

Government propose to give arms and ammunition freely to the civilians, at least to those who know how to use them, because on the other side they have been distributed to the civilian population freely?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you propose to distribute arms to the civilian population?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We do not propose to distribute them to everybody. They are given to some selected people.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं जान सकूँ कि इस प्रकार का जो गलत प्रचार कुछ अखबारों में होता है उसके संबंध में भारत सरकार को और से कोई स्टेप लिया जा रहा है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : इस खास सवाल की निम्न बात में मैं नहीं समझता कोई खास स्टेप की जरूरत है और न हमने कोई लिया ही है। हो सकता है कुछ यह सही हो, ज्यादा सही न हो, कि इस बात को बढ़ाकर कहा जाय।

NEFA VISIT BY ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DELEGATION

•500. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the report of the 12-member delegation of the Assam Legislative Assembly which visited NEFA;

(b) whether the delegation recorded that wherever they went in Kameng and Lohit there was a common complaint of the people that the officers under whose care they were, left them to their fate; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government have taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER P.F. STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) One of the members of the delegation, which visited Siang and Subansiri Divisions of NEFA, recorded his impression of complaints by the people against the withdrawal of the administration.

(c) This feeling of the people was well-known and publicly expressed. The withdrawal of administration from NEFA had, however, to be ordered in view of the military situation obtaining at the time. There was not a single case of dereliction of duty by an administrative officer of the NEFA Administration. To the contrary, such officers stayed with the rear guards and only withdrew under orders. No action is, therefore, called for.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, before Government came to the conclusion that there was not a single case of dereliction of duty on the part of the officials in NEFA, did the Government conduct at least a preliminary confidential enquiry into this matter on the lines of the enquiry that the Defence Ministry conducted into the reverses in NEFA or did they come to this conclusion on the basis of their conviction that nothing wrong would have been done?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, we came to this conclusion because there was no case of dereliction of duty at all and there is nothing for an enquiry when there is no such instance.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, this delegation made a reference to the relaxation of what is called the inner line in NEFA—no person can go beyond the inner line without a permit. This delegation asked for the relaxation of the rule relating to the inner line and the Members of the Parliamentary Delegation which visited NEFA also made a similar suggestion. Does Government propose to relax

the rules relating to this inner line so that there may be free traffic and movement between Assam and NEFA?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir; there is no such proposal before the Government for any relaxation because this would come in the way of our military arrangements in these areas.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Sir, in the case of military operations in this area, the co-operation of the public with the Army is a major factor for success. Has the Government considered the feasibility of associating army men with the civil administration there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Associating whom with whom?

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Associating army men with the civil administration.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir. Government not only has considered it but is trying to do that, but that does not mean outsiders coming in because they create difficulties for the people there.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the delegation also made a recommendation about the preservation in NEFA of the culture, customs, tradition and institutions. One of the institutions in NEFA is that the tribal law prevails over the Indian Penal Code. I should like to ask the Government whether it is the considered opinion of Government that NEFA should be preserved as a museum piece of the tribals and that there should not be free traffic between Assam and NEFA bringing about closer integration of these two areas.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: NEFA in the opinion of the Government, is not to be preserved as a museum piece but outsiders who go there interfere a great deal with

their habits and things like that and we try to avoid that, for instance, shops being opened there to exploit the people there. We have not agreed to shops being opened there by the outsiders. Their own co-operative stores and things like that are there.

SHRI P. L. KUREEL URF TALIB: May I know from the Prime Minister whether Government have received any complaints from the NEFA people—directly from them?

' SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants to know whether any complaints have been received directly from the people of NEFA.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Complaints do not come like that but people from NEFA have objected strongly to outsiders coming there in large numbers.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: As the delegation consisting of responsible M.L.As. from Assam has made a complaint about certain fears which were in the minds of those people in the NEFA area, may I know whether Government have made any enquiries into the allegations made by those people in NEFA? May I know whether Government have made enquiries into the allegations made by those people in NEFA so that confidence could be restored in the people in the NEFA area?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, the memorandum submitted by one of the members of the team did not make any allegations except that he said that the people were rather worried because the Administration was withdrawn and I have given the reason for which the Administration had to be withdrawn in the wake of the army. For the rest, the member has given certain suggestions which are more or less on the lines of the points raised by Mr. Mani.

SHKI BAHARUL ISLAM: May I know whether Government is contemplating any action in regard to the integration of NEFA with Assam?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: In. tegration in a sense is slowly taking place but pushing in a few or large numbers of outsiders does not help integration but the opposite arrangement.

*501. [The questioner (Shri R. S. Khandekar) was absent. For answer, vide cols, 3713-3714 infra.]

*502. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3714 infra.]

CONFERENCE OF INDIAN ENVOYS IN AFRICAN AND WEST ASIAN COUNTRIES

*503. SHRI R. K. BHUWALKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the main items that came up for discussion at the recently-held conference of the Indian envoys in African and West Asian countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): All aspects of India's relations with the African and West Asian countries were discussed, including economic and technical co-operation with those countries as well as political, trade, publicity and cultural matters.

श्री आर० क० भुवालका : क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह जो अफ्रीका और पश्चिम एशिया की कॉन्फ्रेंस हुई उस में बहुत ज्यादा प्रचार हुआ चाहता की तत्काल से, तो उसमें क्या विचार किया गया ? अगर कुछ विचार हुआ है, तो उसका परिणाम क्या निकला है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मेरी कुछ समझ में नहीं आया कि यह प्रश्न क्या है ? जाहिर है कि जो चीन का सवाल उठा हमारे लिये,

उस पर बहस हुई और जो उस पर हमारा विचार है उसकी निम्नत कहा गया और उस पर बहस हुई। मैं इस में कहूँ क्या ?

SHRI C. D. PANDE: May I know whether the Ambassadors, who assembled here recently, brought to the notice of the Government the cooling down of the Afro-Asian solidarity sentiment in African countries and also that they are not to a certain extent extending co-operation in the United Nations to Asian countries resulting in the Asian countries having to organise a separate organisation as against the Afro-Asian block?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I would not say, Sir, that any precise thing like this was brought to our notice. Some ambassadors who were present told us about the changing conditions in Africa, how they sometimes do not agree with what we suggest to them here or in the United Nations. They generally discussed about these matters.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: May I know whether, at this Conference, any definite steps were suggested to assist the developing countries in respect of economic development?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, Sir; some definite steps were suggested. Some we agreed to and the others are being examined.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: May I know whether it is a fact that normally the Indian diplomats are not willing to go to African countries because conditions there are different? If so, what steps are Government contemplating to take to provide them with inducements to go to African countries?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not think that is correct, Sir. They have not refused to go there. They do go there. Some of our good diplomats and ambassadors have been sent there and they have gone there.