

written to the Central Government that the instalments should be postponed for a certain length of the year?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I could not follow, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have not some States approached the Central Government to permit them to pay the loans in longer instalments or something like that—that is what he says.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: Not generally for all loans. Perhaps for some loans, that is true.

SHRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR: In the matter of substituting an excise duty in place of the sales tax, may I know, Sir, whether only the details are under consideration? May I know, Sir, whether the principle has been accepted or whether the principle itself is under consideration?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The principle has been accepted, because there are already three items in respect of which that is done. The question now is how many items more should come in. On that, of course, there is no agreement.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The hon. Minister said that he has appointed a Committee to go into this matter. May I know, Sir, what this Committee is and who are the members of this Committee?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: I have not got the names here. There are seven members. They are all Chief Ministers of different States. Dr. Gopala Reddi is the convenor.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA: Will the Government give us some news about this for our information?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: This is an informal Committee. They

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are going to work out all the details. Unless all the details are worked out, it is very difficult and premature now to mention all those details here.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: If the report of this Committee is also going to be an informal document, what will be the basis of the decision later?

SHRIMATI TARKESHWARI SINHA: It will be, but because it has got the sanctity of the Chief Ministers behind it, certainly it has got its own importance.

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The report of the Committee will not be an informal document. It will be a formal document, but not necessarily a public document to be published.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Are there any references made to this Committee? If so, what are they?

SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI: The reference made to this Committee is the consideration of the question as to what items should be taken. That is the reference.

VIOLATION OF INDIAN AIR SPACE

” f SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:†
S⁸¹ SHEI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state.

fa) whether it is a fact that some cases of violation of air space over Calcutta by some unidentified jet planes have taken place since July last;

(b) if so, what are the details of the cases;

(c) whether the identity of the offending planes has since been established; and

(d) what action Government have taken in these cases and what action Government propose to take against the recurrence of such cases?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Maheswar Naik.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to the press report published some time back in some Calcutta editions of the "Statesman", and the "Hindustan Standard", to the effect that some unidentified planes flew over Calcutta? If the attention of the Minister has been drawn to that, may I know, Sir, whether any action has been taken on the reports?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: We knew about those aircraft. They were duly cleared by the Ministry of External Affairs, after they had consulted us.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: In view of the fact that certain tensions exist in the border areas, may I know, Sir, whether Government is not taking any action to allay the concern of Indians over such happenings?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: As I said, those aircraft were cleared by us and, therefore, no violations have taken place. Therefore, the whole thing does not arise.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: I wanted to know why that particular report was not refuted by the Government.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I do not know why. I am doing it now. That is not true.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is doing it now.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: The hon. Minister said that the aircraft had been cleared. May I know, Sir, as to which country those planes belonged to and why the Government

did not make it known to the press or to the people with a view to clearing it? The people have still some doubt about it.

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: Well, Sir, one of the planes belonged to the Royal Air Force and the other to the Pakistan Air Force.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: What is the answer?

(Interruption.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: One belonged to the Royal Air Force and the other to the Pakistan Air Force. Both were cleared by the Defence Ministry on the advice of the External Affairs Ministry also. So, no apprehension need be entertained on that.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY:
They must make it public.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are making it public here.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: May I know Sir, if the clearance was done after they had passed over Calcutta or whether they allowed the flight over Calcutta by previous intimation?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: The clearance is always done before and this was no exception.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: If that was done, how could any news regarding the unidentified planes being there have got currency and may I know, Sir, whether Government does not feel it necessary to clear those doubts?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: So far as the answer to this question is concerned, namely, that we should have said so, we normally do not contradict all the reports which are not true. If that were so, then there would be just contradictions and nothing else.

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Is it not...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a serious matter. Great apprehensions were entertained and newspapers reported it. Was it not the duty of the Defence Minister to say that it was all unfounded? That is your question?

DR. RAGHUBIR SINH: Yes, Sir.

(No reply.)

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: Is it a fact that the Commander of this jet, when contacted by the Dum Dum Air Force Radar, radio-telephoned that the jet belonged to the Pakistan Air Force?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I have already said that that did belong to the Pakistan Air Force.

(Shrimati Yashoda Reddy and Dr. Raghubir Singh stood up.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both of you are standing.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Sir, I want to ask a question of the Minister, not of Dr. Raghubir Singh. The hon. Minister said that one plane belonged to Pakistan. Did they find the reason why the Pakistan plane was over our area?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: I said, Sir that they were cleared. They asked for permission for their planes to go through and we did clear them.

SHRI H. V. TRIPATHI: In this specific case was the clearance before or after the event?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Clearance was before, he said that.

*582. [The questioner (Shri Perath Narayanan Nair) was absent. For answer vide col. 3077 infra.]

COMPULSORY NATIONAL SERVICE BY STUDENTS

*583. SHRI HARIHAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme for compulsory National Service by students has been formulated by Government; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what are the broad features of the scheme and its utility?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

I would, however, like to inform the House that at the last conference of the Education Ministers a draft National Service scheme was considered, and the conference was of the opinion that pilot projects on a voluntary basis should be worked out for some years before this compulsory scheme can be considered.

DR. H. N. KUNZRU: May we know some details about the scheme of National Service that Government have in view?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I shall place the draft scheme on the Table of the House.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know whether the State Governments also have this National Service scheme, and if so, whether the Government of India would consider the State schemes also in coming to some definite conclusions?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have already said that this matter was discussed, at the Education Ministers' Conference where practically all the State Governments were represented, and it was decided at this conference that pilot projects should be started in the first instance. May I know what is the second part of the question?

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Did the Government of India take advantage" of the progress that has been made by National Service schemes in some of the States?