

B.B.C. CHARGE OF 'SAVAGE BRUTALITY BY INDIAN TROOPS IN THE FIGHTING IN KATANGA

(* SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-
J SWAMY:
^ SHRI FARIDUL HAQ
L ANSARI: t

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Broadcasting Corporation in its broadcast on September 14, 1961, stated that Indian troops had acted with 'savage brutality' in the fighting in Katanga and fired point-blank at a Red Cross ambulance painted white and also at the driver and stretcher-bearer dressed in white; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to counteract such reports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not only are the allegations made by the B.B.C. baseless, but the foreign mercenaries in Katanga did, in fact, commit many of the atrocities attributed to the Indian troops. The matter was taken up with the British Prime Minister as a result of which the official spokesman of the British Government had publicly stated in London on 27th September, 1961, that the British Government had received no evidence to support these allegations and were unwilling to believe anything which would reflect adversely on the fine record of the Indian Army.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know whether, in the contradiction by the representative of the British Government, the British Government have expressed regret for such propaganda?

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Faridul Haq Ansari.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir. They did state that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here you see, Sir, in September this broadcast was made and our Government was pay Lag a tribute to the British on the 28th or so, as it came out from an earlier question of mine. May I know whether it is not a fact that both before this broadcast and afterwards such statements or similar statements were being made?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: By whom?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: By the guilty persons; by the British.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Such statements were made and that is why we took the matter up with the British Government who made this statement expressing deep regret.

INQUIRY INTO LABOUR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS IN COAL MINES

*17. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hold an enquiry into the question of Labour-Management relations in the coal mines; and

(b) if so, whether that enquiry will be a departmental one or it would seek cooperation of the workers' organisations in the coal mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) and (b) A departmental enquiry into labour-management relations in coal mines is already being made by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Implementation). The concerned Workers' and Employers' Organisations have been requested to send their views, if any, to the Enquiry Officer.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know, Sir, whether those organisations have sent their recommendations so far?