

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He may answer the second part of the question whether the Government is prepared to obtain assistance and expertise for the navy, just as for the air force and army from friendly democratic countries of the west?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As far as taking help from democratic countries is concerned, I think the attitude of the Government is quite clear. It has been explained many times on the floor of the House.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know how long it will take to establish this naval base at Visakhapatnam and how long it will take to establish a submarine base along with that?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: All these matters are not connected with this problem. As I said, the Government's intention was explained last time. As far as the project is concerned, it will take quite a long time.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that the World Bank experts, by-the-by, expressed their wish that between Haldia port and Paradip port there is a possibility to establish a naval base?

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing; it is not connected with this.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know whether this matter came in for discussion with Lord Mountbatten, British Chief of Staff, and whether there was a coordinated view taken of this matter?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The question of this project never came in for discussion.

Diplomatic Immunity Enjoyed by Indian Diplomats Abroad

*1178. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and other personnel in Indian missions abroad who enjoy diplomatic immunity from civil as well as criminal prosecution;

(b) whether the claim to diplomatic immunity of one or more such officers or personnel has ever been challenged; and

(c) if so, when, where and in what circumstances?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) All India-based diplomatic officers and the members of their families enjoy immunity from civil as well as criminal prosecution. Non-diplomatic staff and members of their families enjoy immunity from criminal prosecution but in respect of civil proceedings the immunity is limited to actions performed by them in the course of their official duties.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: So far as the various echelons of diplomatic personnel are concerned, at what level or rank does diplomatic immunity cease to operate, and may I know whether not merely the diplomats and their families but also their cooks and other servants, clerks and chambermaids are also given diplomatic immunity in foreign countries?

Mr. Speaker: Is he very particular about the last portion?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That is what is reported in some London papers.

Mr. Speaker: About chambermaids he wants to know particularly?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: As far as the domestic servants of diplomatic officers are concerned, they enjoy immunity from civil and criminal proceedings only to the extent admissible by the receiving State.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Arising out of the answer to parts (b) and (c) of the question, is the Government aware of certain proceedings launched last year—I believe last year or the year before that—or sought to be

launched against an officer of the Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom for mal-treatment of his servant and in this case diplomatic immunity was invoked; and, also a couple of years earlier an Indian doctor in London sought to prosecute an official of the High Commission in the United Kingdom and there also diplomatic immunity was invoked and no proceedings could be initiated?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: There was only one instance where diplomatic immunity was challenged as far as we know, and that was in London. There one Indian member of the staff misused a railway pass and the case was withdrawn by the local government on grounds of immunity. That is why I stated in reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question that we have not got all the available information so far. Therefore, I cannot say categorically 'yes' or 'no' to this question. Except for this stray incident we do not have any other information. When we get the information, we will place it on the Table.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it being collected?

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether there have been any or many cases of gross abuse of diplomatic immunity by many members of our diplomatic corps abroad since independence? I want a general answer, only.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The general answer is 'no'.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ऐसे कर्मचारियों को जिन्होंने कि इस तरीके से इस अधिकार को मिस्यूज किया है, उन को निकालने के लिए सोच रही है ?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have said 'no' in answer to the previous question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if these diplomatic immunities are given

on a blanket form or they are given according to the country in which the diplomats serve and according to the ranks which they occupy in the diplomatic service?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The whole thing is governed by the relevant articles of the Vienna Convention which lay down what types of officers enjoy diplomatic immunity and what types do not have them.

Assam Rifles for NEFA

*1179, **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to induct some forces of Assam Rifles into Kameng Division of NEFA and other areas vacated by Chinese to enforce law and order; and

(b) if so, the action taken in pursuance of this decision so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). When the Chinese withdrew after their aggression in NEFA, the Assam Rifles began returning to their normal posts. Amongst these were a few in Kameng Frontier Division. The Assam Rifles as the traditional civil armed force in the area has always been responsible for law and order in support of the Civil Administration. No new policy decision is, therefore, involved in their return.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the Chinese after vacating the occupied areas have left behind a large number of agents and soldiers in NEFA in Mufti who are responsible for creating lawlessness around Dirrang Djong and some other areas there? If so, what is their approximate number and what steps has Government taken to counteract their activities?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We do not have any information about the large number of Chinese being left here who have caused disorder. But