

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 28, 1968/
Bhadra 6, 1890 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MERGER OF AREAS OF
MANIPUR WITH NAGALAND

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- *721. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI B. N. SHASTRI :
SHRI KARTIK ORAON :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has received a memorandum from the Naga Integration Committee demanding the merger of Naga areas of Manipur and Nagaland ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the answer given in the House by the Home Minister on 23rd August 1968 to Unstarred Question No. 5196.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि नागा इन्टिग्रेशन कमेटी ने प्रधान मंत्री को जो स्मृतिपत्र दिया है, क्या उस को सदन-मटल पर रखा जायेगा, ताकि सदन को यह जानकारी हो सके कि उस में कौन कौन सी प्रोवेंसिज़ दी गई हैं ?

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SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I have got the details of the grievances which are enumerated in the Memorandum. Whether I may place it on the Table of the House, the question rests with them. But I can give some details of it.

Amongst the various grievances that they have mentioned, one is mal-administration and exploitation of the hill people by the plains people in Manipur ; the second is that there should be 30 per cent reservation in Grade III and IV services for the tribal people, and that arrangement, they say, has not been adhered to by the administration. Another grievance is that, since 1964, no Nagas have been selected for interview by the UPSC for any of the higher posts in the State Government. Then there is another complaint that money is not being spent in their part of the State, for development purposes, etc., and money is diverted from tribal welfare fund, etc., for other purposes. There are a number of grievances. These are the main ones.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : हिन्दुस्तान के मानचित्र में हिन्दुस्तान और बर्मा के मध्य में मनीपुर पड़ता है। जो विद्रोही नागा चीन और पाकिस्तान जाते हैं, उन के लिए ब्रह्मी एक रास्ता है। वह हिन्दुस्तान का सीमावर्ती भाग है। चीन वहाँ पर गड़बड़ और असंतोष पैदा कर के हम को उलझाये रखना चाहता है। इस पृष्ठ-भूमि में क्या सरकार उन लोगों की प्रीवेंसिज़ को दूर कर के ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा करने की कोशिश करेगी, जिस में नागा लोगों में जो असंतोष है, उस का निराकरण हो और उन नागाओं की ताकत मज़बूत हो, जो राष्ट्रीय भावना से ओत-प्रोत हैं और जिन की हमारे देश के प्रति आस्था है ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I agree with what the hon. Member has suggested. This assurance has already been given by the Home Ministry that all grievances will be gone into, will be inquired into, and efforts would be made to remove them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : As far as we know, there are three subdivisions of Manipur, the population of which is overwhelmingly Nagas, and it is obvious that, if they have legitimate grievances which are allowed to persist, it would give a handle to the hostile Nagas, as it has been doing, to carry on their extended activities into Manipur and to foment this agitation for merger of these parts of Manipur with Nagaland. Therefore, I would like to know firstly, what concrete steps Government is taking to see that these legitimate grievances are redressed so that the source of tension and discontent does not remain, and secondly, whether they are considering giving full Statehood to Manipur as soon as possible, at least by stages, so that it is not possible also for the hostile Nagas to use this Statehood for Manipur as an excuse for fomenting discontent among the Nagas in Manipur.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : My colleague has already replied here that the grievances enumerated in the Memorandum will certainly be looked into.

As far as any kind of change in the status of Manipur is concerned, the whole area is in a disturbed state. I do not think that it would be right to open up these matters now.

SHRI N. R. LASKAR : I agree with what my hon. friend Shri Indrajit Gupta has said just now, because these assurances will not do and we have to take action immediately. We are glad that a categorical denial has come from

Government that there will be no further division of the Union Territory of Manipur. For the question of reopening of boundaries or readjustment of the boundaries or the territories of States has created problems and not solved any problem. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government will resist this sort of demands from any quarter if they come in future ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Each demand has to be seen ; each problem is a different one and has to be considered on merits.

SHRI RANGA : In regard to the disintegration of Manipur as such, he says that it should not be disturbed.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : I have already said that it is a disturbed area and no changes envisaged for the present.

SHRI B. N. SHASTRI : Three subdivisions of Manipur State have been declared as disturbed areas in view of the subversive activities of the hostile Nagas, and in view of this, may I know whether Government apprehend that the non-merger of these predominantly Naga areas of Manipur with Nagaland will create conditions for carrying on intensive subversive activities by the hostile Nagas and as such may I know whether Manipur will be kept out of the purview of the cease-fire agreement ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Government are fully aware of the unlawful activities which are being carried on by the underground Nagas in the Manipur area, but I can assure the House that these activities have been considerably curtailed ; they are much less than they were before. As regards the question of the merger of these areas occupied by the Nagas with Nagaland, it has already been said that there is no such proposal under the Government's consideration at the present moment.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : A closer study of the Naga problems reveals

that 56 per cent of the tribals in Nagaland and 61 per cent of the tribals in Manipur and 97 per cent of the Tribals in Mizo Hills are converted to Christianity and it also reveals the dubious role of the underground Naga hostiles in hobnobbing with China ; so, it would not be difficult to discern the under-current of the collusive efforts well on the way for the formation of a Christian State calculated to spell disaster to the safety, security and sovereignty of India. I would like to know from Government whether they are conscious of it and if so, whether they will come forward with a uniform policy in regard to the problems of all the tribes of India and try to solve the problems of the tribal people, whether in the hills or in the plains, so that these problems will be sorted out once and for all, so far as the tribals are concerned.

