

**Occupation of Ladakhi Territory by
Chinese Forces**

S.N.Q. { Shri Badha Mohan Singh:
No. 4. { Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:
 { Shri P. C. Borooah:
 { Shri Anwar:
 { Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:
 { Shri Goray:
 { Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a portion of the Ladakhi territory has been recently occupied by the Chinese forces; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). There is a large area in Eastern and North-Eastern Ladakh which is practically uninhabited. It is mountainous, and even the valleys are at a high altitude generally exceeding 13,000 ft. To some extent, shepherds use it during the summer months for grazing purposes. The Government of India have some police check-posts in this area, but because of the difficulties of terrain most of these posts are at some distance from the international border.

2. Some reports reached us between October, 1957 and February, 1958 that a Chinese detachment had crossed the international frontier and visited Khurnak Fort, which is within Indian territory. The attention of the Chinese Government was drawn to this, and they were asked to desist from entering our territory. They were also informed of our intention to send a reconnaissance party in that area. It may be mentioned that there is no physical demarcation of the frontier in these mountainous passes, although our maps are quite clear on this subject.

3. Thereafter, at the end of July, 1960, that is, last month, a small

Indian reconnaissance police party was sent to this area. As this party consisting of an officer and five others was proceeding towards the Khurnak Fort, it was apprehended by a stronger Chinese detachment on the 28th July, some miles from the border inside our territory. It appeared that the Chinese had established a camp at a place called Spanggur well within Indian territory.

4. On learning of this, a protest was immediately lodged with the Chinese Government of the violation of our frontier and the release of our reconnaissance party was asked for. In their reply, the Chinese claimed that that part of the territory was theirs, but added that they would release the persons who had been apprehended. We sent a further note to them expressing surprise at this claim and giving them the exact delineation of the traditional international frontier in this sector. We urged once again that the Chinese party well within our territory should be withdrawn. No reply has yet been received to this note. Our party was released on the 18th August.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this place is about fifteen miles within our territory and also whether this is the only place which is under occupation by the Chinese troops or they have occupied some other areas also?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is somewhat difficult to deal with this question as an adjunct to the main question. Of course, there have been some frontier troubles in two or three places widely separated; and it would be hardly correct to say that our area is under occupation of the Chinese, that is, under any kind of a fixed occupation. But their patrols have come within our territory two miles or three miles or thereabouts. That is our knowledge, so far as we know.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the news item published in the Assam Tribune of 28th inst. that one

thousand Chinese troops equipped with the most modern weapons entered Indian territory in the NEFA, and the Chinese flag had been hoisted there?

Mr. Speaker: The main question refers to Ladakh.

Shri Goray: On this issue, there is an adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right; but that does not refer to Ladakh. There is no meaning in expanding a particular question

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say that there is likely to be very considerable confusion if we mix up these various areas?

Mr. Speaker: I have got an adjournment motion here on that, and I shall presently be asking the hon Prime Minister as to what he has to say on that

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What the hon. Member has just referred to is an entirely different area, and the statement in the Assam Tribune is entirely wrong, if I may say so

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly confine themselves to the occupation of the Ladakhi area. There are other questions with respect to the other areas, and we shall come to them.

Shri Goray: May we know whether the Chinese had built a road across this territory joining Gartok with Yarkand and whether this road has been there for the last year or so? It passes through the Ladakhi territory

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, that is in northern Ladakh, not exactly near this place but anyhow in the Ladakhi territory.

About a year or two ago, the Chinese had built a road from Gartok towards Yarkand, that is, Chinese Turkestan; and the report was that this road passed through a corner of our north-eastern Ladakhi territory.

The House will appreciate that these areas are extraordinarily remote, almost inaccessible, and even if they can be approached, it takes weeks and weeks to march and get there.

In that connection, a reconnaissance party was sent there. I cannot exactly say when, but I think it was a little over a year ago, some time last year; I could give the exact date, but that is immaterial here; this reconnaissance party was sent there. In fact, two parties were sent; one of them did not return and the other returned

An Hon. Member: What happened to them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: When it did not return we waited for it for two or three weeks, because these were remote areas. When it did not return, we suspected that it might have been apprehended or captured by Chinese authorities on the border.

So, we addressed, the Chinese authorities, this was more than a year ago; we addressed them about a month after this incident, and they said, yes, some of our people had violated their border and come into their territory, and they had been apprehended, but because of their relations with us etc they were going to release them, and they did release them afterwards, that is, after they had been with them about a month or so. That is concerning this road about which the hon. Member was enquiring. In all this area, there is no actual demarcation. So far as we are concerned, our maps are clear that this is within the territory of the Union of India. It may be that some of the parts are not clearly demarcated or anything like that. But obviously, if there is any dispute over any particular area, that is a matter to be discussed.

