in the joint statement? Is it without taking note of the implication of the phrase? Will the hon. Minister explain.

Secondly, the Chief Minister of Nagaland had just four days back accused the underground Nagas on violating the truce because of their liaison with China. May I also know from the hon. Minister why severance of their connection with China or Pakistan was not insisted upon during the recent cease-fire talks?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Sir, the hon. Member knows that there are various divisions amongst themselves. There is a group even amongst the underground Nagas which is very much against any kind of talk with China and I believe that this was stated in the recent conference which they held. But there is an extremist group which is defying this.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The impression gained by us is that the Government of India is depending too much on the rebellious section of the underground Nagas. I doubt, I do not know how far it will be a safe thing to assume such a position as that. Anyway, I would like to know whether it is a fact that during the recent talks these rebel Nagas refused to talk on the question of their going to foreign countries like China and Pakistan for getting armaments and also training? Is it also a fact that they have so far accumulated a huge amount of armaments from these countries? Has any assessment been made of the amount of armaments that they have procured from Pakistan and also from China? And how many people are actually the soldiers fighting against India in the ranks of the rebel Nagas there?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: They did not refuse. But when the question of arms was brought up, what they said was that this was already contained in the agreement on the suspension of operations and therefore it need not be mentioned separately.

I think it is very difficult to give the number of people involved or armaments. We do have information on it but I do not think it would be not to divulge it.

I do not know what the hon. Member meant by saying that we depend upon the rebels. We certainly do not depend upon them.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: May I know from the Prime Minister if during the long course of talks which we had with the underground Naga leaders there was any occasion where specifically the question of their owning Indian nationality was put to them and, if so, whether they accepted their being Indian nationals or they refused to accept their being citizens or part of this nation?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This is oversimplifying the issue, Sir. As I have stated in this House many times before, we have very clearly stated to them that there can be no solution to this problem outside of the Indian Union, there is absolutely no question. And it was on that basis that we were discussing with them. Now, they have made no categorical statement, but when we consider such questions we have to think of the situation in Nagaland and see whether it is possible for anybody who is coming from them to make such a categorical statement straightway.

SHRIMATI LALITHA RAJGOPALAN: May I know, Sir, from the Prime Minister whether she is aware that the interior Nagaland security measures are inadequate and the arms are also inadequate and in the border the forces are very insufficient, with the result that the Nagas have free access into the interior and the Naga people are often harassed? May I know, Sir, whether the Government will take note of it and will make a thorough study of the situation with the co-operation of the Naga people and try to counteract the rebel Nagas?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: I can assure the hon'ble Member that we are constantly reviewing the situation. We are constantly in touch with our

military personnel. There is no question of Nagas going into Nagaland because some of them live there. The question is to try and isolate them. One benefit which the period of peace has given is that a large number of Nagas are now tired of fighting and would like to have peaceful conditions, and if we can win over the majority of them, obviously the solution will be very much easier to find out.

**CIVILIAN OFFICERS WORKING IN THE
CORPS OF SIGNALS**

***95 SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of civilian officers at present working in the Corps of Signals;

(b) the period of their service; and

(c) how many of these officers are permanent; and if these are no permanent officers what are the reasons therefor?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI
M. R. KRISHNA):** (a) to (c) There are no Class I civilian Gazetted Officers in the Corps of Signals.

There are 24 Class II civilian Officers, 4 of them are permanent and have 8 to 21 years' service; 12 are quasi-permanent with 12 to 19 years' service; 6 are temporary with 4 years' service and a case for issue of quasi-permanency certificates to them is in progress; 1 officer with 4 years' service has a permanent lien in the P&T Deptt; 1 officer is on deputation from the Defence Accounts Department. The question of absorbing the civilian Gazetted and civilian Technical officers in the Defence Science Service Cadre as Junior Scientific Officers is being progressed.

Details regarding Class III and Class IV officers are being collected

and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN. May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that two or three of the officers who have put in 18 years of service are on the verge of retirement but still they have not been made permanent? If this is a fact, may I know, Sir, why no steps were taken to absorb them in a permanent cadre?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: Sir, steps had been taken even in 1953 to create permanent vacancies for these officers. Again efforts were made in 1962. But unfortunately the parent department, namely, the Signal Corps where they were serving, were asking that these officers should be made permanent in some other department and allowed to serve with the parent department. Because of that it was delayed. Now orders are being issued to make them quasi-permanent.

***96.** [The questioner (Shri Jagat Narain) was absent. For answer note col.infr.]

FOURTH PLAN

***97. SHRI CHITTA BASU:**
SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage the formulation of the Fourth Plan stands now; and

(b) by when the Plan is likely to be finalised?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT):** (a) Work on the preparation of the Fourth Plan has been initiated...

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chitta Basu.