

[Shri M. N. Govindan Nair.]
the Master Plan, but who is there to master this Master Plan? Which is the authority?

AN HON. MEMBER: The Health Ministry.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: I need not speak of these things because you all know it. All these years they have been talking about an appropriate body to look after the affairs of Delhi city. But even up to this date they have not evolved a system by which the affairs of Delhi could be looked after. This is the position.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Only recently we had passed a resolution in the political conference about the future set-up for Delhi.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI (Uttar Pradesh): You want an Assembly here to worsen the situation?

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: This is the state of affairs which we have now.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: The hon. Member is only talking about his own home State.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: No, we are getting on well there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Govindan Nair, your time is limited.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Yes, Madam, I am not going away from the subject. What I would like to say is that everybody in India, even though he may be coming from any other place everyone will be proud of having a better state of affairs in Delhi.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: Thank you.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: Therefore, please do not think in terms of opposition parties or ruling party. Every party in this country

will be interested in the improvement of the affairs of Delhi. But our fear is that except in the Housing Minister's speech, in actual experience we find that the Central Government and all the other Ministers are not as much interested, it seems, in the affairs of Delhi.

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: You are very unkind to us.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: I am not being unkind. Is it not your experience? You are also staying in Delhi. The supply of water, the milk supply, electricity, all these things, and also telephones, these are not only for the opposition parties or for the ruling party members. Even the Ministers are not exempted from these.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): You mean the lack of these facilities.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR: So kindly do something about improving the conditions in Delhi itself so that we may at least have a feeling of security in this city. Thank you.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IM- PORTANCE

THE PASSING OF BHUTANESE OFFICIALS THROUGH INDIAN TERRITORY INTO NEPAL AND THE STATEMENT MADE BY THEM

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): May I, with your permission Madam, call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the reported statement made in Kathmandu by five fugitive army officers of Bhutan accusing the Government of India of being responsible for all the upheavals in Bhutan since 1961 and making other allegations against India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON):
Madam, on the evening of December 5,
Sarvashri Tangbi, Penjo, Rinchen

Dorji and two other officers of Bhutan Government, who have fled Bhutan, issued a statement in Kathmandu making several totally false allegations about the policies and actions of the Government of India. Reports of this statement appeared in the Indian newspapers on the following morning. The allegations against the Government of India were false and without foundation that the Government thought it necessary to contradict them immediately.

With a view to exposing the falsity of these allegations, immediately, in the Press and the other media of public information, a simple, straightforward denial has had to be issued, during the daily briefing of the Press by the Government's spokesman. In a statement in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha a few days earlier, I had placed before Parliament such facts pertaining to recent developments in Bhutan as were then in the possession of Government.

Tangbi and four other fugitives appear to have crossed into Nepal from West Bengal, a day or two before the arrival of H. M. the King of Bhutan in Calcutta from Switzerland on November 22, 1964, on his way back to his country. His Majesty had not requested the Government of India to intercept these officers or to apprehend them. The House will appreciate that, both, with Nepal and Bhutan we have long, open borders, and the movement of Indians, the Nepalese and the Bhutanese across these borders is free from restrictions.

As was stated to the House earlier, these recent developments in Bhutan are of an internal character, and it is entirely for His Majesty the King of Bhutan to decide as to how he and his Government wish to deal with this situation. In view of the most friendly and cordial relations between our two countries, the Government of India will extend to H.M.'s Government of Bhutan such cooperation and assistance as they may request of us.

The Bhutanese officers now in Nepal have said that the Government of India knew all the true facts about the assassination of the late Jigme Dorji in April this year. Government fail to understand what is intended to be implied by this. The late Prime Minister of Bhutan, Shri Jigme Dorji, who had served his country loyally had made very valuable contribution in the strengthening of Indo-Bhutan relations. The tragic news of his assassination came as a great shock to the Government and people of India. At the time of this ghastly tragedy, we had offered all the assistance that the Government of Bhutan might need of us in helping to trace the culprits or in any other way. The Government of Bhutan considered their own resources adequate to meet the situation. As the House knows, investigations by Bhutanese authorities were followed by trials in Bhutan, which led to the execution of the then Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Brig. Chabda Namgayal Bahadur, and punishment of others involved in the heinous crime of Shri Jigme Dorji's assassination. After the assassination of the late Prime Minister, the Government of India continued to conduct business with and lend their full cooperation to the new acting Prime Minister of Bhutan, Shri Lhendup Dorji, whom His Majesty had been pleased to entrust with responsibility for the country's administration.

