

COUNCIL OF STATES

Monday, 5th December 1952

The Council met at a quarter to eleven of the clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMUNISM IN INDIA

♦134. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Chester Bowles, Ambassador of the United States of America in India, has described the purpose of the American aid as "the only means by which Communism can be defeated among Asia's Millions" in an article to *The New York Times* under the title 'Asia challenges America through India'; and

(b) whether Government have given any assurance to the American Ambassador in India, or American authorities abroad, that India intends to defeat Communism in India or in any part of Asia ?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : (a) Mr. Chester Bowles has contributed an article in *The New York Times*. In the course of this article, he says :

"Thus, America has the unique chance to share now, before it is too late, in a village-to-village attack on the poverty and misery where Communism broods, and support the only means by which Communism can be defeated among Asia's millions."

(b) The policy of the Government of India has been often repeated in this House and elsewhere and is well known. They have given no assurances of the kind referred to, to anyone. They are intent, however, on fighting poverty in India.

SHRI M. VALIULLAH : Was any assurance of the kind asked for by the American Government ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON : No.

SHRI M. GOVINDA REDDY : Could it form a subject matter between an Ambassador and Government defeating or promoting any 'ism' ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I don't know what the hon. Member means about this. Normally an Ambassador is not supposed to interfere in any way with the domestic policy of the country.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Is it a fact that this article was very widely circulated in India also ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON : It was circulated in the press in the form of a pamphlet. It originally appeared in *The New York Times*.

SHRIMATI VIOLET ALVA : Are copies of the hand-outs deposited with the Government by foreign Information Services before circulation ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON : No.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYY : Is it not interference in the internal affairs of our country ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : No. NOT this article certainly, which appeared in the American newspaper. There is nothing really in it except an expression of opinion. It had nothing to do with the internal affairs of our country.

DR. R. B. GOUR : Does the Government know that an article of a similar nature has been published by the same gentleman—Mr. Bowles—in a journal named 'Foreign Affairs' ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I believe I have heard something about it.

DR. R. B. GOUR : The Indian press also has reported extracts of that article. Has the notice of the Government been drawn to that ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I don't control the extracts which the Indian press publishes. I don't know how we are to deal with the press here which publishes extracts ^rn certain articles which appear in any periodical.

DR. R. B. GOUR : My point is whether the Government does not realize that this is an interference in our internal affairs by a foreign, power ?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU : I don't think this is so. I would like to say—not particularly with reference to this matter, but generally speaking—quite a number of things appear from time to time which are on the verge of interference and which we don't approve of and whenever such a thing occurs, we take action in the sense that we draw attention to the matter that such a thing has appeared. I am not referring to this matter particularly and I *em* not referring to this particular Embassy but to a nvmer of Embassies which are on the verge of interfering at the time.

DR. R. B. GOUR : In this particular article there are adverse references to China—with China we are veiy friendly'— and when there arc such references in this article, do they not affect the public opinion in India adversely against the policy of the Government of India in respect of China ? To that extent, is it not interference in our internal affairs ? Is it not interference in our relations with a foreign power ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for China to protest.

CRUDE OIL REFINERY

*I35. SHRI P. SUNDARAWA: Will the Minister for PRODUCTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any foreign firm has been given a contract for constructing a crude oil refinery at Bombay ;

(b) what is the name of the firm, and to which country it belongs ;

(c) what is the estimated total expenditure for building this oil refinery ;

(d) when this refinery will start regular production ;

(e) whether tenders were called for before the contract was entered into ; and

(/) whether Indian technicians will be trained at this refinery for future construction ?

THE MINISTER FOR PRODUCTION (SHRI K. C. REDDY) : (a) and (b). Two oil refineries are being put up at Bombay as private enterprises, one by the Standard Vacuum Oil Company of U. S. A., and the other by the Burmah-Shell group of U. K. Government have not placed any contracts for building the oil refineries, in which they have no financial interest. Government have merely approved the projects. If the hon. Member's desire is to know to whom the oil refineries have entrusted the contract for "constructing" the refineries, the answer is that the work has been entrusted to the Lummus Company of New York and London.

(c) The two refineries are estimated to cost about Rs. 40 crores.

(d) The Standard Vacuum Re finery is expected to go into produc tion towards the middle of 1954 and the Burmah-Shell Refinery towards the beginning of 1956.

(e) This is a matter for the oil refineries to decide and as such the Government have no information.

(/) No, Sir. What the companies will do is to train an adequate number of Indian personnel in *refining operations* for employment in the refineries.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : From docs the oil company import its crude oil requirements ?

SHRI K. C. REDDY : The crude oil will be imported from such countries-where it is available but it is one of the