

8th August, 1949 between India and Bhutan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) Some representations to this effect have been received but on enquiry they were found to be baseless.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: Sir, in view of the fact that such cases have been reported to me, and I have also informed the Political Officer in Bhutan, may I request our Prime Minister to be kind enough to enquire about it and take necessary steps?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Most certainly. If the hon. Lady Member will give us any particulars, we will enquire into them.

SHRIMATI MAYA DEVI CHETTRY: May I know whether the people of Bhutan, especially on the borders, are discontented against the Administration?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is a question about another country's Administration and whether the people there are discontented.

*364. [*The questioner (Shri D. Nara-yari) was absent.*]

MASSACRE OF INDIAN MERCHANTS IN BURMA

*365. SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that merchants of Indian nationality were recently massacred in Burma by the Chinese Nationalist guerillas;

(b) whether some merchants of Indian nationality were also plundered by the same guerillas; and

(c) if the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what action

Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA): (a) to (c). According to a press report and the representation made to the Indian Embassy, Rangoon, one Indian was killed, another injured and some Indian merchants were robbed by the Chinese Nationalist guerillas at Muse, a frontier town. The matter is under enquiry.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: When did the Government address the Burma Government in this connection?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: As soon as the representation was received.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Have the Government issued reminder to the Burma Government? Are they trying to get information on this point? There are varied reports; in one paper it was said that five people were killed, and in another it was said that seven were killed and so on. Will Government see that definite information is got from the Burma Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The Government is all the time trying to get information—our Embassy there—but this is a matter in which the enemies of the Burma Government have been active.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: But these incidents took place on the Burma border.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Hon. Members will realise that the Burma Government is dealing not only with insurgents but also with KMT troops on the borders. This is alleged to have been done by the enemies of the Burma Government.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May we know, Sir, with whom this matter has been taken up by the Government of India?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It cannot be taken up with anybody, except that our agent went and discussed

with the Burma Government. The Burma Government naturally want to help us. If a horde of brigands do something, we will have to deal with them somehow. There is no use complaining about it.

*366 & *367.. [Postponed to 23rd April 1953.]

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Shall I reply question Nos. 368 and 369 together?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN WELFARE FIELD

*368. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state what scope Government propose to give to the voluntary agencies who are to share the major burden in the Welfare field under the First Five Year Plan.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): A provision of Rs. 4 crores has been made in the Plan for assistance to voluntary social welfare agencies mainly with a view to reorganising and developing further their existing activities.

SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD

*369. SHRIMATI SHOILA BALA DAS: Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Social Welfare Board as envisaged in the Five Year Plan has been set up;

(b) if so, who are its members; and

(c) what principle has been followed in selecting them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PLANNING & IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI) : (a) to (c). The setting up of a Social Welfare Board is under consideration.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Have the members of these agencies experience in field work?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: Naturally, they are persons who have been working in this field.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Do they work as voluntary workers or professional workers?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: It will be mostly voluntary workers.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Have Government got any comprehensive list of voluntary agencies?

SHRI J. S. L. HATHI: of course, a list is there. It may not be comprehensive, but we all know which are the various agencies working in the social welfare field.

TECHNICAL MISSION'S REPORT ON THE SETTING UP OF A STEEL PLANT

*370. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) if the Technical Mission charged with reporting on the Planning Commission's directive to set up a steel plant in the public sector during the First Five Year Plan period has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether Government will lay a copy of the said report on the Table of the Council; and

to) what is the total amount paid to the Technical Experts for preparing the report?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY): (a) The Technical Mission appointed by the Ministry of Production has submitted a Project Study.

(b) The Project Study is under examination by the Government. It is not possible to lay it on the Table of the Council at this stage.