

BAN ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOLS

*339. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission on Human Rights set up by the United Nations considered a Soviet proposal regarding ban on corporal punishment for children in schools;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian representative abstained from voting; and

(c) if so, whether Government gave any instructions to our representative in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) In the course of the Commission's discussion on a draft Declaration of the Rights of the Child, the Soviet member suggested an amendment stating that "in particular, the child shall not be subjected to corporal punishment". This was defeated by 9 votes to 3 with 6 abstentions. However, no part of the Declaration as it emerged from the Commission was opposed by any member.

(b) and (c). The Commission concluded its work on 10 April, and we are waiting for a full report. The Indian Member did not ask for any instructions and none was given.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या इस प्रकार के एक्सटेंशन का अर्थ यह नहीं होता कि हम सोवियट प्रपोजल के खिलाफ हैं ?

r SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We abstained because the Commission was asked to comment on the principles of the Charter and we did not think it was necessary to spell out in such details about the right of the child in those principles.

श्री पा० ना० राजभोज : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जब हमारी शैक्षणिक नीति माडल पनिशमेंट की है तब हमारे प्रति-

निधि प्रपोजल के खिलाफ नोट क्यों नहीं दिया ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: If I read out the principles, perhaps the hon. Member will understand what I said, because the text of the principle is; "The child shall be protected against all forms of neglect, cruelty and exploitation and he shall in no case be caused to engage in occupation or employment which would prejudice his health or education etc." This covers everything.

INQUIRY INTO THE GRANT OF IMPORT LICENCES TO FEDCO AND WAKEFIELD

f PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: 340
J SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: t SHRI LALJI
PENDSE: SHRI P. A. SOLOMON:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 268 in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th February, 1959, and state:

(a) whether the inquiry into the grant of import licences to Fedco and Wakefield has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the results of the inquiry; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) No, Sir. The investigations are still in progress, (b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know at what stage the investigation is at the moment and whether any officer of the Government has been arrested in this connection? If so, the name of such officer or officers may be given.

SHRI N. KANUNGO: The investigation is proceeding and as for its report, it will take some more time

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to complete it, and we have no information if any officers have been arrested.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not a fact that a minor officer of the Government has been arrested in this connection?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: We have no official information except that I personally remember to have seen something in the press.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government has any unofficial information and if the Government has such unofficial information, whether it is not the task of the Government and the Minister concerned to make immediate enquiries in order to find out as to who had been arrested because it relates to the progress of the enquiry?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: No. As long as the investigation continues, it is not our business to interfere with it.

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: I wish to add that the Special Police Establishment are carrying on the enquiry and they have informed us and told us clearly that they are in a delicate stage of the investigations and no information we have received officially,—of course, we don't personally accept any information which we receive unofficially—could be disclosed. The investigation is still going on.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Therefore I take it that it is in public interest that the Minister is withholding the information that he may or may not be in possession. He may be in possession. In that case I would ask the hon. Minister to tell us why there is so much delay in the matter of investigation of this matter which was brought before the House in the middle of last year?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: There has been no delay. In fact we have taken special steps and I wrote to the Home Minister personally and the S. P. E. is pursuing the enquiry vigorously. They will certainly take

a little more time. They cannot finish it earlier.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Are any non-officials arrested in this connection? Is the Government aware of any such step taken by the police?

SHRI LAL BAHADUR: As far as I am aware, no non-official has been arrested.

**PROF. DELLANOY'S STATEMENT PUBLISHED
IN 'JUGANTAR'**

SHRI LALJI PENDSE: k_a

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: t

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement made by a French lady—Professor Dellanoy of Kalimpong, published in the Calcutta newspaper 'Jugantar' in which she alleged that she was approached for espionage work by certain elements; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). Yes. Enquiries made indicate that Professor Dellanoy has not indulged in prejudicial activities. There is, therefore, no question of Government action in the matter.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: This is not a correspondence between a Governor and a State Government. It is newspaper. May I know whether in that newspaper report the Professor stated that she was approached several times by some people to engage in certain espionage and secret activities, and whether in this connection the attention of the Government has been drawn to another statement to the press, letter to the editor, by the same Professor in which it is said: "It is true also money has been offered to

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