

[श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया]  
इसमें लिखा है :

"To meet the needs of rail transport consequent on the development of the Singrauli Coalfields which is programmed during the Third Plan Period and beyond, the construction of a railway link between Obra on the new Robertsganj-Garhwa Road Line and Singrauli Coalfields was taken up in 1961-62".

अब, इसमें इसके लिये खर्चा मांगा है और रेलवे विभाग द्वारा जो ब्राइट पेंपर दिया गया था १९६२-६३ का, उसके पेज ६० पर बताया गया है, रेलवे बजट का जो एक्सप्लेनेटरी मेमोरेण्डम होता है उसका जो १४ नम्बर का आइटम है, उसमें लिखा है, उसमें बताया है। Robertsganj-Garhwa Road Line, Northern Railway. Expenditure up to 1961-62 को बताया है फिर Provision for 1962-63 का बताया है और फिर इस प्राविजन के बाद आगे के आइटम्स में बताया गया है : Balance to complete: Nil. अब ऐसी स्थिति में when there is nothing to complete, तो उसके लिये सप्लिमेंटरी ग्रांट की जरूरत कैसे पड़ गई, यह कुछ समझ में आने सरीखी बात नहीं है। मन्त्री महोदय इसका भी स्पष्टीकरण करेंगे तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि उनको जो सुझाव दिये गये हैं, जो प्रार्थनाएं की गई हैं, उनको कार्यरूप में परिणत करने की कृपा करें और अगर उसमें कुछ ऐतराज हों, हमारी कोई गलतफहमी हो, तो उसे स्पष्ट करने का कष्ट करें।

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister will make an important statement now. Therefore, this discussion is, for the time being, suspended. We will continue this discussion afterwards.

PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT  
RE. THE LATEST SITUATION  
IN NEFA AND LADAKH

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have to give grievous news to the House. Both Walong and the Sela Ridge in NEFA have fallen to the enemy. In the Chusul area fighting is proceeding.

In Walong the enemy attacked on the night of the 15-16 November. This was a two-pronged attack. The battle continued till the morning of the 17th. The enemy succeeded in shelling the airfield which was the only source of supply to our forces. On the 17th afternoon, our troops started withdrawing to defensive positions in the rear. In the Jang area, the enemy attacked our positions on the 17th November. Their attack was repulsed four times. Ultimately, there was an attack in greater strength and the Jang position had to be given up. Our troops fell back to the main position on Sela. In the meantime, the enemy by-passed our main post by a wide flanking movement between Sela and Bomdila. They attacked in the early hours of the 18th November and cut the road between Sela and Bomdila. The infiltrators were forced to withdraw. They formed up again, however, and renewed the attack. The situation is somewhat confused and fighting is going on, but our commander had to withdraw from Sela.

In Chusul sector in Ladakh heavy artillery attacks were made on the Chusul airfield and outposts. Our post at Rezang La was attacked on the 18th November morning. After fierce fighting, this post was overwhelmed. A part of another post, six miles east of Chusul, was also attacked. Other attacks on the Chusul area were repulsed. Fighting is still going on.

This is bad news. I cannot go into any further details at this stage. I should like to add that in spite of the

reverses suffered by us, we are determined not to give in in any way and we shall fight the enemy, however long it may take, to repel him and drive him out of our territory.

**SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA** (Bihar): I would like to have some clarification. It has appeared in today's papers that we had to withdraw from Walong because we were outnumbered. Secondly, it has also appeared in the Press today that Chinese trucks and buses were seen in Tawang. I do not know whether both these news items are correct. The first is that it has appeared in today's Press that one of the main reasons why we withdrew from Walong was that we were outnumbered there by the Chinese. Is that correct? The second thing is that it has also appeared in the Press today that Chinese buses and trucks were seen at Tawang. Is that news correct?

**SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:** I can hardly discuss the details of the fighting, Sir, in Walong. It is difficult. We have not got all the details yet but the major fact is that the enemy managed to attain a high position, a position of height, there and shelled our airfield which was the sole source of supply to the Walong base and they also attacked the Walong post. The Commander there decided to withdraw and he was withdrawn from it. This has always to be decided by the Commander on the spot subject to such instructions as the superior officers give. The civil authority hardly comes into the picture.

As far as the other matter that the hon. Member has mentioned is concerned trucks and buses being seen there at Tawang, they may well be there because in the small area there between Tawang and Bumla pass, some kind of road appears to have been constructed by the Chinese.

