

Shri Vishram Prasad: How much provision has been made in the Budget and what border roads are going to be constructed? How are they going to be constructed?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): If it is a general question it is rather difficult to answer it. If it is a question arising out of this particular question I can say that certainly not very considerable progress has been made.

Shri Vishram Prasad: Are they constructed by contractors or departmentally?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: These are done by the department by the roads organisation of course.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that some roads built by this Tusker project organisation in NEFA are reported to have cost more than 50,000 per mile, what steps have Government taken to see that this road on the Nagaland-Burma border confines itself to the legitimate limit of expenditure?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly all care is being taken about it.

Shri Ravindra Varma: Has the Government examined the comparative cost of construction of roads by the Border Roads Organisation and by the other road construction agencies such as the CPWD, Army personnel and if so, is it true that the cost of construction of roads by this Organisation, especially Tusker, is incredibly in-ordinate?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: As a result of an enquiry instituted about the working of the Tusker organisation, some technical team is going into these aspects of the problem.

Shri Basumatari: Since the complaint has been made against Tusker for not doing its work properly, may I know whether the Government has any view just to change from Tusker to other contractors?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Tusker is not a company; it is the name given to the Chief Engineer's task force working in NEFA. We are now dealing in this question about the roads in Nagaland.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, इस सीमावर्ती सड़क संगठन ने नागालैंड में कुल कितने मील लम्बी सड़कें बनाने का निश्चय किया था, कितनी सड़कें अब तक बनी हैं और शेष को बनाने के लिये कौन से खास कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I think this is a general question and I will have to ask for a specific question on this.

नेफा में हुई असफलताओं की जांच

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*४३०. { श्री भक्त दर्शन :
श्री भागवत झा आजाद :
श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :
श्रीमती सावित्री निगम :
श्री स० चं० सामन्त :
श्री हरि विष्णु कामत :
श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल :
श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :
श्री बेरवा कोटा :
श्री बड़े :

क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री २१ जनवरी, १९६३ के अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या ९१२ के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या स्थल सेनाध्यक्ष नेफा की लड़ाई के बारे में जो जांच कर रहे थे वह पूरी हो गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो जांच के क्या निष्कर्ष निकले ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री वा० रा० षट्हाण) : (क) नेफा की लड़ाई के संबंध में हो रही जांच अभी प्रगतिशील है ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

[(a) The appraisal being made of the fighting in NEFA is still in progress.]

(b) Does not arise.]

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जांच किन अधिकारियों के द्वारा की जा रही है, कब यह प्रारम्भ की गई थी और कब तक इसके समाप्त हो जाने की आशा की जाती है ?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): It is very difficult to give names of the officers. Certainly it will take some few weeks more.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन्, हमारी सेनाओं को लड़ाख में भी पीछे हटना पड़ा था लेकिन नेफा में हटने के बारे में जो जांच की जा रही है उससे ही इयवी गम्भीरता का अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है। अतः मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस संबंध में किसी जनरल या किसी बड़े अधिकारी को मुअ्तल किया जा रहा है या उसके कोर्ट मार्शल की तैयारियाँ की जा रही हैं ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: We cannot start punishing people before the report is available. This report is not intended to be an enquiry in a manner in which it is expected to punish anybody. It is going to be a sort of military appraisal.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: To learn a lesson.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस जांच पड़ताल के लिये जो लोग मुररर किये गये हैं उनके टर्म्स आफ रिफरेंस क्या हैं और जांच का मूलाधार क्या है ?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I cannot give that information.... (Interruptions.)

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There can be only two reasons: either the Minister has not that information available with him at this moment and

therefore he cannot give it or, it is not in the public interest to disclose it. The hon. Minister might say which reason he advances at this moment.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the answer come first. Then he may raise the point of order.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Firstly, the information is not available with me at this moment. Secondly, we have not given thought to the question whether it is really in the public interest or not to disclose it.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Ramanathan Chettiar.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: The hon. Prime Minister, while replying to the debate here in this House, at the time the reverses had taken place, assured the House that he will have an enquiry and that if anybody were found to be guilty, he will be punished. But here, the hon. Defence Minister, in reply to a supplementary question, said that it is not with a view to punish anybody even if the report is to be published. May I have an enlightenment on this point?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order at all. There is no point of order. I would request hon. Members not to raise points of order during the Question Hour, because they seldom arise, unless really there is something to be just brought to the notice of the House. In that case, if any hon. Minister has given an answer which, according to hon. Members, is not correct, of course the Minister can be confronted with that. But the ordinary course is, the hon. Member can write to me that the answer given is wrong and give the reasons for supplying other information, and I will send it to the Minister so that he might also have a say and then we can decide as to what the correct answer is and the Minister may be asked to correct the

information if it be wrong. (*Interruption*).

