

ANTI-INDIAN PROPAGANDA IN THE NEPAL PRESS

*116. SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nepalese Press has recently been indulging in propaganda against India; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to counteract the propaganda?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b) There was some anti-Indian propaganda in the Nepalese press after the change of Government on 15th December, 1960. The attention of the Government of Nepal was drawn to it and they have issued two press notes appealing for a cessation of the campaign. Since then there has been a marked decline of anti-Indian propaganda in Nepal.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if this marked decline is the result of the activities of the Indian Embassy to counteract that anti-Indian propaganda or it is the result of their own enthusiasm having ceased?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: As has already been said, Sir, we drew the attention of the present Government of Nepal to this propaganda. How can we judge what they have in their minds? I cannot judge how this has happened.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: When we drew the attention of the Nepal Government, did we say anything in regard to this propaganda? Did the Nepal Government reply to us by saying what exactly had happened there or did they only say that it was stopping or the tone of the anti-Indian propaganda was lessening?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: They had issued two press releases asking the people of Nepal not to spoil the

Indo-Nepalese friendship, to be restrained in their comments and give only the truth and not do any kind of propaganda.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My question was whether the Nepal Government gave any reasons why this anti-Indian propaganda had taken place there. I would like to know what exactly they have said about this.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I cannot say if we had anything in writing, but about that time one of the Ministers of the present Government there met me and I drew his attention to this matter and he regretted this propaganda and said that this had taken place before the new administration had properly got going and, therefore, they had not been able to control it. But now that they were functioning adequately, this kind of thing was not likely to occur.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government is aware of the forces which were responsible for this anti-Indian propaganda in Nepal?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not understand the question, Sir.

WAGE BOARD FOR BIDI WORKERS

*117. SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state whether Government propose to appoint a Wage Board to fix minimum wages for bidi workers in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): There is no such proposal under consideration

श्री देवकीनन्द नारायण : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इसका क्या कारण है कि यह वेज बोर्ड कायम नहीं किया जा रहा है ?