

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: In the un-administered area, of course, there is no machinery because it is not administered. In the administered area there is machinery of a relatively simple type. Many of the disputes are settled by the Tribal Councils themselves. It is only when two villages come into some kind of conflict that the administrative machinery works.

DR. KALIDAS NAG: May I ask the hon. the Prime Minister, that individual cases apart, when in our administered area a mission is prepared, engineered or encouraged, just like the Naga Mission, what are the repercussions of that on the other tribal areas in Assam?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I cannot say what the repercussions may be; nor is this kind of thing normally done.

The hon. Member is referring to a particular Naga Mission which went to Assam. It was invited unofficially and is going about. An unofficial invitation can always be given, unless Government come in the way. They did not come in the way, and, I think rightly, they allowed it to go. I do not think that the repercussions need be serious anywhere of that.

DR. KALIDAS NAG: Some of the tribes have registered their protest in a very weak way. So, there is something going on, in view of the incidents that recently happened. Could the hon. the Prime Minister throw some light on the problem? Some other tribes have recently protested.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not know about these protests; I have not heard. Possibly the hon. Member is right but I do not quite understand how or why Government should come in the way of non-officials inviting a non-official mission. It is rather difficult unless they prohibit it. They can, of course, put a stop to it, but they do not think it desirable or necessary.

PROF. G. RANGA: One more question, Sir.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: This is an important matter, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is an important matter, I know.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the tribal leaders protested not against the Naga Mission itself but against the demand for independence?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, quite right. I might mention that though we have not invited a mission, yet, as last year, we invited a number of prominent tribal people to come here for the Republic Day celebrations. We propose to invite a number again. There may be some Nagas among them too.

PROF. G. RANGA: Have Government developed or are developing any programme for bringing the rest of the un-administered areas under proper administration so that we might be able to deal satisfactorily with whatever cases arise?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have not got the figure but we have given the figure in answer to a question either in this House or in the other House; a very large area has been brought under some kind of administrative system. 21,000 square miles have been brought under the administrative system in the last three or four years without the slightest incident, quite peacefully and co-operatively.

DISABILITIES OF INDIANS IN PORTUGUESE POSSESSIONS

*357. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indians in Portuguese possessions in India are suffering from any disabilities, if so, what; and

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps to safeguard their interests?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). The Government have been watching with grave concern the ever-increasing disabilities to which Indian nationals residing in the Portuguese possessions in India are being subjected. In the last few years legislation has been enacted affecting the freedom of entry, residence, renting of accommodation, securing of trade licences and ownership of property by Indian nationals. Indian nationals have been deported on the flimsiest of grounds by the police as undesirable aliens. In fact, even the inhabitants of these territories, who are indistinguishable in race, culture, language or creed from the people of India are being subjected to ever-increasing pressure by the administrative authorities. There is strict censorship and there is no freedom of the press. The entry of almost all leading Indian newspapers is banned.

In contrast to this tragic state of affairs in the Portuguese possessions in India, the people of these territories have had, and continue to enjoy, the fullest freedom in this country on a par with our own nationals. Numerous protests have been lodged with the Portuguese authorities regarding measures against Indian nationals and the curtailment of human rights in Goa. Replies to these protests, however, have either not been received or, if received, have been entirely unsatisfactory. In view of this, a review of our policy in regard to the Portuguese possessions in India is under the active consideration of the Government of India.

(Shri C. G. K. Reddy rose.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vahulla has nothing to say; he is satisfied.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Obviously, Sir, Government itself feels very strongly in this matter. May I ask as

to how long this review of our policy regarding the foreign possessions has been under consideration and if the country can expect some decision to be arrived at in the near future?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The policy is more or less continually under consideration, but what my hon. colleague just referred to was that lately, in the course of the last two months or three months, it has been considered, if I may say so, in a more intensive way, its various aspects—economic, political and other—apart from the question of taking any aggressive steps against the territory itself which it is not the Government of India's intention to undertake. It is a complicated matter and it is not quite clear what particular steps we should take, in what order and how, but the hon. Member knows that some time back we closed down our legation in Lisbon and it is possible that other steps might follow, but they will not be, if I may say so, of a dramatic type which may burst upon an astonished world.

DR KALIDAS NAG: We are not in a dramatic mood; we are in a crisis; but they are in a dramatic mood because they are importing black troops in very large numbers into India through Goa. What is the attitude of the Government of India towards this? I find in some paper that the Goa Government are building up an iron industry in collaboration with some foreign power. May I know if there was any exchange of information or consultation with the Government of India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not think this House need worry about the number of troops they may add to. It does not matter much whether they have a few more or a few less.

As for the iron industry, well, if they develop an iron industry I do not quite see how any hon. Member can object to it.

The difficulty in dealing with this matter is that one cannot easily come to grips with a mentality which derives from the 15th or 14th century.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: Sir, in the original answer which the hon. Deputy Minister gave he said that their replies to our protests sometimes did not come and those that came sometimes were so vague that it clearly showed studied indifference. In view of this may I ask what further steps the Government would take now that it has been established that no reply could ever be received from the authorities in Goa with any deference to our wishes whatever?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I have answered already.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BRITISH EMBASSIES AT KABUL AND TEHERAN

***358. SHRI C. G. K. REDDY:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Embassies at Kabul and Teheran were being financed by the Government of India until the 15th August 1947;

(b) whether the properties purchased in those places for the British Embassies were also debited to the Government of India; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have claimed rights to these properties from the British Government; and if so, with what response?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) and (b). The British Legation at Kabul and its buildings were financed by the Government of India. The British Embassy at Teheran was financed by the Government of the United Kingdom, and the Government of India paid an annual contribution for services rendered. The buildings at Teheran were paid for by the Government of the United Kingdom and

India's contribution during 1900 to 1927 included a portion of expenditure on maintenance and repairs of these buildings.

(c) The property at Kabul has been claimed by the Government of India and its transfer is under negotiation.

As regards Teheran, the question of transfer of property does not arise.

COMMISSION TO ENQUIRE INTO THE SUSPENSION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF BRITISH GUIANA

***359. SHRI S. MAHANTY:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to appoint a person from India to the Commission set up by the Government of the United Kingdom, to enquire into the suspension of the constitution in British Guiana; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of the United Kingdom approached the Government of India in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) and (b). No such proposal has been made to Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: In view of the fact that the Government of India have declared themselves categorically against colonialism and in view of the fact that India is a member of the Commonwealth, are the Government of India going to exert their good offices on this question?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is not clear to me what the hon. Member suggests and how we can do anything by exerting our good offices or otherwise. In a broad way naturally we are interested in it and normally the ways are diplomatic.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: The fact is that the Government of India is a member of the Commonwealth, and a leading member of the Commonwealth