SHRI S. XAVIER : This question is irrelevant to the main question.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON : It is for the Chair to decide and not for the hon. Member.

SHRI S. XAVIER : I am bringing it to the notice of the Speaker and let the Speaker decide.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is true that quite a large majority of the underground Naga people profess the Christian faith, but there are other Nagas also who profess their ancestral faiths and they believe in some other thing. But that has nothing to do with the Christian State at all.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : The problem of Manipur is in a way analogous to the problem faced by the whole of Assam. A part of it is plains and a part of it is hills, and because of the policy of the Government of keeping the hill areas as museum pieces there has been no integration between the people of the plains and those of the hills ; this has created so many problems in almost the entire eastern area. In view of the fact that the entire area is a very sensitive area and Pakistan and China are trying to create

trouble, may I know whether a suggestion has often been made that no piece-meal solution of the problems of the different regions or parts of this area should be undertaken but an overall solution of the problems should be undertaken after appointing a commission which might go into the entire picture from the socio-economic and also the strategic and military point of view and then only any change whatsoever whether in Manipur or anywhere else has to be made ?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : I entirely agree with the hon. Member that the whole region should be looked at from this broader point of view, both from the point of view of defence and also from the point of view of development. But I do not know whether it is necessary to appoint a commission for the propose. Government are going into all these matters.

SHRI BASUMATARI : Since the question of reorganisation of Assam came into the picture, these Naga people who are in the hills in Manipur started this agitation just to include this area in Nagaland. May I know the reaction of the present Nagaland Government in regard to this ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The demand on the part of the Nagas of Manipur that their area should be merged with Nagaland has been there for a very long time, and quite a large number of people in the Nagaland State are also of the same opinion.

SHRI BASUMATARI : My question was this. May I know whether it is a fact that since the question of reorganisation of Assam came, this demand has been made by the Naga people in Manipur ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I submitted earlier that this demand has been there much before that.

SHRI HEM BARUA : The Naga areas of Manipur are a part and parcel of Manipur. But, unfortunately this Government allowed a so-called cease-fire agreement with the Naga hostiles

to be extended to cover these areas also, and under cover of this so-called cease-fire agreement the Naga hostiles are recruiting their volunteers from the Naga areas of Manipur, and collecting taxes from the Manipur people and are using these Naga areas as a gate-way to China and Pakistan. It is a great mistake that this Government has made. In this context, may I know why there is this double standard? May I know whether the Naga Integration Committee leaders who came down to Delhi and saw us also and gave us a copy of the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, of which I have a copy, have told specifically all the Government leaders whom they met in Delhi that if these Naga areas of Manipur are integrated with Nagaland there would be a check to the hostile activities carried on in these areas by a section of the Naga hostiles?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : It was because this area was also a disturbed area that it was included in the suspension of operations agreement. As the hon. Members know there is a village volunteer force there which along with our forces is doing a very good job of meeting the hostile Nagas.

SHRI HEM BARUA : My question was different. Why is it that this so-called cease-fire agreement was extended to cover these peaceful areas in Manipur? This gives an opportunity to the Naga hostiles to extend their hostile activities to these areas also.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : The position is that they were not peaceful areas and there was trouble there also.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : From the memorandum that has been submitted by the Naga Integration Committee we find that their demands refer more to their economic difficulties and the need for their betterment. Keeping in view that factor and also the statement just now made by the Prime Minister in regard to laying more emphasis on defence and development,

may I know whether Government are contemplating, so far as the eastern region is concerned, to evolve a suitable framework of policy comprising of all these factors of the defence and development so that there may be a natural national integration that could be effected?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : That was what I said just now.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह मानते हैं, हम लोगों ने अभी सीज-फायर का जो ऐग्रीमेंट किया उस ऐग्रीमेंट में इस प्रदेश का समावेश किया, उस के कारण नागा लोगों की इस चीज को हम ने मान लिया कि जो होस्टाइल लोग हैं उन का प्रभाव यहां भी है, यानी नागा लोगों का प्रभाव इस इलाके में है, इस चीज को हम ने मान लिया और इसलिए अब नागा लोग इस के ऊपर अपनी मांग कर रहे हैं?

दूसरे, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई ऐसा ऐग्रीमेंट या समझौता हुआ है जिस में 16 नुबते हैं और उस में यह समझौते का एक हिस्सा है?

श्री सुरेन्द्रपाल सिंह : जी हां, समझौता हुआ था जिस को 16 प्वाइंट ऐग्रीमेंट कहते हैं। उस में 13 वां प्वाइंट इसी के मुताबिक है। लेकिन उस में भारत सरकार ने कभी यह नहीं कहा कि यह एरियाज नागालैंड में मिला देंगे।

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR NEWSPAPERS
CARRYING ON COMMUNAL PROPAGANDA

*723. **SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that newspapers carrying on communal propaganda are still receiving advertisements from Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, how some communal