

been fixed for these papers at the four places and also for 'Anand Bazar Patrika' and 'Hindusthan Standard' which also had separated?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: We expect that during the current period, that is, the period April to October 1960, there will be an application both from 'Hindusthan Standard' and 'Anand Bazar Patrika' on the one hand and the four units of the 'Indian Express' as separate entities. That is our expectation.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether it is a fact that a Calcutta Bengali daily called 'Janasevak', edited by Shri Atulya Ghosh, the Vice-President of the Provincial Congress Committee there applied for a quota on the basis of circulation of 14,000 copies and that they did receive such a quota even when certain complaints had been made with regard to this paper to the effect that its circulation was much less, and may I know whether this matter is pending before Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri or any other hon. Minister?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: This question has been a stock question with the hon. Member and I have had occasion to reply to him several times.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I want to know whether the hon. Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri or any other hon. Minister has received any complaint in this connection because you don't see this 'Janasevak' in Calcutta having a circulation of 14,000.

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: Last time I told the hon. Member and also informed the House that the complaint was gone into not only with respect to this newspaper but many other newspapers also and we satisfied ourselves that the newsprint quota issued to this particular paper was based on the certificate issued by the Chartered Accountant and duly audited.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, in view of certain complaints coming up—also from the Congress side—why the Government did not institute its own enquiry through its own accountant or some other agency in order to find out what exactly the circulation of the paper is, when the paper is hardly seen in streets of Calcutta?

SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH: That procedure which we do not apply to my hon. friend's party and other newspapers, it is not necessary to apply to that particular paper. We have followed the same procedure of having the chartered accountant's certificate of audited circulation.

MAIL-RUNNERS FOUND MISSING IN LADAKH AREA

*450. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two mail-runners detailed to carry mail in Ladakh area near the Indo-Chinese border, were missing for the last two and a half months; and

(b) if so, whether they have since been traced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) and (b) It is true that two mail-runners of the Dras area in the Jammu & Kashmir State are missing since 23-5-1959. But this area is about 250 miles within Indian territory and although their disappearance is still unaccounted, there is no reason to suspect that this has any political significance or foul play.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Was any enquiry made about their whereabouts?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Naturally, Sir, when people disappear we enquire about their disappearance. We found that no paper or money was missing; they just disappeared. So no question arose of intrigue or political connection with this though some people may be inclined to think that because the Chinese have committed

aggression, this might be connected with that. The distance is too great in that area. There is a possibility that these two runners deserted because some charges had been made against them and they were a little afraid of the enquiry into the charges and they might have deserted and gone over into a neighbouring country on the western side.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Since my hon. friend is interested, I am also interested. Was the P.S.P. office in Calcutta or Delhi looked into see whether such people are lodged there?

(No reply)

CHINESE OCCUPATION OF CHANTHAN SALT MINES AREA IN LADAKH

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE†: *451.

SHRI RAM SAHAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased "to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chinese have occupied Chanthan salt mines area in Ladakh;

(b) whether the residents of that area have been stopped from collecting salt from there by the Chinese army; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) to (c) The salt mines in Chanthan area and the salt lakes are in the North-East corner of Ladakh, which is in illegal occupation of the Chinese forces. There have been no reports of any persons from our side in recent months having attempted to proceed to these mines to collect salt and having been refused access.

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

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: May I know since when these salt mines are occupied by the Chinese?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There is no question of occupation. A certain part of Ladakh has got certain Chinese posts presumably established there in various parts. This particular salt mine area is, you might say, covered by those check posts. In that sense whether it is occupied or not, you may describe it as you like, but there is no actual evidence of occupation.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Indian nationals living in Ladakh have been prohibited to collect salt from these salt mines.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No such case has come to our notice.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether these mines fall actually under our jurisdiction or they are beyond our jurisdiction?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have just said that it is more or less covered, that is, covered in the sense of jurisdiction. But the question of jurisdiction does not arise; if I may put it this way, at the present moment it is not accessible to us.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: Can Indian nationals go there and collect salt?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: What was the question?

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: I want to know whether Indian nationals can go there and collect salt. What is the information of the Government *on the point*?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We have no information of any person trying *to go* there and no information about his being stopped.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know if it is south or north of the Aksai