**SHRI K. SANTHANAM** (Madras): May I know whether the airstrip at Walong has been made unusable by the Chinese?

**SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:** I am sorry I cannot answer that question. I have no information on that.

**SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA** (Bihar): I want to ask one question. The Prime Minister just now told us that there was an outflanking movement to capture Sela. Am I to believe that the Chinese forces came to this area from our adjoining State of Bhutan to attack?

**SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:** No, Sir. It is on the other side. Bhutan is on the left side and nobody has entered Bhutan to our knowledge.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He is talking of the outflanking movement at Sela.

**SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:** Sela movement has nothing to do with Bhutan territory. It came from another side.

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR** (Uttar Pradesh): The situation has turned out to be very serious. A National Defence Council was formed in the country and emergency was declared. I fail to understand why no meeting of the National Defence Council has been held so far. I should like to have one more assurance from the Prime Minister. I would like to know whether he is going to give up the old policy of vacillation and hesitation and declare that we are going to fight firmly, whether he will talk like a war leader who is going to put before the nation an example of his vitality, strength and determination. I want that clear and categorical assurance from the Prime Minister because at this juncture if we are in a hesitant mood, I think we cannot fight the enemy. The way civil defence arrangements are going on in the country, I think it is not intended to meet the situation in the country and the emergency that has arisen.

**SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:** I can hardly answer the hon. Member's question. Not today but for some time past there has been no question of

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hesitation or vacillation. We realised certainly from the 20th October, if not before, that we are meeting a very well-prepared determined enemy who could throw in vast forces and overwhelm us at any point and we decided then to take every possible measure, including, of course, getting every kind of aid that we could from friendly countries. We have asked for every kind of aid. Some has come, some others will come in. We have not hesitated to do that. There is no inhibition about that and we propose to go on doing that and it is not only a full-fledged war but a very difficult war for us because of various situations. The hon. Member referred to civil defence. Civil defence is helpful but it has nothing to do with the immediate conflict. Civil defence comes in, may come in and we should certainly look after it but the immediate problem is somewhat different.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The whole trouble is that we become wiser after the event. Civil defence will come in later on but we must prepare for it. I should like to mention one more point. It was reported from Jorhat that there was an attempt to sabotage the railway line. It was reported from Warangal that some members of the public who went round to make collections for the Defence Fund were attacked by the Communists. It was reported from Burdwan that demonstrators against the Chinese were stoned from the Communist Party office. All these things are happening in the country and the national emergency is there but our Government is keeping mum over all these issues. When people resisted all these attempts our Prime Minister told the public that all these attempts are not going to serve the country. I want to know from the Prime Minister whether this national upsurge is not going to serve the country but that only such attempts of sabotage are going to serve this country. (*Interruptions.*) We are not going to burn the houses of the Communist Party but if

stones come from the office of the Communist Party those Communist Party offices cannot be protected by any Government and by any person whatsoever.

(*Interruptions.*)

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The hon. Member referred to some incidents in today's papers about somebody being stoned apparently in front of the Communist Party office. I am told that those people who stoned them, especially the leader of the Party there, were arrested immediately and the Bengal Government has also taken other steps. There is no doubt that any such activity must be dealt with severely but I had ventured to say on a previous occasion that certain, fortunately very few, incidents had occurred where some shops had been destroyed or burnt or looted but that does not add to our strength. It is undignified and harmful but any person coming in the way of our war effort must be dealt with firmly.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): I do not wish to embarrass the Prime Minister or the Government in any way but we are opposing a massive onslaught of the Chinese who have been well prepared. They have been preparing themselves for a long time. The country feels, a very great section of the country a large section of the country feels that our request for aid from friendly countries has been rather hesitant, we have not demanded the full measure of the aid that is available and we are hesitant to ask that. Are we going to ask for unstinted and full measure of aid to come to enable us to drive the Chinese out? I would like the Prime Minister to make that categorical declaration.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think I had made that clear that we are asking for all the aid that we require. There has been no delay on our part but aid naturally had to be phased. We wanted some things immediately, some things in the next two months or so and some things in the next six months but we have

given long lists of what we require to several friendly countries and we are anxious to get them as soon as possible.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY (Madras): May I know by whom, the Cabinet or the Army Council, is the strategy of defence in the NEFA area laid? I also want to know whether the Commander who was sent there is allowed to modify that strategy whether he has anything to do with the course of the tactics followed day after day?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: How can that question be answered? No, no.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): I want to know why the Prime Minister is not ordering the air arm to go into action to destroy the supply bases of the enemy which are situated in our own territory.