To suggest, as has been suggested in the statement issued by the Bhutanese defectors, that the Government of India desired or attempted, at any time, to create misunderstanding between the King of Bhutan and the Dorji family is a mischievous and deliberate perversion of the truth. Till such time as the King was pleased to retain Shri Lhendup Dorji as his Acting Prime Minister, the Government of India worked in close cooperation with and extended the fullest measure of assistance to him. This was acknowledged by Shri Lhendup Dorji himself.

[Shrimati Lakshmi N. Menon.]

These officers have alleged that India has in some way been behind the so-called upheavals in Bhutan since 1961. The House has followed with interest the course of Indo-Bhutan relations since 1961 and earlier. So far as the Government of India are aware, but for the most tragic and unfortunate assassination of Shri Jigme Dorji there have been no trouble in Bhutan. Perhaps, the most significant event of these years was the formulation of Bhutan's development Plan, which we undertook to finance, at the request of and with the approval of the King, and the then Prime Minister of Bhutan, Shri Jigme Dorji, and the Government of Bhutan as a whole.

Bhutan has made steady progress during these years. All that the Government of India desire is that Bhutan should be strong and prosperous country. His Majesty, the King of Bhutan is anxious to achieve rapid economic and social advancement of Bhutan and, as I said the other day, the Government of India remain anxious and committed to give all possible assistance and cooperation to Bhutan in this task.

Our relations with Bhutan are regulated by the Treaty which we entered into with that country in 1949. By this Treaty, the Government of India have undertaken to "exercise no interference in the internal administration of Bhutan", and the Government of Bhutan has agreed to be guided by the advice of the Government of India in regard to its external relations. Both Governments continue to adhere fully and faithfully to this Treaty. For any one to suggest anything to the contrary can only be termed a nefarious attempt to create misunderstanding between us and the Government of our friendly neighbour, Bhutan. His Majesty, the King of Bhutan and the Government of India confidently believe that these attempts will end in failure.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Madam, while everyone of us welcomes this very firm contradiction of the Government of India of the allegations brought against India, may I ask the Minister whether it is not a fact that the official news agency and Government controlled radio of Nepal gave the widest possible publicity to these allegations and may I also ask the Minister whether the Government would request the Government of Nepal to see that this contradiction which the Minister has read out is given the widest possible publicity in view of the depth of feeling in the country about the falsity of these allegations?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir, Government are aware of the broadcast from Nepal about this and we will take it up with the Nepal Government. It is under consideration. As for widest publicity to this statement, I think the media of publicity in our country should give the widest publicity. We cannot ask the Nepalese Government to give widest publicity to this.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister to comment on one of the statements made by the five Bhutanese defectors that they travelled to Nepal in bullock carts even at day and were not checked by Indian authorities *en route*?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I have already stated in the statement that the borders are open. Any Indian can go to Nepal and any Bhutanese can go to Nepal. There is no control.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one fact in this connection. When these officers made false charges against India, the contradiction was issued by the External Affairs Ministry. I should like to know why the contradiction was made by the External Affairs Ministry and why did not the

Minister take steps to make that contradiction in Parliament?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Madam, the contradiction was made by the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry as a matter of normal routine and whenever false allegations are made of such a wild nature contradiction is necessary. Hon Members will appreciate it because their usual complaint is that we do not contradict these things.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA (Bihar): Madam, it has also been reported in the newspapers that the defectors are under the impression that their families had been put in detention, preventive or protective, by the Government of India. Is there any truth in that?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: No truth in that,

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): The Government have stated that they are having the friendliest of relations with the Government of Bhutan but I would like to know whether Government have any proposals to have the friendliest of relations with the Bhutan State Congress which is the only democratic organisation in Bhutan?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Madam, the hon. Member knows the relationship we have.

