

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) No. The advice of the Geological Survey of India was not sought as they are not concerned with river training works.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LOCKERS HELD BY FILM STARS IN VARIOUS BANKS

158. SHRI BANSI LAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank authorities have locked many lockers held by the film stars in various banks; and

(b) if so, how many lockers have been locked and what was found in them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

POWER GENERATORS TO BE SET UP IN ANDHRA PRADESH

159. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state whether the reported offer made by Dr. Dharma Teja to set up three units of power generators at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh has been accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): Yes. The proposal of Dr. Dharma Teja to set up a 200 MW Thermal Power Station at Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh has been approved in principle.

WORKING OF FAMILY PLANNING CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY

160. SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Evaluation Committee was appointed in 1963 for assessing the working of Family Planning Centres in the country;

(b) whether there have been any complaints regarding the working of such centres;

(c) whether it is a fact that these centres were upgraded before the report of the above Committee was submitted to Government; and

(d) whether Government propose to lay the Report on the Table of the Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) The Committee was appointed to assess the working of the programme as a whole.

(b) to (d). Reports of unsatisfactory working of some centres have been received by Government and action to investigate them has been taken. This, however, is apart from the working of the Committee. Government has brought out a general scheme of reorganization of the centres which are now redesignated as Family Welfare Planning Centres. This has been done as recommended by the Central Family Planning Board and also in consultation with the Family Planning Programme Evaluation and Planning Committee. The report of the Evaluation and Planning Committee will be laid on the Table in due course, when it is received.

12 Noon

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

INTRUSION BY CHINESE PATROL INTO SIKKIM ON 27TH AUGUST, 1964

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a Calling Attention Notice by Shri Vajpayee, Shri Mani, Shri Patel and Shri Lokanath Misra.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I call attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon—the reported intrusion by Chinese patrol into Sikkim on the 27th August, 1964.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A. M. THOMAS): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a fact that a Chinese patrol intruded into Sikkim on 27th August, 1964. At 6-30 P.M. on that day, a Chinese patrol of three men was seen at a point approximately 900 yards north west of Nathu La, roughly 150 yards inside Sikkim. Nathu La is about 14 miles in a straight line from Gangtok. An Indian patrol was sent immediately to investigate and to intercept the Chinese patrol but the latter withdrew into darkness across the border on seeing the Indian patrol. A protest has been lodged with the Chinese Government about this intrusion.

On the same evening at about 7-15 P.M., our troops at Nathu La saw a powerful light falling on a hill feature in Tibetan territory about 500 yards north of Nathu La.

A white tent and 20 yaks were seen for the first time on the other side near Nathu La.

Some other Chinese activity was also noticed earlier. In June, our patrol at Tangkarla—11 miles east north east of Chunthang—observed two bunkers and three Chinese soldiers in blue uniforms, about a mile away on the other side of the border. Recently on 20th August, one thatched hut, four stone pillars and two bunkers were seen about a mile away from the border, about 17 miles east of Gangtok.

The Chinese have been concentrating their troops and developing communications and air-fields all along the Indian borders. They are consoli-

dating their positions and improving their logistic capacity.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, the fact that the Chinese could intrude 150 yards inside Sikkim raises serious doubts about the security aspect of the problem. If three Chinese could come 150 yards inside Sikkim may I know what is there to prevent 30 or 300 Chinese from coming 1050 yards inside? Is there any arrangement to prevent them from coming?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, we have taken account of all these threats and intrusions I may submit to this House that all precautions are being taken and our forces on that border are being strengthened. That is all what I think the House would expect from me and I think the House would not expect me to give all the details of the arrangements that we have made.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know for how long these Chinese were there on the soil of Sikkim?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I may say, Sir, that there have been no further incidents on this border recently except what I have already stated. Last June.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: No, no. My question was different. For how long did these three Chinese remain on the soil of Sikkim? Have you any information?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As soon as they saw our patrol, they disappeared and went into darkness, and we were not able to see them further.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Are we to understand that our troops are not there right on the border?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: I do not think I should say where our troops are.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Otherwise how could the Chinese intrude 150 yards into our territory?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, there is constant patrolling and it is because of the care and precautions that we have taken that we were able to spot them when they came 150 yards inside Sikkim.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): I am not able to understand some parts of the Minister's statement. He said three Chinese patrols intruded into Sikkim territory on August 27. Then he said that Indian patrols were sent to chase them and they disappeared which means that they intruded into Sikkim territory when there were no army reinforcements of India in that part of Sikkim. Is that true? Who saw the three patrols intruding into Sikkim territory? Did the villagers report this matter or did the army authorities themselves become aware of this through their sentinels?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: Sir, I have stated the spot at which they were seen. I do not think it would be proper on my part to say where our forces are patrolling, who really saw them and all those things. I think it would not be in the interest of security to disclose all those facts.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): There seems to be a great deal of misunderstanding. The Minister is reported to have said in the Lok Sabha yesterday that Nathu La is 35 miles from Gangtok whereas when he comes to the Rajya Sabha he says it is 14 miles. They do not seem to have any information even about the distance from one place to another in Sikkim and how can they be expected to have information about our defence?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: There is absolutely no difference between the statement that I made in the Lok Sabha and in this hon. House. There one hon. Member said that the distance between Gangtok and Nathu La is 35 miles. The real fact is when we give the distance to spot a particular place we have to give the distance in a straight line, or to use the layman's

language, as the crow flies. It is true that by the old road it may be about 27 miles. Really I think it is about 35 miles from Gangtok by a new road which we have constructed but that is not the distance that we have to give to spot a particular place. The distance has to be given in a straight line, or, as I have already said, as the crow flies.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, the Sikkim-Tibetan border is a hilly region and not a plain area and if the Chinese came into the Sikkim area, they must have come in by a pass. Are we to understand that our troops are not even posted at the different passes that connect Sikkim and Tibet?

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: As I have said, in the protest note that has been sent to the Chinese Government it has been stated that they are strengthening their forces and making these intrusions through what is called the Chambi Valley which passes into the area of both Bhutan and Sikkim. And as I have already mentioned, I do not think it is proper to disclose where our forces are or what we are doing.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): While the Chinese army are strengthening their positions the Government of India seems to be strengthening only the protest notes. Are they strengthening anything else on the border to prevent further Chinese intrusions? Will they give us information so that the country will know the position? Let the country know exactly where we stand. If we are still in the same position that we were when the Chinese aggression came, let us know.

SHRI A. M. THOMAS: In fact all that could possibly be disclosed to this hon. House having due regard to security, I have disclosed and I have already also assured the House that precautions are being taken and that our forces on that border are being strengthened. I do not know what more the hon. Member expects me to say.