

ACTIVITIES OF U.N. OBSERVERS IN
SRINAGAR

*10. { SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE:†
 { SHRI JAGAT NARA
 { SHRI V. M. CHORDIA:
 { SHRI MAHABIR DASS.

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints against the U.N. Observers stationed in Srinagar to the effect that they had indulged in activities which were beyond the scope of their duty; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): (a) Government are aware that U.N. Military Observers at Srinagar met the so-called leaders of some student demonstrators at the U.N. Office and received resolutions from them for onward despatch to the Chief Military Observer/U.N. Headquarters.

(b) It has been pointed out to the Chief Military Observer that such activities of the U.N. Observers are not in keeping with their charter of duties.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: According to the press reports, the U.N. Observers took the demonstrators in their jeep to Srinagar Airport and showed them that their memorandum was flown to Srinagar. Has the hon. Minister any information in this regard?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: The U.N. Observers have denied that they provided a jeep to the student leaders to take their resolution.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether the attention of the Secretary-General of the U.N. has

been drawn to the activities of the U.N. Observers and, if so, with what result?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: The U.N. Observers team had been written to and their answer has not been considered satisfactory. We propose to point out to them again that what has been done is not correct. Any further step that has to be taken thereafter will be considered.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Did the U.N. Team deny that they received those pro-Pakistani deputationists and, if so, what was their contention?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: They have not denied having received the deputationists, I mean the deputation of the so-called leaders of the student demonstrators. They have tried to justify it on some ground but that does not at all seem correct. Therefore, we propose to point out to them the correct position vis-a-vis their Charter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that from time to time serious allegations are made from the Indian side about the activities of these U.N. Observers, may I know, in view of what has happened in the case of this alleged students' deputation, whether the Government has itself tried to find out exactly how and in what manner these U.N. Observers are behaving and whether this was only an isolated incident and whether there was inspiration given by them to the students and others in order to organise such demonstrations? And I would also like to know if a memorandum on this matter has been prepared by the Government of India to be placed before the U.N. and also before Parliament?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: It is a question of procedure. We have told the U.N. Observers that this is not correct and it should not have been done. They have replied to us and their answer is not at all satisfactory. Therefore, we propose to

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. B. Vajpayee.

point out to them, in the first instance, in greater detail, meeting their point. Any further action which has to be taken thereafter will necessarily be taken.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: May I know what are the grounds that the U.N. Observers have given for receiving that deputation? What are their reasons for having received those deputationists?

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Whatever the reasons, they had no business to do so.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: If I may briefly state it, they say that the procedure they have adopted is a simple and safe one from all points of view.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: What point of view?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: These are all adjectives.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYEE: May I know from the hon. Minister of State what these U.N. Observers are supposed to observe?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: If the House wants it, I can give the complete Charter of Duties of the U.N. Observers, but that will take a lot of the valuable time of the House. I might say that what they had done in this case is outside their Charter of Duties; not only that, it is something which they should not have done under their Charter of Duties.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Have the Government considered the advisability of asking the U.N. to withdraw the guilty among the Observers?

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: Sir, all these are suggestions for action. The first thing to do is to appraise the U.N. Observers that what they have done is not the correct thing to do and then, whatever else Government has to do, of course, Government will do.

DR. ANUP SINGH: Sir, in view of the fact that the report of the U.N. Observers is not considered to be appropriate or satisfactory, does not the Minister of State realise that the proper thing to do is to inform the Secretary-General? It is invariably done in other instances wherever the conduct of the U.N. Observers is considered undesirable instead of prolonging correspondence with the Observers.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: May I request the House to leave it to the Government to see at what stage they should write to the Secretary-General? It is a matter of procedure.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot allow all of you at the same time. Please sit down.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in reply, said that it was very unsatisfactory and that they did not accept the explanation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That should be satisfactory.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: No. Government is not satisfied with the explanation given. Now, I would like to know why the Government is not declaring those people as *persona non grata* and immediately placing the matter before the Secretary-General and asking him to recall these people. What is the use of coming here and saying that they have committed theft?

(No reply)

SHRI A. M. TARIQ: May I put a question, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I will now have to proceed to the next question. I do not think any useful purpose will be served by further supplementaries.