

lampoons India as a whole, why is it that Government have not decided to take any drastic action against this? We do not want to be called 'liars'.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): As the hon. Member is aware, three issues were confiscated. As regards the 24th issue, I have not seen it. Anyhow, if action is needed, the same action will have to be taken against that issue also. However, as he knows, generally under our present rules, we cannot prevent publication of any journal. But action could be taken against statements or articles which are prejudicial to the interests, security and safety of the country. We have looked into this matter as to how to proceed in the matter. There are different ways. But we do want to take some action in this regard.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that certain issues of *China Today* are proscribed, may I know whether Government have taken the trouble to collect those issues that might be lying with the Chinese Embassy here or with the printing press here?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: As for the Chinese Embassy, it is, of course, a different matter. But as regards the press, the Delhi authorities did make a number of searches and went to different places. They have not been able to secure any copy.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In view of the fact that there has invariably been a considerable time-lag between the publication and circulation of *China Today* on the one hand and its proscription and forfeiture on the other, is it a fact that the police authorities have reported to Government that it is somewhat difficult to implement the ban order, because copies once circulated cannot be easily seized and forfeited to Government?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: That may be so.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: In reply to (d) and (e) of question No. 1614,

it is stated that the matter is under consideration. May I know the basis and the point on which this consideration is proceeding?

Mr. Speaker: Why should he insist on Government disclosing it?

श्री भक्त दर्शन श्रीमान्, क्या इस "चिना टुडे" का कोई हिन्दी संस्करण भी प्रकाशित होता है, और यदि होता है तो क्या उसे भी जप्त किया गया है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : जी हाँ, "आज का चीन" के नाम से निकलता है, और उसे भी जप्त किया गया है ।

Shri Tyagi: I heard the hon. Minister say that there was no law which could enable him to check this type of tendencies which are leading towards treason. If that is so, could not the hon. Minister come out with a proposal and get the sanction of Parliament so that he may be fully authorised to stop this treason in the country?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I did not say that we cannot take action in such cases. I merely said that we have got full freedom of speech and writing in our country.

Shri Tyagi: For Indians, or for foreigners also?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: This, of course, concerns Indians. I said we therefore do not prevent the publication of any paper. However, as I said, if something objectionable is written, which is against the law, we have to take action against the publication.

Foreign Tourists

*1602. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints from foreign tourists about difficulties experienced by them at the customs; and

(b) if so, what decisions, if any, have been taken by the Government to improve the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) The Government of India have received some complaints from foreign tourists about difficulties said to have been experienced by them in customs clearance.

(b) It is the Government of India's policy to show all courtesy and consideration to all persons passing through customs check and to clear them through the customs expeditiously. Instructions already exist to this effect to all Customs officials. The complaints whenever they are received are looked into promptly and remedial action taken when necessary.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that it takes almost a day for taking customs clearance and a week's time for import clearance of articles carried by tourists and thus they are put to much inconvenience because they are scheduled to stay in a place only for two or three days? What steps are Government taking to remove these difficulties?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We maintain a log book each time the tourists are cleared and we inspect it very carefully. So far as the tourists are concerned, about 95 per cent of them are cleared within 40 minutes, and their personal baggage is also cleared along with them, but if they are importing with them certain articles into which investigations are required, certainly that takes some time.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the public relations officers posted at different places are not conversant with the import and customs rules and so they cannot give assistance to these people? If so, what steps are Government taking to make the public relations officers conversant with these rules?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Generally the public relations officers are carefully

selected and they are quite adept in dealing with the public in an efficient way, but for the information of the hon. Member may I say that we are creating a special pool of customs and central excise officers who will be selected with an eye on quality as well as their tact and efficiency in handling tourists and other personnel, for being kept at these various airports where the foreign tourists come in large numbers, and we hope with this special selection of men of experience, the complaints of discourtesy or undue delay will be very much minimised.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether the facilities that are given at the customs clearance to foreign tourists are given publicity in our Embassies and other offices in foreign lands?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Our Tourist Department and other departments concerned are taking all measures to publicise them.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: The hon. Minister said that complaints had been received. May I know whether an enquiry into these complaints has established the genuineness of the complaints or that what was done was according to our customs rules?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: In some cases the complaints may be genuine, the other complaints are frivolous.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Has any analysis been made of these complaints? Is the Government aware that customs clearance takes eight to ten hours usually for the accompanied baggage of the foreigners?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: As I said, we have a separate log book for each clearance, the clearance of each plane, and the study shows that 95 per cent of the cases are cleared within 40 minutes. The House may be aware that there are some smugglers among the tourists. When we have some

information or when we have some suspicion, we have to take care. Generally the complaints are in those cases in which we have some suspicion.

Shri Morarka: May I know whether the complaints originate from all the airports or any airport in particular?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Some airports.

Mr. Speaker: Shri S. M. Banerjee---absent. Next question.

Shri Iqbal Singh: May I know whether the taxation proposals of the State Governments can be discussed in this House, and further, whether the reactions on the taxation proposals of the State Governments can be discussed in this House or not? I want your ruling on this point.

Mr. Speaker: The question is not before the House. Next question.

Bank of China

*1604. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of China continues to operate in India;

(b) if so, what restrictions have been imposed on its functioning;

(c) whether any further measures are contemplated in view of the worsening of India-China relations;

(d) whether some of the employees of the Bank have been ordered to leave India; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a). Yes.

(b). The licence issued to the Bank of China to deal in foreign exchange was withdrawn by the Reserve Bank from the 28th December, 1961.

(c). The question of taking suitable action will arise if any of the provisions of the Banking Companies Act, 1949 are contravened.

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(d) and (c). Some employees whose activities have been found objectionable have been ordered to leave India under the provisions of the Foreigners Act.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How many Indians are employed in the Bank of China, and as distinct from employees, has the Government got any information as to whether other Indians have got any dealings or transactions with the Bank of China, or does it cater mainly or only to the needs of the Chinese community in India?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: At the end of December, 1961, the total staff employed by the bank was 88, of whom 31 were Indians and the rest non-Indians. The Reserve Bank is making efforts to get the bank to increase the number of Indians on the staff.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The other part of the question has not been answered—whether the Government has got information to show whether other Indians have got any dealings with the Bank of China—business dealings—apart from the employees.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: I do not have that information.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Has Government received reports from the West Bengal Government or from other sources to the effect that the Bank of China in Calcutta and Bombay has been indulging in subversive and espionage activities or at least in prejudicial and undesirable activities and, if so, in the context of the present India-China relations and the lapse of the 1954 trade agreement....

Mr. Speaker: After "if so," he must come to the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: And if so, with the lapse of the 1954 trade