

SHW BHUPESH GUPTA: I agree it was discriminate as such. Every person who was wearing a beard was assaulted.

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: I am not prepared to accept this allegation.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know, Sir,, whether in a situation like the one under reference a discriminating assault is possible?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Discriminate assault, I think, depends on the knack and capacity of the person who has experience of these matters. I have not.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Nobody suggested that he was the head constable on duty there. He is the Home Minister.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know, Sir, whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that the 'dictator' of this demonstration has contradicted the allegation that the shells were thrown from inside the Gurdwara Sisganj?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Yes, I hear that the 'dictator' is carrying on a lawless propaganda from within the Sisganj Gurdwara from day to day and concocting stories of various kinds.

#### TROPICAL INSURANCE COMPANY

SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAIJ: ♦114. SHRI K. K. SHAH: (SHRI M. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tropical Insurance Company has not published its balance sheet since 1956; and

§The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Babubhai Chinai.

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the assets and liabilities of the Tropical Insurance Company Limited vested in the Life Insurance Corporation of India with effect from 1-9-1956 in accordance with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956. The question of the insurer publishing its accounts separately, therefore, does not arise. However, the Life Insurance Corporation is drawing up the accounts as on 19-1-1956 as a preliminary step towards calculating compensation due to this Company.

#### INDIA OFFICE LIBRARY

f SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: § j SHRI DEOKINANDAN •115. -i NARAYAN: i SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: l^SHRI BAIRAGI DWIBEDY:

Will the Minister of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at, following the negotiations between India and Pakistan on the one hand and the United Kingdom on the other, in connection with the restoration of the India Office Library in London to the former countries;

(b) if so, what is the decision; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what is the latest position?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

§The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mahes-war Naik.

(c) The U.K. Government has sent a communication, but this does not deal with the major issues raised in the Joint Note.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: The hon. Minister during his visit to the U.K. must have seen the reports published about the India Office Library. May I know, Sir, his experience of the attitude of the Government of the U.K. in respect of transfer of the Library?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The discussions are proceeding. Their attitude is that they would not like to give it up if they can help it.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, at what point of negotiation the decision has reached?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: We have for the first time received a communication, I think, after about five or six years and further communications are now expected.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: I wanted to know at what stage of negotiations the decision had been reached.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: The whole negotiation is one continuous process. There cannot be a question of any stage.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know, Sir, whether it was the Indian Government or the British Government who paid originally for this library?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I have stated in this House before also that the land was purchased with Indian money, the building was built with Indian money and the library was maintained with Indian revenues up to 1937.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether negotiations have been completed with the Government of Pakistan as to what their share would be and what our share in respect of the library would be.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: We are proceeding on the basis of joint ownership first. All other questions will be taken up later.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This matter, according to the London Times, has been under 'negotiations for about five or six years. The hon. Minister admitted it. May I know, Sir, why then after having consultations there, the hon. Minister made a statement in London as well as here which gave the impression as if the problem had nearly been solved?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I am afraid the hon. Member has too vivid an imagination. I never gave any such impression.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not a question of vivid imagination. May I ask what kind of proposals the hon. Minister made because after he came back he said that he met them in a non-official capacity? What concrete proposal did the Minister make to the authorities of the British Government who are in possession of the Indian property?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I would draw the hon. Member's attention to the agreement which was reached, that the exact nature of the discussions should not be, for the present, disclosed.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether he is aware that following the discussions, the British Press has started making out a case that India has no claim whatsoever on this Library and from the Indian side there has not been a clear-cut rebuttal by putting up a concrete case and also our demands?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: This has been done again and again. The hon. Member is not properly informed. If the British Press has claimed that the Library belongs to the United Kingdom, the Indian Press has stated even more categorically that it belongs to us.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is there any alternative proposal from the United Kingdom like microfilms being made and important records being sent on loan, etc?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that details are not to be disclosed.

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: Yes, Sir, but I would go to the extent of saying that certain suggestions have been made but what they are I am not in a position to state.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I know whether any correspondence will start again or has it closed?

SHRI HUMAYUN KABIR: I have told the House that the negotiations are continuing and they will be continued till a mutually acceptable settlement is reached.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Can we have at least some idea of a foreseeable date by when this Library and books of the Library would be available to us; otherwise, what is the use of the Minister's going there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question.

#### SETTING UP OF A WORKING GROUP FOR ADDITIONAL COAL PRODUCTION

♦116. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Working Group consisting of the representatives of the coal industry and the Central Government has been set up to determine precise allocations

of shares to private and public sectors in the matter of additional coal production;

(b) if so, whether the Working Group has submitted its report; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the demand of the industry to allow the private sector to develop new collieries in "proximate areas"?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND FUEL (SARDAR SWARAN SINGH): (a) A working group, with the composition as indicated, has been set up, but its purpose is only to make an assessment of the capacity of the private sector for additional production, both in the short range and during the next Plan period. The allocation of the target of additional production for the next Plan, between the private sector and the public sector, is a matter to be decided by Government. In taking the decision Government will take into consideration the report of the working group.

(b) Yes; in regard to coking coal in the short range.

(c) The general policy of Government is to confine the expansion of the private sector to areas immediately contiguous to their working mines, and covered by the same mining lease. Exceptions to this rule are made only in individual cases and provided that the areas involved are small and are not required for development in the public sector.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know how the production of coal is being shared between the private sector and the public sector?

SARDAR SWARAN SINGH: Those figures I have often given here on the floor of the House.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is not the contention of the private sector that because of the non-availability of proximate