

supply and drainage services in the Lajpat Nagar Third Colony have been taken over by the Delhi Municipal Corporation."

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: That I follow, but may I know as to when the Corporation took over this Colony and since when it has been realising these taxes?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: I have not got the dates, Sir.

*580. [The questioner (Shri Babubhai Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide cols 3345-46 *infra*.]

*581. [The questioner (Shri Bansi Lal) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3346-47 *infra*.]

CONDITION OF INDIAN TROOPS STATIONED IN THE CONGO

*582. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee of Indian officers had been deputed to the Congo to find out the conditions under which Indian troops are functioning there; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the report of this committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report indicates that the living conditions of our personnel are satisfactory, that they are in good heart and that the standard of their performance is recognised to be very high.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: May I know if Dr. Nkrumah, President of Ghana, has made any suggestion to the Prime Minister for calling a conference of all countries whose troops are functioning in the Congo?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a different question altogether.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Kindly allow this question, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is about the conditions of the troops there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that having regard to the fact that there are so many troops there, Mr. Nkrumah has submitted a suggestion to the Prime Minister to discuss the condition of the troops, their being there or not being there.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is about Indian officers. This question does not arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It does, Sir. You may not allow. Of course, you will not allow.

*583. [The questioner (Shri N. M. Lingam) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3347 *infra*.]

OFFER OF AID TO KERALA BY WEST GERMANY

*584. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a statement made by the Deputy Chief Minister of Kerala on July 6, 1961 at Bonn to the effect that West Germany would extend special aid to the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any circulars have been issued by Government to the State Governments that their Ministers could on their own initiative negotiate with foreign countries for aid; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Shri Shankar told Dr. Meyers that a Study Group of Experts from Germany should visit Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) Government have seen a report in the Press.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Shri Shankar had only suggested that possibilities of any new industry in Kerala could be investigated by experts.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, did Mr. Shankar inform Government about the purpose of his visit to West Germany?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: It was only a suggestion. When he went abroad, he casually mentioned that it could be interesting if some survey could be taken up by experts in Kerala. There has been no formal communication from the Government of Kerala about any such thing now.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is Government aware that in Bonn he carried on negotiations with the Cabinet and mentioned that no geological survey of Kerala had been undertaken and that he wanted West German help?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: No negotiation was carried on by Mr. Shankar. That is not correct.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: In view of the fact that nowadays it has become the fashion that some of the State Ministers go abroad and then start negotiations with the governments of those foreign countries, may I know whether the Government has issued any directive or instruction to the State Governments under what circumstances they can engage in such discussion and negotiation with foreign governments while they are abroad?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Sir, the presumption of the hon. Member is quite incorrect. There is no question of any State Ministers carrying on any negotiations with any foreign governments without the approval of the Government of India, and so far nobody has carried on any negotiation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Here, in this case, negotiations did take place. May I know whether Government received any intimation prior to this discussion, whether formal or informal or casual, from Mr. Shankar that he would like to discuss this matter with the West German Government?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: When Ministers visit foreign countries and when they talk with dignitaries there, there is no question of any permission being asked. Casual talks take place and there is no question of any negotiation at all.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, I am going back to the answers given by the Deputy Minister. Would Government be prepared to deny—I am quoting from 'The Hindu'—that Mr. Shankar told Dr. Meyers that what Kerala needed was proper investments, adequate capital, technical know-how, all of which a highly developed country like West Germany could supply and that the State Government was ready to extend all possible facilities to foreigners who would like to exploit the resources of the State? This statement was made and reported in the papers. Would Government deny that the statement was made?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: If the hon. Member can rely on papers to that extent, unless I know from Mr. Shankar what he has stated I am prepared to say neither yes nor no.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether this particular item appearing in the newspaper was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister by his Ministry—Secretary and so on—and, if so, whether having noted it he has written to Mr. Shankar in order to understand the actual position from him?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: It is not necessary to do any such thing.