

*45. [Withdrawn.]

*46. [The questioner (Shri Babu-bhai Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 186-187 infra.]

**REV. MICHAEL SCOTT'S MEETING WITH
THE PRIME MINISTER**

J SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:†

*47. J SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-
[SWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rev. Michael Scott met the Prime Minister and other officials of the External Affairs Ministry and had talks regarding Government's policy in respect of the creation of Naga Land; and

(b) if so, with what result, and whether any change in Government's policy is envisaged as a result of these talks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) and (b) Rev. Michael Scott was in India to attend the War Resisters' International Conference at Gandhigram in South India and expressed a wish to call on the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister and some senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry met him. Rev. Scott explained how he had got interested in the Naga affairs. He was informed of the Government's attitude and policy in the matter. He seemed satisfied with the courtesy extended to him. The Government are determined to proceed with the implementation of the agreement reached some months ago with the Naga leaders, which has the support of a majority of people and the question of any change in this policy does not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jugal Kishore.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know, Sir, on what mission Rev. Michael Scott came to India? The general belief is that he came on behalf of Mr. Phizo? Is it correct?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The answer is there which was read just now; the answer indicates on what mission he came to India. He came to attend a meeting of the War Resisters' International Conference at Gandhigram in South India.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: May I know, Sir, whether during his talk with the Prime Minister he was told not to associate himself with the activities of Mr. Phizo?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Whether he was told by the Prime Minister? Well, not exactly in that way. I told him that some of his activities in connection with Mr. Phizo had not been admired by us, or even appreciated, and that we could not encourage or help him in the slightest in carrying on such activities.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: May I know, Sir, whether the Prime Minister is aware that on his return to London this Rev. Michael Scott made an allegation that he was not allowed to see Nagaland, that he was prevented by the Government of India from doing so?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is absolutely true; he was not allowed, and anybody who wants to interfere in these matters is not allowed to go there.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It appeared in the press that he made certain suggestions or proposals—we do not know what. May I know, Sir, whether Rev. Michael Scott made any kind of specific suggestions in this matter to the Prime Minister? I want to have this position clarified.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I believe he did make some odd suggestions, partly to me and partly to some senior officers of our Ministry who

talked to him. They did not seem to be feasible at all.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask whether Government would consider favourably the proposition that they should not hold formal consultations with non-nationals about the internal affairs of this country? Rev. Michael Scott is certainly a very big person, but I do not see any reason why we should hold formal consultations with him.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a suggestion for action.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We do not hold such formal consultations and we did not hold any formal consultations with Rev. Michael Scott. If the proposal is that we should not meet any foreigner, that would be going a little too far, I think, Sir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Prime Minister's attention must have been drawn to the various writings that are appearing in papers like the Daily Express and the Daily Mail and to some extent in the Daily Mirror on this subject following the visit by Rev. Michael Scott here. May I know, Sir, whether the High Commissioner's office in London has issued any press communique or any other information so that the position is clarified as to what happened when Rev. Michael Scott came and met the Prime Minister here? There is a lot of confusion made in the British press.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The High Commissioner's office has frequently issued communiques, handouts and corrections to the British press, has written letters to them, but is rather difficult—well—to make the people see who keep their eyes shut.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: Is it a fact, Sir, that Rev. Michael Scott went to the Prime Minister to make out a case in favour of the independence of the Nagas in place of the Nagaland that we have given

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them? Is it a fact that he went to put a case for strengthening the case of Mr. Phizo who is demanding independence for the Nagas?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Well, he did not say that to us, and I think that on the whole he realized that that was not a feasible proposition. What he wanted more or less was that Mr. Phizo should be allowed to have his say and that we should deal with him.

DECLINE IN TEA EXPORTS

*48. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the steps Government intend to take and is taking to raise the export of tea?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

An Export Promotion Committee assisted by panels for different regions has been set up by the Tea Board.

India participates in the Tea Councils set up in the U.S.A., Canada, West Germany and Ireland.

India has entered into bilateral trade agreements with a number of countries in which tea has been included as an export item.

Tea Promotion Officers have been appointed in U.S.A., Australia, U.A.R. and U.K. to look after the interests of Indian tea. Steps are being taken to send similar officers to West Germany and Iraq. A Tea Centre is being opened at Cairo.

The following measures have been taken to increase the exportable surplus of Indian tea and to improve its quality: —

1. A Scheme providing for supply of machinery and equipment on Hire Purchase basis has