

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know whether in this project the inspection office is subordinate to the Purchase and Stores Department?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: The Civil Engineering Branch to which the hon. Member has referred is distinctly separate from the Stores Purchase Division altogether.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: There is a supervision officer also?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Yes.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: Is it subordinate to the Purchase Department?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Naturally, all the purchases which fall under his purview are co-ordinated. Those which are under the control of the Chief Engineer and Deputy Chief Engineer are done by them.

SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH: May I know whether these quotations or tenders are vague and the officer has passed some remarks about these tenders?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: There are hundreds of works going on. The House will appreciate that the total expenditure already incurred in this project which is moving at a very fast speed is more than Rs. 18 crores. I do not know which tenders are referred to by the hon. Member. If there is anyone in which he is interested, I shall certainly be glad to provide him the information.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know how many Electrical Engineers are working there? .

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: At present the work is mostly confined to civil construction but there are mechanical engineers and electrical engineers working in different sections of production. In the main Civil Engineering branch there are about 93.

STATEMENT MADE BY SHRI PURSHOTTAM TRIKAMDAS ABOUT TIBETAN AFFAIRS

*647. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a statement credited to Shri Purshottam Trikamdas, Chairman of the Legal Enquiry Committee on Tibet under the International Commission of Jurists, to the effect that the Government of India refused to co-operate in the investigations of the Committee on Tibetan affairs; and

(b) if so, how far the statement is correct, and what were the circumstances which led to Government's refusal to co-operate in the matter?

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

(b) The Committee requested facilities from Government for meeting Tibetan refugees in their camps which are under Government control. It was not considered desirable to give such facilities to the Committee. Otherwise, no restrictions were placed on the Committee in meeting refugees outside the camps or in moving about in the country. In fact, the Committee met a large number of refugees as its report will show.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: It is reported that the Report of the Committee has been forwarded to the Government of India. May I know whether it contains any operative part and, if so, how far that operative part of the findings of the Committee under the International Commission of Jurists is binding on the Government of India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: It is not binding on the Government of India at all. It is a voluntary organisation which has got consultative status in the United Nations and it has on its own conducted this enquiry and submitted a Report.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In that case how is the operative part going to be put into effect?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is for the Committee to answer.

SHRI GOFIKRISHNA VIJAIVARGIYA: May I know whether on this International Commission of Jurists Soviet representatives are also there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: No, Sir.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA SWAMY: May I know whether the Tibetan refugees in the camps were prevented by the Government of India from seeing and discussing these matters with these people?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We did not allow them to visit the camps but outside the camps they could meet anybody.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Therefore they were not prevented from meeting anybody. They could and they did meet these people. It was only inside the camps that it was not considered desirable that a gathering should take place.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: What was the reason for that, considering the fact that these lawyers wanted only to do the business which was entrusted to them by the U.N.?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What has this to do with the U.N.?

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: This International Commission of Jurists was a Commission of responsible persons. Why should it not have been allowed to go into the camps?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It had little to do with the U.N. in the formal sense although the organisation is connected with the U.N. Undoubtedly, the Commission consisted of certain well-known jurists but the whole question was whether they should go and make their enquiries in

the middle of the camp. They could and they did meet them outside the camp. We did not think it advisable to disturb the whole atmosphere of the camp by an enquiry in the middle of the camp.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: Could the Government of India itself have held an enquiry into the antecedents of these people or not, into the circumstances that forced them to come to India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Whose antecedents?

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: Could not the Government of India have questioned these Tibetans about the circumstances that forced them to leave Tibet and come to India after they entered India as refugees?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Have we done that?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is asking you whether you instituted any enquiry into . . .

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: No, I want to know whether you thought that you could legitimately go into that or not.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The Government of India, I suppose, if it so chose could have done it but it didn't because it did not think it was necessary to do so because the broad circumstances were well known.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: If some other people wanted to make further enquiries, what was the harm in allowing them to do so?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: They had every right to meet them and they did meet them but we did not consider it right to have these enquiries in the middle of the camp which might create a great excitement among these people there and might lead to other consequences.