SHRI ANAND CHAND (Bihar): Madam, the Minister has just now quoted from the Treaty of 1949. The very preamble of the Treaty of 1949 flows from whatever engagements the late British Government had with the Government of Bhutan. The Minister might be aware that Bhutan was more or less a protected State like Sikkim. According to the Treaty of 1949, a different status was given to Bhutan but in the Treaty itself the Ruler of Bhutan is referred to as the Maharaja. Some time ago the Ruler assumed the title King and he has

been mentioned as such by the Minister. May I know whether it is the policy of the Government of India, in spite of the fact that we control the external relations of Bhutan, to slowly elevate Bhutan to the position of an independent kingdom like Nepal?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: No.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Only one more question, Madam. While the Minister has contradicted many of the allegations made may I ask her to state something about another fantastic allegation made by these five Bhutanese officers who said that Mrs. Lakshmi Menon offered help to the King in arresting and extraditing them? I am sure the Government of India is not in communication with the Government of Nepal or the Government of Bhutan in regard to any other internal matters.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has already been fully answered in the statement.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi): Madam, you will recall that when the first statement was made by the hon. Minister I asked her if she was aware how these people had fled and where they had fled and the Minister denied any knowledge of the fact. May I now ask her as to how they have collected information that they have fled to Nepal via West Bengal?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: From them. They have made a statement to the Commissioner in Kathmandu that they went through India, through West Bengal and entered Nepal.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Is that the only source of information?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: We have no other source, no information of our own. This is the information we have received.

SHRI SANKAR PRATAP SINGH DEV (Orissa): The oath of allegiance which the Army office used to take was loyalty to the King but now, during Mr. Dorji's acting Premiership, it has been changed to King and the country.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: It has always been to the King and the country.

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THE SLUM AREAS (IMPROVEMENT AND CLEARANCE) AMENDMENT BILL, 1964—Continued.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: Madam, I do not want to make a speech but I just want to ask one question arising from the speech of the Minister. He has deplored the number of squatters and the quantum of squatting indulged in. Could not the Government prevent this by building tenements for these squatters? They know the number of squatters expected every year. Could they not take steps to prevent this type of squatting?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He could answer when he replies Mr. Gujral.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL (Delhi): Madam I am glad that Government have brought forth this measure to fill a lacuna found in the original Bill and I hope this amendment will be able to improve the situation. It is rather unfortunate for us, maybe because of the heritage, maybe because of the legacy that our slum clearance generally starts when the slums have grown, our Improvement Trusts are generally formed when bad towns have already grown and our town planning is generally taken in hand when bad towns have already come into existence. It is said that this negative approach to things continues in the basic national sphere. I am glad, all the same, that the Minister who is known for his courage and

is known for his boldness has taken this courage to meet this very challenging challenge of slums. I might submit, Madam, that in the last fifteen years while our progress in the industrial sphere has been commendable, our foresight in economic planning has proved successful, unfortunately these have resulted in other social things which we did not foresee. With these there is bound to be, as the Minister himself said, vast pace of organisation and vast pace of organisation is the direct result of industrialisation and also a part of the universal phenomenon. It is not only in India, Madam, that we are faced with fast growing cities and immigration from the villages. It is part of the post-war world and today this problem is being studied, dealt with, and defeated in most of the countries. Therefore, it is not only out of nothing that we can draw our lessons. There are many examples available to us from which we can learn.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You may continue after lunch.

The House stands adjourned till 2:30 P.M.

The House adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

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The House reassembled after lunch at half past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) in the Chair.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, when we rose for lunch I had started talking about the slums and I believe that slums are a cancerous growth in our civic life, in our urban life, and like cancer itself it is not a disease but a symptomatic manifestation of something which lies much deeper. Like cancer its reasons and its manifestations are to be sought much deeper and one such reason is the growth of urban population. Sir, the hon. Minister himself said while present-