

इसलिये इस प्रकार की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। उस संबंध में मैं मैंने जानना चाहा है कि क्या वह चीज सर्वथा समाप्त हो गई है अथवा वह प्रश्न सरकार के सभी भी विचाराधीन है।

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : क्षेत्रीय परिषद् की की बात कहां से आई, मैं नहीं जानता। कुछ अखबारों में यह चीज छप गई है, लेकिन यह बात मेरे दिमाग से तो निकली नहीं। मगर कोई बात बुनियात में हमेशा के लिये समाप्त नहीं होती।

L.A.F. Officers in Naga Custody

+
*88. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the four L.A.F. Officers captured by Naga hostiles have not yet been released;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to secure their release; and

(c) whether any information has been received regarding their condition?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government have and will continue to utilise all channels of effort in this regard. It is not in the public interest to give details.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Has Government's attention been drawn to the news which has been published recently in various newspapers in the country that the wife of one of the IAF officers, Mr. Misra, is in correspondence with Phizo and also the Governor of Assam?

Shri Krishna Menon: Sir, I could not hear the question.

Mr. Speaker: He said that the wife of one of the officers is in communication with Phizo; that was what I could gather.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: And the Governor of Assam also.

Shri Krishna Menon: Sir, we cannot vouch for the authenticity of these letters. Sometimes letters are sent even with the signatures of prisoners. They may or may not be right. Some efforts, as is well known, are made by the International Red Cross, and it is not our intention to interfere with their efforts.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Is it true that these IAF officers are now somewhere in the Burmese jungle?

Shri Krishna Menon: There has been a newspaper story to this effect, that they have been released in Burmese territory. But we have not been able to get any confirmation.

Shri Basumatari: Does the hon. Defence Minister know whether these officers are alive or dead?

Shri Krishna Menon: Our information is that they are alive.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is the hon. Minister in a position to assure the House that this type of activity on the part of hostile Nagas.....

Mr. Speaker: Assurances are seldom given in the Question Hour. It is not usual to ask for assurances during the Question Hour.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: When I was here in the First Lok Sabha, they were sought and given.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Probably we have learned more in his absence.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I hope so.

Is it a fact that this type of activity on the part of hostile Nagas has not yet been completely checked?

Shri Krishna Menon: This is a question about prisoners, where they are and not about the whole Nagas.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I did not catch the answer.

Mr. Speaker: That the question was about the prisoners that are there and not about the general question of the activities of the Nagas that are going on there.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I submit, Sir, in all humility that I asked a question about this particular type of activity only and not beyond that.

Mr. Speaker: Even then, if a question is specific, about a particular fact we will have to confine ourselves to that fact alone and not go further and wider because then perhaps we will be entering into fields that....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Do not collateral matters arise?

Mr. Speaker: Then he will leave that to me, when that arises and when that does not.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: We are in your hands.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Naga hostiles are demanding ransom through different channels for the release of these IAF men in custody; if so, why is it, since ransom is paid against war hostages also, that the Government has not explored this possibility of getting their release?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is against public policy to ransom prisoners in that way.

Shri Hem Barua: I did not hear.

Mr. Speaker: It is against public policy to pay ransom.

Shri Daji: Sir, I do not want to refer to any vague report published in any newspaper, but I would like to know whether the Government has read the report on the Press Conference with the Commandant of the area saying that the IAF officers held by the Naga hostiles have been lodged in the Burmese area? This is the

Press Conference by the Commandant of that area. If that is so, may I know whether the Government has assured itself of the truth of this and what steps are being taken with the Burmese Government to see that our IAF men are not held in the Burmese area?

Shri Krishna Menon: Sir, I think, I mentioned this, that we received a signal from the Military Attache in Rangoon which informed us that our Embassy had received an unconfirmed report that these Naga hostiles have released our IAF officers in Burmese territory, we sought confirmation on that from the Burmese Government but there is no confirmation. These Naga hostiles put out these various stories in order to confuse us.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nambiar: May I put a supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: I have just sought the indulgence of the House that wrongly or rightly when I pass on to the next question, no attempt should be made to drag me back. Now Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Increase in D.A. of Government Employees

+
 Shri Nambiar:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri P. C. Borooah;
 *89. Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Balkrishna Wasnik:
 Shri Basappa:
 Shri B. C. Seth:
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 79 on the 15th March, 1982 and state:

(a) whether Dearness Allowance in respect of Central Government Employees has been increased; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?