

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON We have told them that they are Kashmiri Muslims. They have themselves declared that they are Indian nationals, but the Chinese did not accept our point of view.

SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY What are the main offences committed by these nationals?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON That they have incited the Kashmiri Muslims to accept Indian nationality. One was charged with being in possession of an anonymous anti-Chinese poster, and some of the reasons are not disclosed.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :
क्या मंत्री महोदया बतायेगी कि उनकी मुक्ति का जो अभी तक प्रयास हुआ और उसमें कोई सफलता नहीं मिली, तो क्या अभी भी कोई प्रयास किये जाने की मभावना है ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON We always try our best, and as a result of our efforts one of the nationals was released on the 19th April, 1962. We will carry on negotiations and we will try our best to see that they are released.

RELEASE OF AIRMEN IN THE CUSTODY OF NAGA HOSTILES

*32 SHRI A B VAJPAYEE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that four Indian airmen, now in the custody of the Naga hostiles have approached Phizo for their release,

(b) if so, with what result, and

(c) whether any further steps have been taken by Government to get the airmen released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) (a) and (b) We have no information about any approach having been made by the captive airmen to Phizo for their release.

(c) The International Committee of the Red Cross have been in touch with Phizo for the release of the captive airmen. At one stage, Phizo had informed the International Red Cross that the captive airmen would be released on the 22nd March last. The airmen are, however according to our information, still in the custody of hostile Nagas.

It is to be seen whether Phizo has any intention or indeed influence to get the airmen released.

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE Is it a fact that these airmen have been removed to the Burmese territory?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON It is a newspaper report. In any case they are removed from place to place so that they may not be detected.

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE Is it a fact that the statement to which I referred has been made by an official of our administration?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON Yes, Sir, in a Press interview by our Commissioner in Kohima. He seems to have made that statement in a Press report.

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE May I know whether the statement is correct, whether the official has given this statement after obtaining information?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON It must be correct since the official has given the information.

SHRI A B VAJPAYEE If so, may I know whether the Government of Burma is being approached for the release of these airmen?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU We have approached the Government of Burma not for the release particularly of these but pointing out to them that the Naga hostiles are using their territory, making it a base to attack

India and retiring there to protect themselves, and occasionally they have even taken, according to our information, these airmen there to Burmese territory. The Burmese Government has replied saying that they take such steps as they can, and I believe they have taken some steps. What exactly they are I cannot say, but they have got to bear some pressure from the Naga hostiles there.

WHEREABOUTS OF PHIZO

*33. SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information in regard to the whereabouts of the Naga rebel A. Z. Phizo; and

(b) whether it is a fact that recently he has disappeared from London?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b) According to our information, Phizo was away from London for a brief period and returned back on the 3rd April, 1962.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to press reports that Phizo was seen in East Pakistan, and whether any steps have been taken to verify these reports?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have already stated in the answer that he returned to London on the 3rd April.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Is it a fact that Phizo was seen in East Pakistan and if so, whether he had any contacts with the Naga rebels?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Our information is that he did not go there, but he went to Switzerland and went back to London.

*34. [Transferred to the 2nd May, 1962.]

POSTAL STAMPS IN BHUTAN

*35. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bhutan has decided to have its own postal stamps;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Government of Bhutan have placed an order with a London press for printing stamps of seven denominations; and

(c) whether at present Bhutan has no postal system of her own and Indian postal stamps are in use in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. In fact the Government of Bhutan have been using their own stamps for the last 6 years for internal purposes.

(b) Yes, the Bhutan Government have placed orders for printing of stamps with Harrison & Sons, Ltd., 44-47 Martins Lane, London WC 2. They have placed orders for printing stamps of seven regular and two special denominations.

(c) Bhutan does not have a full-fledged postal organization, but the nucleus of a postal administration consisting of 5 post offices in different important places in Bhutan has been established recently.

Indian postal stamps are not being used in Bhutan and they have never been used there.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Have the Government of Bhutan communicated to the Government of India that they would like to have their own post and telegraph system in Bhutan in the near future?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, they consulted us on this.