

## RAJYA SABHA

**Monday, the 4th September, 1961/the 13th Bhadra, 1883 (Saka)**

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### PETER SCHMIDT'S REMARKS ABOUT GERMANS IN ROURKELA

\*490. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the defence of his book entitled "India with and without miracles" by Peter Schmidt in a press interview in Tokyo to the correspondent of the *Hindu* and published in the issue of that paper of April 22, 1961;

(b) whether Government have taken due note of Schmidt's remarks to the correspondent of the *Hindu* about the Germans in Rourkela; and

(c) if so, whether Government have looked into the records of the foreigners in India in the light of the Schmidt's observations?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) The allegations against the Germans at Rourkela are not new. Originally, similar allegations were published in 1959 in some Indian as well as foreign papers. The Government of India had looked into these allegations at that time and found that they were largely without substance.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, in pursuance of an assurance given to the House the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs circulated a paper to me saying that on enquiry they found out that no other copies of the book had been published there—that parti-

cular book. Now, Sir, this is what Mr. Schmidt said in an interview to the *Hindu*. Mr. Schmidt said that the report of Mr. Sadath Ali Khan, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs, that only 3,000 copies were printed was wrong. While 3,000 copies were published as the regular edition, subsequently 30,000 copies were published by Bertelsmann, the biggest Book Club in Germany. Therefore, Sir, Mr. Schmidt divulged that it was not only 3,000 copies but 30,000 copies had been published since then. May I know whether the Government have cared to make enquiries as to how it is that these extra copies of the book, as many as 30,000 were published?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Sir, we have no control over the publication of books by foreigners in foreign countries.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, the point here is that Mr. Sadath Ali Khan or the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs should not have told us that no other reprint had been made of this book. Now I would like to know whether that statement was made after proper investigation or it was made under their own impression that only the first edition of 3,000 copies came and no other copies came?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Perhaps at that time the information that we had was with regard to 3,000 copies only. However, we would make enquiries to find out whether what the hon. Member says is correct.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, whether in this connection the former Ambassador of the West German Government to Delhi wrote a letter to the Government of India, to a dignitary of the State, and whether following that he left the country or whether he was recalled?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: He has left the country. I do not know what letters he wrote to the Government of India.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Does she not know of any letter, Sir?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I do not know what letters he wrote to the Government of India. It is very difficult to know all the letters.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question, Dr. Seeta Parmanand.

\*491. [The questioner (Shri P. N. Rajabhoj) was absent. For answer vide cols. 2880-81 infra.]

#### REORGANIZATION OF C.R.O.

\*492. DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coalfield Recruiting Organisation has been reorganised and as a result thereof, local labour will get a better chance of employment in the collieries; and

(b) how many local employers have so far replaced the erstwhile Uttar Pradesh labour in the collieries situated in (i) Madhya Pradesh, (ii) Bihar, and (iii) West Bengal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) Coal Field Recruiting Organisation is not administered by us. However, according to decision taken at the Tripartite Committee, employers are expected to utilise local Exchanges for the purpose of recruitment.

(b) The Tripartite Committees which considered the reorganisation of the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation made no recommendation that the U.P. labour should be replaced by local labour.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, even if the Coalfield Recruiting Organisation is not administered by the Government, is it not a fact that in order to regularise the labour that is being brought from outside and in order to remove their hardships the government agreed to set up an agency for taking certain steps, and have they taken those

steps by which some of the staff from that Organisation would be transferred from place to place so as to create confidence in the minds of the labour that that Organisation is really continuing to be like indentured labour?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Too long a question.

SHRI ABID ALI: Yes, Sir. Formerly there were camps in which these workers had been staying. Now these camps have been taken over by the Coalmines Welfare Organisation and these are taken care of by a local tripartite committee. So far as the recruitment is concerned, Sir, the suggestion was that first local exchanges should be utilised, and they may have workers from the Gorakhpur camp as well.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Is the Government aware that in spite of the decision that this new set-up should start functioning from 1st June, nothing material has happened to bring about some real change in the situation?

SHRI ABID ALI: Sir, these camps have been taken over by the Tripartite Committee in which workers' representatives are also there. Seventy-two officers have been appointed.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that in the meeting of the Coalmines Welfare Fund Organisation held on the 3rd of July, a decision was taken and a finding was given by the Chairman, Shri Nanda, that the Gorakhpur Labour Organisation did fall within the jurisdiction of the Act and that this Organisation would be under the direct control of the Coalmines Labour Welfare Organisation and the Government would have to implement the decision already taken.

SHRI ABID ALI: Whatever decision was taken, Sir, will have to be implemented. In regard to details, Sir, the hon. Member himself was present and he knows all the details.