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I want a clarification about one thing that arises out of my question. The Minister said that he has not got the information readily available with him. But the question was known to him before. How can he say that the information is not available.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: It is only about the terms of reference of the enquiry.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Tyagi.

Shri A. P. Jain: I rise to a point of order. Once the question about the enquiry is admitted, is it open to the Minister to say that he would not give out the terms of reference. If the terms of reference are not given, then no answer can be given to any part of the question.

Shri Ranga: The point of order which he has raised is very relevant, Sir, so far as I can think about it. It is not proper for the Minister simply to turn down the question and say he would not give any information.

Mr. Speaker: He has given the answer: that the information is not at present with him, at this moment.

Shri Ranga: How can it be? The question is there. He has had sufficient time to collect the information, and give the answer here.

Mr. Speaker: When the Minister says that the information is not available with him at present, then the Speaker cannot interfere at least for that moment. I shall have to accept—

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members should realise that the Minister has the right: when the Minister says that that information is not available at present with him, then I have to accept it, and the hon. Members also—(*Interruption*).

Shri Ravindra Varma: The hon. Minister said that he has not given thought to it.

Shri Ranga: You were good enough to admit the question and send it to the Minister. They have accepted it. Thereafter, the Minister has had sufficient notice and time to get the information. Therefore, it is not permissible for him to say he has not got that information. I would request you to bring it to their notice that it is not permissible for them to say so. These are only terms of reference.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. leader of the Swatantra party is an old and seasoned parliamentarian—

Shri Ranga: That is why I am raising this point.

Mr. Speaker:—and he has been seeing it all through his parliamentary experience here. When the Minister has that right and privilege to say that the information is not with him at the moment, we should believe him at that moment. Unless of course it can be shown subsequently that it was a deliberate suppression of fact, unless that can be done, the Minister is entitled at the moment to say that the information is not with him and we should believe him at that moment. Though the plea is that advance notice had been given, there might be other reasons why he might not have been able to collect that information (*Interruption*).

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I request you to ask the hon. Minister to answer the question because it is open to the—(*Interruption*).

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: These are only the terms of reference. It is for the Minister to collect the materials. He has had time.

Shri Ranga: It may be within the province or knowledge—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. How many Members could speak at a time? (*Interruptions*).

All of them might sit down and then I will allow them one by one.

Shri A. P. Jain: My point of order arises from another issue. You were good enough to ask whether the Minister did not have the necessary information with him at the moment or he did not consider it in public interest to disclose it. He mentioned both of them. But assuming that the first reason is accepted, my point of order arises from your query. After once the Minister has accepted the question, can he refuse to give out the terms of reference? It arises partly out of your observations.

Mr. Speaker: That is right; I quite appreciate that point. But when I ask the Minister, he gives two reasons—first that the information is not available with him and second that he does not want to disclose the terms of reference, about which action is being taken.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: He does not want to disclose it.

Mr. Speaker: At this moment perhaps he has not got the information. I am just putting the case before the House; I am not giving my opinion. I do not know what objection there is to that.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: There is no objection, but I would again plead with you that he is depriving the right of the House. It is an ordinary matter—the terms of reference of the enquiry. I do not think this is such a thing that he would take time to collect it and he has not got it in his possession. It is with him; why should he not disclose it.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: It is not my intention to refuse any legitimate information which the House is entitled to get. Even formerly this question was referred to many times on the floor of the House and I thought the House has conceded the position that they do not want to probe into the terms of reference. When I say that the information is not with me,

I mean it. At the same time, we have certainly not taken a decision about it. We have not made up our mind whether these terms of reference should be released publicly at this stage. Both the propositions are there. Ultimately, I am subject to your decision on the point.

Shri Tyagi: You have called me already.....

Mr. Speaker: I might have called him, but when a point of order has been raised, unless a decision is given, how can I ask the hon. Member to proceed further?

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कितने आदमी खड़े होंगे ।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Am I to understand that this enquiry is just a general enquiry and no final terms of reference have been decided upon?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly the terms of reference are there.

Mr. Speaker: There are terms of reference. Coming to Mr. Jain's point of order, he has put down two questions and raised the point of order. I do not give any ruling on the second portion because the second one becomes only a hypothetical one when the first question is answered by the Minister that the information is not available with him at this moment. Then, I am not called upon to give a ruling upon the second one. If and when that question arises, certainly I shall give a decision for what it deserves.

Shri Tyagi: Have there been any occasions where soldiers and officers were reported to have abandoned their posts during their fight with China without receiving any orders from the Corps Commanders and if so, are such instances also a subject of enquiry or not? The Minister has just now stated that punishments are not to be given. I want to know, if no

punishments are to be given for such serious offences, where will be the morale of the army?

