

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 25, 1965/Bhadra 3,
1887 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Autonomy to Assam Hill Districts

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Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Kindar Lal:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri D. N. Tiwary:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
*180. Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Ravindra Varma:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
Shrimati Renuka Barka-
taksi:
Shri J. B. S. Bist:
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri H. C. Soy:
Shri Bagri:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission ap-
pointed to examine the measures
necessary for reorganising the admi-
nistrative set-up of the Hill Areas of
Assam has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the salient features there-
of?

The Minister of State in the Minis-
try of Home Affairs (Shri Hathi):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know
whether it is a fact that, in the
course of the tour of the Commission
to different hill districts of Assam
and also from the Memorandum sub-
mitted to it, it has been revealed that
there were sharp differences of opi-
nion regarding the measure and
nature of autonomy demanded by
various hill districts? How many
hill districts and how many parties
are there who have taken a different
line of approach from that of the All
Party Hill Leaders Conference?

Shri Hathi: So far as the Commis-
sion is concerned, it has toured certain
areas, has sent the questionnaire and
has also received the Memorandum,
but it has not yet submitted any
interim report. It would, therefore,
not be possible for me to say as to
what measures they have in view.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is it a fact that
none of the hill parties has, up till
now, been able to precisely lay down
their demands for autonomy in a
way reconcilable to the basic need of
maintaining a Cabinet form of Gov-
ernment in the State responsible to
the Legislature and may I know what
steps Government propose to take to
save this Commission so that it does
not meet with the same fate as the
Nagaland Peace Mission?

Shri Hathi: As the hon. Member
knows, this was discussed with the
various leaders of that area and a
scheme was evolved by the late Prime
Minister. It is, more or less, on that
basis that the Commission is trying
to evolve an administrative and finan-
cial set-up for the areas. Naturally
it is now for the Commission to re-
port.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने यह गौर किया है कि भारत की रक्षा को ध्यान में रखते हुए यह जरूरी है कि असम मिलिटरी के सुर्द किया जाए, वहां मिलिटरी रूज कायम हो ?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: In the various statements and speeches, the hill leaders have always referred to other assurances given by the late Prime Minister. May I know what are the "other assurances" which are supposed to have been given by the late Prime Minister?

Shri Hathi: The assurances and the agreement that were reached at the meeting of the late Prime Minister have really been embodied in a formula and the appointment of the Commission is with regard to the implementation of that formula, which I may read out here. In the words of the Resolution:

"... The Government of India, after giving careful consideration to the needs of these areas and the necessity in the interest of the people of the hill areas themselves of enabling them to participate in the larger political and economic life of the State, have come to the conclusion that it would be desirable for the hill areas to have a full measure of autonomy subject to the preservation of the unity of Assam, the continuance of common legislature for the whole State of Assam and the maintenance of the Cabinet Government of the accepted form functioning on the basis of collective and joint responsibility to the State Assembly . . ."

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In order to allay the apprehensions of the hill people and also to preserve the unity of Assam, may I know whether the Government propose to constitute a regional committee on the pattern of Telengana Regional Committee in Andhra Pradesh so as to safeguard

the interests of the people and have their grievances redressed in a constitutional manner?

Shri Hathi: Actually the Sixth Schedule lays down as to what should be the set-up. Regional committees and district and town teams are there.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether it is a fact that the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave an assurance to the hill people that some form of regional autonomy would be granted to them on the model of Scotland and if so, what stands in the way of expediting the fulfilment of the expectation raised in the minds of those people?

Shri Hathi: Actually that is one of the terms of reference, i.e., how that could be implemented.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Is the hon. Minister aware that, in one of the districts, even now when many of the things are still to be done, all taxes are being charged from the people who are other than scheduled tribes?

Mr. Speaker: That will be a different question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: This question has been before the Government for a pretty long time. May I know whether the leaders of the hill areas are co-operating with this Commission? If so, why is it that this formula which the late Prime Minister evolved has not yet been implemented?

Shri Hathi: As I said, Sir, this was discussed with the leaders. It is to implement this formula that this Commission has been appointed in March, 1965.

उत्तरकों का उत्पादन

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श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :
श्री स० चं० सामंत :
श्री सुबोध हंसदा :
श्री बारियर :
श्री प्रभात कार :