

Mr. Speaker: He said I promised. I never did that. I have consulted the record. I do not know where the mistake has taken place.

Reports on Defences in NEFA

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*507. **Shri A. S. Alva;**
Shri Krishnapal Singh;
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an article in 'Bharat Jyoti' dated the 26th September, 1965 by Diwan Chaman Lal, M.P. to the effect that one of our Military Officers had submitted a report about strengthening our defences at strategic points in NEFA and that some copies of the same found their way to the Chinese authorities through Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have verified the truth or otherwise of the statement; and

(c) if the report is correct, the steps taken to trace the culprits and to see that such leakages as endanger the safety of the country are not repeated?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no basis for the report as all the copies of the report are intact.

(c) Does not arise.

Report on Defences of NEFA and Ladakh

*532. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether a copy of the report of the Study Group which was appointed in February, 1961 to review the problems concerning the defence of N.E.F.A. and Ladakh under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. L. P. Sen, the

then Chief of the General Staff will be laid on the Table; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Study Group are naturally of a secret nature. It would not be in public interest to disclose them on the floor of the House.

Shri A. S. Alva: May I know whether Mr. Chaman Lal or the previous Defence Minister has been approached in respect of this?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): No, Sir.

Shri A. S. Alva: In view of the strategic importance of NEFA is there any move to have a capital in NEFA itself instead of administering it from Shillong?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: This question needs to be addressed to the EA Ministry.

Shri Krishnapal Singh: In view of the alarming report—I am glad that all the copies are intact—may I know if the government will consider improving the administration of NEFA and making it an absolutely independent State with a separate capital?

Mr. Speaker: That might be considered.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Deputy Minister, if I heard him aright, denied everything and said, no, and that the copies were intact. May I invite his attention to fact that a veteran Congressman whose name is mentioned in the question captioned his article as "story of a betrayal"—I will call it a foul betraya if it were true—Why did not the government issue a contradiction at the time when the report appeared in that paper? Is it a fact that not merely Lt. Gen. Sen but before him Gen. Thimmayya also gave a blueprint or plan for the defence of NEFA and

that was turned down by the then Defence Minister? Is this matter referred to in the *post mortem* enquiry by Maj. Gen. Henderson Brookes?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: The hon. Member has raised half a dozen questions and I will try to answer them.

Mr. Speaker: In which case, the hon. Minister is at liberty to answer any part.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I would like to answer as many as I can, I am not complaining about it; I am merely making a statement of fact. The point is that I personally saw this allegation only when I received this question and therefore there was no question of contradicting it when it appeared in the article. Secondly, Gen. Thimmayya or many other officers who were in charge of those areas then, and Gen. Thimmayya who was Chief of Army Staff then, naturally had on many occasions to consider the question of defence of the area, and they may have made their own suggestions to be considered from time to time. But there was no question of their being made a reference to in the NEFA enquiry has not disclosed any discussion or consideration... (*Interruptions.*)

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: If you do not want, we do not compel. Otherwise, you must tell the House, the country and the nation.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have no information as to whether the then Defence Minister at a particular time specifically rejected any specific idea.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Henderson Brookes's report refers to it or not.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: No.

Mr. Speaker: No fresh questions to be solicited and answered.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: May I submit, Sir, that you are too narrow in your construction. Here is one question which helps the nation. Why

be restrictive about the scope of the question?

Shri Nath Pai: Before you proceed, the hon. Defence Minister said that he did not see the article. Mr. Speaker, I quite appreciate it; I do not expect the busy defence Minister to go on reading everything but there is a whole paraphernalia attached to his Ministry. Did not anybody read it? Do they read only their own writings? I can understand if he has not read it; what did the department do? This was such an important matter. Why did not any contradiction come from one of the officials. He was a veteran congressman.

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Dwivedy.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: In that article it has been specifically mentioned that 16 maps which were all about the strategic points of defence in NEFA were there; 15 of them were submitted to the then Defence Minister and one was locked up in the Secretariat. It states that those 15 are lost; they have gone over to Pakistan and through Pakistan to China. I want to know specifically about the maps mentioned. Has he asked that particular member how he came to know about these maps? He has replied only about the report. This is about the maps mentioned in the article.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I am referring to the reports and if the reports have any maps—all those appendices and annexures, whatever they had—those reports with the annexures are intact. That is what I want to say. There was no question of anybody taking it, because the maps that the report contained are not something which are not known to the public; those are the general type of maps, and so the feeling that somebody has conveyed them to China, etc., is completely unfounded. I know the seriousness of the allegation, and the serious consequences, if such a thing happens. I would request the hon. House and the