Mr. Speaker: The second part of what he said is only an argument.

Shri Tyagi: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: And, that need not be answered. The first part is about the terms of reference about which the hon. Minister says that the Government has not taken a decision whether they are to be released just at this moment and that he will take a decision and probably come up before the House. I will request him now to consult his colleagues or the Cabinet and come to a definite decision as to whether they should convey to the House the terms of reference or whether their opinion is that it is not in the public interest to disclose them as otherwise they must be disclosed to the House.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, I submit to your ruling. But the first part of my question is only whether there have been instances where people abandoned their posts without any orders. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister can answer this question.

Mr. Speaker: That would not be covered by this.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मंत्री महोदय को इस प्रश्न की सूचना ए० न० महीने पेश्तर मिल चुकी थी और उस वक्त उनको यह कहने का अधिकार था कि मैं इस प्रश्न का उत्तर बाद को दूंगा। लेकिन आज उत्तर देते समय उनका यह कहना कहां तक सत्यपूर्ण है कि उनके पास सूचना नहीं है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस पर बहुत बहस हो चुकी है।

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: I want to know, while the findings of this Enquiry Committee are pending, what immediate action Government has taken to allay any suspicion, doubt or fear which may have a detrimental effect on the armed forces, because, I am sorry to say, while this enquiry is

pending there are lots of rumours afloat. I think Government might consider taking some immediate action to stop these rumours.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Unless I know what those rumours are, what action can I take about them?

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: All kinds of rumours are there. I want to know the immediate action Government is going to take.

Mr. Speaker: The question is that the enquiry is pending and the people have certain complaints that certain derelictions of duty or neglect of duties were committed; therefore, whether Government has considered the proposal of taking any action against any person independent of that enquiry.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Certainly, Sir; whenever individual matters come up to Government's notice, Government has taken necessary action about them.

श्री बड़े : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एनक्वायरी स्टार्ट होने के बाद से अब तक कितने विटनेसेज को एग्जामिन किया गया है.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इतने डिटेल्स में नहीं जाया जा सकता कि कितने विटनेसेज एग्जामिन हुये और किस ने क्या कहा।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May we at least know whether this enquiry will be in the nature of purely a domestic enquiry in the sense that it is limited to our own personnel of the armed forces or will the views of United States and British experts also be taken?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I think it is our own enquiry; it is not a question of consulting anybody else.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जनरल कोल की लागबुक गायब है या नहीं। क्या एनक्वायरी से इसका पता चला है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपका सवाल क्या है ?

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : एक लाग बुक होती है जिसमें जो आर्डर दिये जाते हैं, वे लिखे जाते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जनरल कोल की वह लाग बुक मौजूद है या गायब हो गयी है।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Sir, no names should be brought in.

श्री पुत्र्याल राव : इस सवाल का उससे कोई संबंध नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह कहना तो मिनिस्टर का प्रविलेज है, आप कैसे बोलने लगे।

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Sir, I was surprised to hear this question because we have never heard any complaint or even suspicion about the absence or loss of the log book.

Anti-Indian Propaganda by Chinese Embassy in Colombo

*432. **Shri R. G. Dubey:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Embassy in Colombo has prepared a booklet vilifying India and her Prime Minister;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the publication of the said booklet involves a breach of diplomatic etiquette; and

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. A booklet captioned "More on Nehru's Philosophy" was recently published by the Chinese Embassy in Ceylon.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The High Commission of India in Ceylon had immediately drawn the attention of the Ceylonese Government to the breach of diplomatic

etiquette involved in the publication of this booklet by the Chinese Embassy. The Govt. of Ceylon have since expressed their regret for any embarrassment caused to the Govt. of India as a result of the publication and distribution of the pamphlet.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know what are the main features of the booklet and in what way it is damaging to India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is difficult for me, Sir, to give the details of the whole booklet.

Mr. Speaker: Otherwise too, we do not want it to be published and made known to the people; why should we ask for them here?

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know whether the Ceylonese Government have taken further steps to prevent its circulation?

Shri Dinesh Singh: The Ceylonese Government has brought this fact to the notice of the diplomatic mission concerned and requested.....

Mr. Speaker: Such a step might be taken, namely, the circulation might be stopped.

Shri Dinesh Singh: That is what I was mentioning. They have informed the diplomatic mission concerned that such kinds of books should not be circulated.

Mr. Speaker Shri Thirumala Rao.

Shri Thirumala Rao: My question has been covered.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this booklet, namely, "More on Mr. Nehru's Philosophy" is an absurd, abusive book, may I know whether it has been ascertained from the Ceylonese Government that they have not only stopped the circulation of this book but have also asked the party concerned to withdraw the book from places to which it has been circulated in Ceylon?