

SURVEY OF THE JAIL ADMINISTRATION

*574 SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA. Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Dr Walter Reckless made a survey of the entire jail administration and also examined the Indian Penal Code, and

(b) whether he has submitted his report to the Government of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI B N DATAR) (a) No, Dr Walter Reckless did not make a survey of the entire jail administration, nor did he undertake an examination of the Indian Penal Code, as far as Government are aware. He toured some of the States to get a first-hand knowledge of the working of some important jails in India before starting his course of lectures on Criminology and Correctional Administration at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay. In his report, he has incidentally commented on the Indian Penal Code and other Central Acts in so far as they relate to 'Prisons' and 'Prisoners'

(b) He has submitted a report to the United Nations Organisation of which a copy has recently been received by Government

SHRI C G K REDDY. Sir, is this report a 'reckless' report?

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA. Sir, at whose instance did Dr Walter Reckless visit India?

SHRI B N. DATAR. He visited India at the instance of the Government of India and the Institute of Social Sciences

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA. Sir, is it a fact that in his report he suggests a complete survey of the entire jail administration and the Penal Code and has proposed a draft Bill which could be proposed to the Indian Legislature?

SHRI B N DATAR. I am not in a position at this stage to disclose the contents of the report because the copy of the report has been sent to us with instructions that it is restricted only to the Government of India and to the United Nations Organisation

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA. But, Sir, I have also a copy of the report. Sir, I received a copy of this report from the International Women Lawyers' Federation and I find that many proposals have been made and this is just a summary. The report suggests that all the recommendations contained in it be tried out in one pilot project

SHRI B N DATAR. So, the hon Member has already got this information. Then what more does she want from me?

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY. I wanted to know whether the Government of India asked him to enquire into the conditions of jails?

SHRI B N DATAR. Yes, we had asked

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY. May I know Sir whether it was known to the Government of India that he would submit a report to the United Nations?

SHRI B. N. DATAR. Yes, we knew that he would be submitting a report to the United Nations

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA. May I know whether he went into the problem of juvenile delinquency in India in detail?

SHRI B N DATAR. Yes he did so

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA. Has he made any recommendations?

MR CHAIRMAN. Mrs Alva, you know all these things

SHRI B N DATAR. He has made recommendations on a number of subjects

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: If the matter is no longer confidential, why does the Government not place a copy of the report on the Table of the House?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: That is on account of the fact that the United Nations have stated that the report is restricted to the Government of India and the United Nations. We are true to the word and if they are not, then we can't help it.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: If he visited India at the instance of the Government of India, then how is it that the report was submitted to the United Nations?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: He was an officer of the United Nations and he has submitted the report to his own organisation.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Have the United Nations left it to the Government of India to decide whether the report should be made public or not, or have they debarred the Government of India from making it public?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They have not debarred it at all.

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: If it is open to the Government of India to make it public, why do they not do so?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: They would consider this matter. There are certain matters which have been taken up with the United Nations Organisation about the content of this report and I may also point out that this report is more or less a preliminary report. The final report has yet to come and after the final report comes, the Government will take all steps including, if possible, placing a copy of this report on the Table of this House.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: What was the reason that the Government of India asked a foreigner to survey the jail administration of India?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Because he was an expert on Criminology and Correctional Administration. It is therefore

that the Government of India thought it best to have the advantage of the report of such an expert on this subject.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: After having a report of that expert, what is it that the Government of India is going to do?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: Government are taking necessary steps in the matter.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: And yet keeping that report confidential?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: We are not keeping it confidential. That itself is a preliminary report; he has himself said that he will be sending.....

DR. K. N. KATJU: Sir, what is the use of troubling the House when it has been said that this is only a preliminary report and the final report is yet to come?

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Will the hon. questioner place the report on the Table of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now that it is all public property, would you place that report on the Table?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: We shall consider it.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: I want to know whether the questioner will place it on the Table.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Do Government, by agreeing to this appointment, accept the position that Indians are not experts in crime?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: We do not.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know, Sir, with what organisation is the expert, who came to India, connected?

SHRI B. N. DATAR: He came from the United Nations Organisation. He is Professor of Criminology and Correctional Administration at the Ohio State University.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: May I put a question to Mrs. Alva?

MR. CHAIRMAN: To Mrs. Alva? No, no.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY: The rules allow putting questions to other Members in the House.

SMUGGLING OF SWISS WATCHES INTO INDIA

*575. SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to prevent the smuggling of Swiss watches into India;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken and with what results; and

(c) the channels through which this contraband trade is done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI A. C. GUHA): (a) The Sea and Land Customs Departments keep a continuous watch to frustrate any attempt to smuggle goods into or out of India and take necessary steps to prevent smuggling. In recent months special attention has been paid to the prevention of smuggling of watches into India.

(b) The usual methods are thorough search of suspect aircraft and crew and passengers. Information about any smugglers is carefully gathered, checked and acted upon. As a result of the vigorous measures taken, watches worth Rs. 2.84 lakhs have been seized since April 1952.

(c) Attempts at smuggling of watches into India are generally made through land and sea frontiers and by air. Smuggling through the medium of the post and by passengers and crews of vessels visiting Indian ports has also been observed.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: May I know if the Government is aware of what a Swiss trade paper, "The Watch-maker" wrote on this subject? That

paper wrote that the smuggling of Swiss watches from Switzerland into India has now reached alarming proportions, even replacing the normal trade channels.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why they have asked for a Criminology Professor?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The Government is aware of the report in that paper referred to by the hon. lady Member, but the Government is of the opinion that the report is to a great extent exaggerated.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY: Was there any seizure from the entourage of diplomatic personnel into India?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: The seizure has been mostly in Calcutta and some other ports. I have no information about any diplomatic personnel indulging in smuggling watches.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is the import of Swiss watches banned?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: There is no ban.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Is there any protective duty on Swiss watches?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: There is a high revenue duty.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA: Is it a fact that during the 18 months from the beginning of 1952 to the middle of this year, Indian importers could import only 4 to 6 million francs worth of watches, while the actual need of the country was 23 million francs worth?

SHRI A. C. GUHA: That is the report in that paper, but I can give this information that the import during the period referred to by the hon. lady Member was certainly less than that in the previous period, but it may also be due to the import restrictions imposed by the Government.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Is it a fact that some months ago a high-ranking officer