

Boards is exercised by the State Governments through the State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Boards while there is overall control by the Central Government through the Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, whether there are such Boards in almost every district in India, and if the hon. Minister has the figures, what is the total number of such Boards in the country?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: I have not got the figures of the various Boards, in the various parts of the country. But I can say that, as far as possible, almost all the districts have been covered.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know how the money to meet the expenses of these Boards is raised?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Sir, this question was put last time in the Lok Sabha and it was answered. They are under the overall control of the Central Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board and the funds with the Board by the end of 1963 amounted to Rs. 15.45 lakhs. The Indian Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Fund was constituted on the 31st December, 1922 out of a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs donated from the Indian Relief Fund for the purpose of meeting the expenditure on the maintenance of the District Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Boards throughout the country and on the payment of special pensions to wounded soldiers.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know the procedure for setting up new Boards in districts?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Boards have already been set up in all the districts and if the hon. Member wants to know the composition of these Boards, I can give them.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: I do not want to know the composition. I want to know the procedure of setting

up a Board in a district where this Board does not exist.

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: I have not got that information with me at present but if the hon. Member writes to me, I can intimate it to him.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Are not the Flag Day collections credited to the District Boards for the welfare of soldiers, etc.?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: No collections are being made for this Fund at present.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Flag Day collections are made every year. Are they not utilised for the welfare of the soldiers by these District Boards?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: For this question I will require notice, Sir.

LETTER RECEIVED BY THE PRIME
MINISTER FROM PHIZO

*156. { SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE†:
SHRI PANNALAL SARAOGI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any letter from A. Z. Phizo; and

(b) if so, the contents thereof?

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

(b) A general idea of the contents of the letter was given by Prime Minister in his statement during the debate in the Lok Sabha on 11th April, 1963.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether any reply has been sent to Mr. Phizo?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON:
No, Sir.

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

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether . . .

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: May I explain, Sir? No formal reply was sent to him but a message was sent to him through our High Commissioner in London to the effect that—we pointed out policy—the violent activities of the hostile elements there must be put a stop to and that Mr. Phizo might well apply himself to this. After all those are stopped and arms are surrendered, then the next stage would arise. We would try to rehabilitate those people who require rehabilitation and other matters can be considered.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Sir, Mr. Phizo is wanted for murder. He has been indulging in treasonable activities. May I know how the hon. Prime Minister can think of sending a message to such a person? Does it not amount to putting a premium on treason?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The Prime Minister replies to almost every letter even if it comes from undesirable people.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: It is not a question of the person being desirable or undesirable. May I know what sort of effect the Prime Minister's message is likely to produce on the rebels?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I imagine it produced good effect.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, in the message sent to Mr. Phizo, did the High Commission make it clear that Government deplored the manner in which Mr. Phizo has been seeking to evade the law? He is wanted on a charge of murder and criminal offences. At least, was a formal expression of resentment conveyed to Mr. Phizo?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Not in the particular form hon. Member has said but as far as I remember, we expressed ourselves strongly against the undesirable activities of

the hostile Nagas and wanted those to stop.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: As far as we know, this letter from Mr. Phizo was delivered to the Prime Minister by the Rev. Michael Scott and there were reports in the Press that after this, Rev. Michael Scott went to Nagaland and conducted some sort of negotiation with the administrative authorities there. If so, were the negotiations actually conducted there?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Mr. Scott did not go to Nagaland. He desired to go there but he was informed that anything relating to Nagaland must be approved of by the Executive Council there. Mr. Shilu Ao did not approve of his going there at this stage. We informed him of this and he did not go there.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether Mr. Phizo has replied to the message sent to him through our High Commission in London?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not think any reply has come. I am slightly confused because Mr. Michael Scott came subsequently and we had a talk. I do not think he conveyed any formal reply to me.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any contact or talk between the officers of the Indian High Commission in London and Mr. Phizo along the lines of the Prime Minister's approach in this matter and whether, in this connection, Mr. Phizo was asked to issue any statement calling upon his supporters in that area to stop hostile activities with the assurance that after that statement had been made certain other steps would be taken?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have already stated, Sir, that we informed Mr. Phizo and Mr. Michael Scott, who happened to bring his letter that the first step is that these undesirable activities of the hostiles must stop completely and Mr. Phizo,

insofar as he can do it, should take steps to this end. Thereafter, Mr. Phizo did suggest issuing some kind of statement. That statement was not issued because we saw a draft of this and we did not approve of it. So, I do not think, so far as I know, that statement was issued.

**PRESENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL
IN SOUTH-VIETNAM**

*157. **SHRI NIREN GHOSH:** Will the **PRIME MINISTER** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to numerous press reports that at least 10,000 U.S. military personnel are present in South Vietnam;

(b) if so whether this is in consonance with the Geneva Agreement on Indo-China?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government of India have seen press reports regarding the presence of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnam but have no information about the veracity of these press reports.

(b) The position of India in the International Commission in Vietnam is that of a member as well as the Chairman. As such, Government of India is not in a position to offer any opinion on the subject.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the presence of this huge military force in South Vietnam is meant for conducting war against the Vietnam people and whether or not these activities constitute a threat to peace in South East Asia?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The position in South Vietnam is a very complicated one. Some little time ago the Commission issued an appraisal of the situation in which they pointed out that grave errors had been committed on both sides, all these warring factions both on behalf of the South and on behalf of the North. That

report was sent to the parties concerned.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to a statement by the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference that the U.S. military personnel there are using gas against the people there? There were press reports also in this connection and the matter has also been reported to the International Supervisory Commission. What is the position in this respect? What is the truth or otherwise in this report? What measures have been taken to stop?

SHRI DINESH SINGH: As I mentioned in the body of the answer, it is very difficult for the Government of India to make any comments on these things because it is Member and Chairman of the Commission. When these matters are referred to the Commission, the Commission goes into them and submits a report to the Co-Chairmen. As the hon. Member suggests, if this matter has been referred to the Commission, the Commission will go into it and give its findings.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: As Chairman of the Commission India has an obligation to see that the Geneva Agreement and the terms thereof are implemented by both sides and the presence of U.S. troops would be in clear contravention of certain definite provisions of the Geneva Agreement. In view of that what steps India is taking in order to see that this contravention is eliminated?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: All that India can do or the Commission can do is to draw the attention of the two Co-Chairmen to every contravention. There have been contraventions on both sides and the attention of the Co-Chairmen had been drawn to these contraventions.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The appraisal of the situation was made to the respective Governments, I hope,