1 P.M.

SHRI ANAND CHAND (Himachal Pradesh): The hon. Prime Minister has just now said that it is a full-scale war. May I respectfully ask him, now that the position is changed—previously it was infiltration of the Chinese in very large numbers—whether the Government would now revise their stand—because up till now we have been saying that this is Chinese aggression—and we would now say that it is war and take all steps that are necessary because this emergency, Sir, as I put it before the House, was based on certain of our territories having been occupied by the Chinese? Now, it is full-scale war and if it is full-scale war, I think something should be done about the closure of our Embassy in China as well as the closure of the Chinese Embassy here and all other steps that follow, because I want to know whether we are going to declare war now that the Chinese have come into our soil or whether we are going to wait for the Chinese to declare war against us?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You think the declaration is immensely important?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: This is obviously a war, a kind of a brutal and callous war. We are treating it as such and taking all steps about it. As for the hon. Member's question about declaration of war and closing our Embassy and their Embassy here, there is no question of, shall I say, any inhibition in doing that. One has to consider it from various aspects as to whether it will be helpful in our carrying on this effort or not at the present moment. We shall certainly consider it very carefully.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): May I know whether the attention of the hon. Prime Minister has been drawn to a statement made by the Prime Minister of Australia that they have not received any request for military aid from India? May I seek a clarification whether Australia has been approached for military aid?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think Australia has been approached, not in a big way because big aid was obviously likely to come from some big countries like the United States, like the United Kingdom and to some extent from France but I think we have approached them for some things.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL (Andhra Pradesh): May I know if the Prime Minister has any information about the casualties we have inflicted on the enemy at Walong?

SHRI GANGA SHARAN SINHA: Last Friday it was announced that our House will adjourn on the 23rd. In view of the serious situation that is developing, will the Prime Minister reconsider this and call the leaders of all the groups and find out some method so that Parliament can remain in session or some other *via media* by which Members can be kept in touch because that is very necessary? And I think before we adjourn this decision should be taken.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I am in the hands of the House, this House and the other House. The sole test

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should be what will further our war effort. Many hon. Members have been eager to go back to their constituencies or elsewhere to do work. It was really under pressure from them that we decided to shorten this session. If it requires to be extended a little longer we shall certainly agree.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2 30 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at six minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at half-past two of the clock, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)  
No. 5 BILL, 1962—continued.

SHRI S. C. DEB (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, while supporting the Bill, I would like to make some observations. Our hon. Minister made some remark that he might come up with further demands. May I humbly submit that I saw in the papers also a declaration made on behalf of the Railway Ministry that because of the emergency some lines would be doubled and in some sections metre gauge would be replaced by broad gauge? What is the portion of the line that is being so considered and has any decision been taken in that respect? I would like to know whether from Siliguri to Amingaon the line will be doubled or whether the metre gauge line will be replaced by broad gauge. From Rangiya to Tezpur that line also has to be remodelled and I would like to know whether metre gauge line will be replaced by broad gauge and whether the track is to be strengthened to facilitate the quick movement of all that is necessary in the emergency. If he will kindly give us an idea of how this will be taking shape, it will be very helpful.

Now, coming to the provisions of the Bill, it is seen from Demand No. 16 that the Alnavar-Dandeli railway line, previously belonging to the Mysore Government, is being taken over by the Centre. I would like to know whether already the money was paid to the Mysore Government and whether only a formal transaction is being made now. In this connection, on many occasions, I was asking our Railway Ministry to consider taking over the Katakhal-Lalaghat line. Last year it was inundated and traffic was stopped for about a month. That requires to be not only renovated, but the Railway Administration should take up all kinds of development. The other difficulties are there because this line is not up to the mark and free movement is not always there. Some difficulties arise annually whenever there is a flood and the line is closed for traffic. All these things should be considered and this line should be taken over by the Railway Administration. This is my humble submission.

Now, I would not like to go further. It is a very welcome move on the part of the Government that according to the recommendations of the Pay Commission, steps are being taken to make further payments to the employees. I do not like to take more time of the House. I support all the demands that have been made here. Thank you.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I will be failing in my duty if I do not bring one fact to the notice of the hon. Railway Minister. I can understand accidents, but I am surprised why a lesson is not taken from the past accidents. I am referring to the railway accident which took place near Varanasi recently in which over a hundred lives were lost. Exactly a similar accident occurred near Mathura over the Jumna bridge, a few months back, where about 37 people were killed because they were travelling on the roof top. I do not know whether proper instructions have been issued