hon. Members to believe me when I say that, because this certainly involves a very important national security problem, if there was any truth in it, I would never try to conceal it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He led a delegation of Members of Parliament to Africa. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. They should not interfere in this manner. If some hon. Members, without being called, put the question, as they like, how can I go on? I have requested so many times that there ought to be orderliness and some discipline. (*Interruption*). Order, order. There is one thing that I would ask of the Minister. Even though they had found that everything was intact, and nothing has been lost, then too, why should a responsible Member who is really leading one of our delegations to represent our case outside, in foreign countries, say that? What justification had he to give that article? That also should be enquired into at least by the Government.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: That certainly needs to be done. I quite agree; but I will have to personally contact him and find out whether he has any special evidence. I will do that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Prime Minister do it?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: That the strategic points in NEFA had to be defended was mentioned in that article. May I know if the Government have noted that a large group of Naga hostiles have again crossed over into Burma and then to Pakistan from these very gaps, which are sought to be closed, for further training—and that has been happening for the last six to seven years—and may I know what action Government propose to take?

Mr. Speaker: How is that relevant here?

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the hon. Defence Minister kindly finally dispel our anxieties on this point by telling us specifically whether the number of copies which is put in that allegation by Mr. Dewan Chamanlal as 16—of which he says 15 were missing and the Deputy Minister has stated that all the copies are intact—is actually 16 or is less or more than that?

Dr. D. S. Raju: 24 copies were prepared and all of them are intact.

Shri P. C. Berooah: Both in manner and customs, the people of NEFA who are residing on the Indian side of the border are akin to those who are living on the Tibetan side of the border and the Chinese agents do find it convenient to contact those people for indoctrination and so on, and therefore, may I know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to this fact, and, if not, will the Government kindly make enquiries?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I will require notice about this particular thing, because he has mentioned certain facts, of which I have no information.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जैसा कि पंडित नेहरू और करनल नासिर की कार्रसपांडेंस के मामले में हुआ कि कापियां ज्यों की त्यों रहीं लेकिन शादी लाल कपूर ने रात को जा कर दुश्मन को सारी नकल करवा दी, वैसे ही इस मामले में कापियां आप के पास रहे लेकिन सेंटर दुश्मन के पास पहुँच जाए इसका क्या उपाय है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल तो रिपोर्ट का है ।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether one of the recommendations in this report was in regard to the raising of two mountain battalions immediately for the security of NEFA.

Mr. Speaker: This is not what is contained in the report; this is about information being passed on to China.

Indian Policemen killed by Chinese

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*508. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:**
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:

Will the Minister of **External Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Chinese troops killed three Indian policemen who were reported missing after a firing incident at Jaskar in Ladakh on the 19th September, 1965;

(b) if so, the circumstances in which the three Indian policemen were abducted and killed by the Chinese; and

(c) the action taken by Government in regard thereto?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). On September 19, 1965 a party of 30 Chinese soldiers intruded across the "Line of Actual Control" and forcibly kidnapped and killed 3 Indian policemen who were on routine patrol duty near our Tsaskur Post. The Government of India protested against this and demanded the bodies of the policemen which were returned by the Chinese on October 10.

Copies of notes exchanged between India and China regarding the Chinese intrusion at Tsaskur are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5250/65].

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Since, from the copy of the correspondence which has been laid on the Table of the House, it appears that not only did the Chinese intrude into our territory but they ransacked the civil post well within the Indian territory and abducted Indian policemen and killed them, may I know whether the Prime Minister or the Defence Minister is

in a position to say why no retaliatory or punitive action was taken in respect of these Chinese activities inside the Indian territory?

Shri Swaran Singh: All defensive actions have been taken from time to time; in spite of that, some incidents have happened at the border, and if the dates are kept in view, it will be noticed that this is the time when the Chinese had given that highly provocative ultimatum and the highly provocative note, to India; we were in the height of our conflict—India and Pakistan—at that time; the conflict was at its height at that time.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: The last note sent by the Government of India to the Chinese Government says that the Government reserves the right to demand full compensation for the damage done to Indian life and property inflicted by the intruding Chinese troops. But what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in this respect?

Shri Swaran Singh: The action that has been taken is what is mentioned in the note. No separate action has been taken, and what is proposed to be taken also is indicated there: that we reserve the right to claim compensation.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Sir, on a point of order. The statement that they reserve the right is not the action that is proposed to be taken. We want to know whether any action in pursuance of this reservation made by the Government is proposed to be taken. That must categorically come before the House.

Shri Swaran Singh: The action proposed to be taken is to claim compensation at some appropriate time. That is what has been mentioned here also.

Shri P. C. Borooah: In view of the fact that the intrusions into Indian territory by the Chinese forces have of late become a daily feature, may I know if the Government sees the inevitability of a renewed attack on