I may say that this area has nothing to do with the MacMahon Line. The MacMahon Line does not extend to the Ladakh area, it is only on the other side. This was the boundary of the old Kashmir State with Tibet

and Chinese Turkestan. Nobody had marked it. But after some kind of broad surveys, the then Government had laid down that border which we have been accepting and acknowledging.

Shri Goray: Does it mean that in parts of our country which are inaccessible, any nation can come and build roads and camp there? We just send our parties, they apprehend the parties and because of our good relations, they release them. That is all? The road remains there, the occupation remains there and we do not do anything about it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know if the hon. Member expects me to reply to that. There are two or three types of cases here. These are border and frontier questions. In regard to some parts of the border, there can be no doubt from any side that it is our border. If anybody violates it, then it is a challenge to us. There are other parts regarding which it is rather difficult to say where the immediate border is, although broadly it may be known. But it is very difficult even in a map to indicate it, if a big line is drawn, that line itself covers three or four miles, one might say, in a major map. Then there are other parts still where there has been no demarcation in the past. Nobody was interested in that area. Therefore, it is a matter now—it should be a matter—for consideration of the data etc. by the two parties concerned and decision taken in a normal way, as and when there is some kind of a frontier dispute.

In this particular matter, we have been carrying on since then our correspondence, concerning this particular North-East area, and suggesting that this should be considered by the two Governments.

Shri Vajpayee: The hon. Prime Minister just now said that if anyone occupies our territory, it is a challenge. May I know what positive steps are being taken, or have been taken, to

enforce security measures on this border area?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Which border area?

Mr. Speaker: The Ladakh area. All the questions now will be confined to this area.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are thousands of miles of border. The hon. Member should be a little more specific in his question. If he is referring to this particular corner, the Achin area, that is an area about some parts of which, if I may say so, it is not quite clear what the position is. It is not at all that particular area. About other areas, the position is quite clear. The difficulty comes in regarding some places where there is no absolute certainty about it, in other places, we are quite clear and certain about it. The border is, I believe, 2500 miles long.

Shrimati Masda Ahmed: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of the President, 'Azad' Kashmir, blaming India for the Chinese occupation of Ladakh and urging the Security Council to take over the responsibility of the frontiers of Jammu and Kashmir? If so, what is the reaction of Government to that?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I believe I did hear about it. I attach no importance to it.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I would like to know if these troubles on the border are over the same areas of our territory which the Chinese had indicated as their territory in their maps, and if so, the implication thereof.

Mr. Speaker: Any further encroachments within the limits of the map?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This particular question that I answered related to one area. There are other areas to which we have had, and we are, in fact, having, some trouble now. I

do not want to mix it up with this. Then there will be confusion in one's mind. This is a frontier of over 2,000 miles.

Shri Vajpayee: What is the use of repeating that it is a long frontier? Are we not in a position to defend it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. No harsh words need be used.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I was only venturing to say that by putting two or three places together, there would be confusion in the members' minds. Let us take them separately so that they may be separate compartments. There is no question of defence or not. For instance take the Assam Tribune's statement. There is utter confusion in the Assam Tribune's mind about various territories which are thousands of miles apart which have nothing to do with each other. It has lumped them up and said—I believe in the statement in the Assam Tribune—that 1,000 Chinese came over the Nathula Pass in the Kamerg Frontier Division. It shows utter confusion in the mind of the writer of this. He does not know his geography, although he lives in Assam. It has nothing to do with it. The Nathula Pass is between Sikkim and Tibet and nothing has happened there. Nobody has come across there. It is said that a thousand men came there and put up the Chinese flag. It is completely baseless—I am referring to the statement so far as Nathula Pass is concerned. So far as I know, I have not heard of a Chinese flag being hoisted anywhere there.

As I was saying, there have been cases, and there are continuing cases in one or two places, of Chinese aggression. Therefore, I want to keep these separate so as not to produce confusion in the mind of hon. Members here. If this question is over, I shall proceed to the other question and deal with as they come.

Mr. Speaker: I thought the hon. lady Member wanted to know if any portion of Ladakh is included in the

map prepared by the Chinese Government and if this is beyond that line even with respect to Ladakh. That was that I thought when I allowed the supplementary.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Chinese Government's maps are on such a small scale and in broad splashes that some parts of Ladakh appear to be included in them. But they are not accurate enough. What we are discussing, and the question which I have answered, relates to about two or three miles. Two or three miles are not visible in those maps. But it is a fact that part of Ladakh is broadly covered by the wide sweep of their maps.

Some Hon Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know if the camps that have been put up by the Chinese have been removed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Chinese Propaganda about Bhutan and Sikkim

S.N.Q. { Dr Ram Subhag Singh:
No. 5 { Shri Raghubir Sahai:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have seen reports in the press about Chinese propaganda in Sikkim that Bhutan and Sikkim were part of Chinese territory in the past and are bound to return to the Chinese mother-land within the next few years; and

(b) if so, what action Government of India propose to take to remove the anxiety created by these reports among the people of Sikkim and Bhutan and border territories in India?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). We have seen