

so the Committee recommended against any development research in this country. We revised it only this year.

Naga Hostiles

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*466. { Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nine army officials were killed by the hostile Nagas in the second week of October, 1959 at Chakasang in Kohima area; and

(b) if so, the broad details of the incident?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On the 14th October, 1959 at about 7.30 a.m., an Army convoy consisting of five jeeps, was ambushed by approximately 200 armed hostiles on the Sathazumi-Kilami road (18 and 24 miles North East of Kohima respectively). As a result, one Army Medical Officer and eight other ranks were killed and eighteen other ranks were wounded.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: In view of the incident and the reply given just now by the hon. Minister, it is evident that our Army men were overpowered by the hostiles. May I know whether our Army men were equipped with necessary arms or they were only a shadow of an Army?....
(Interruptions).

Shri Krishna Menon: The Army men are always equipped as best as possible.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: In view of the fact that the Chinese incursions at our border is coincidence of the Naga hostilities within the Indian Union, may I know whether the Government is alive to these trends of events?

Shri Krishna Menon: There is no evidence of this connection in this particular incident. Naturally, the Government is alive to all the developments that take place in the frontier.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the Naga hostiles who are granted amnesty are in active co-operation with the underground hostiles and they are giving all information about the movement of our troops, of our Army?

Shri Krishna Menon: We have no such information but I will enquire into this.

Shri Hem Barua: Is it a fact that Phizo is directing all these hostile activities against our Army from his hide-out in an un-administered area in the Indo-Burma frontier? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to nail down Phizo so that these things may not occur again?

Shri Krishna Menon: It is a question of operational activity. I am sure he would not expect me to answer it.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether any one who is involved in this incident had been apprehended or arrested?

Shri Krishna Menon: As a precautionary measure, the Deputy Commissioner, Kohima enforced curfew. We have no information that the people concerned have been apprehended. The question of apprehension does not arise. If they are found, they will be shot.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether this convoy that was overpowered by the 200 armed Nagas was sufficiently equipped with arms and ammunition to face any situation?

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, Sir but that is the nature of the terrain in that territory. It is possible for our troops to be overpowered on account of the nature of the terrain in

the jungle. That is in keeping with all the casualties that we have suffered.

Shri Hem Barua: As the Naga hostiles have a particular *modus operandi* may I know whether the Government have tried to discover or find out this *modus operandi* and face the situation?

Mr. Speaker: How else will they do? What is the meaning of this question? The Government will certainly try to do that. Next question.

Pipe Factory at Chavara (Kerala)

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*466. { **Shri Nagi Reddy:**
 { **Shri Ramam:**
 { **Shri V. P. Nayar:**

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pipe factory at Chavara handed over to the Kerala State Government by the Norwegian Project Administration has been recommissioned;

(b) what were the arrangements made for payment of wages to the workers during the period of closure;

(c) whether there are any plans to enlarge the production of the factory?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) No.

(b) It was decided to retrench all the staff and the workmen of the factory except a skeleton staff to attend to the upkeep of the machinery and buildings of the factory: and to pay the retrenched staff their retrenchment benefits according to rules.

(c) The question of enlarging the production of the factory can be considered only after the factory restarts its work.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know the date on which the factory was closed?

Shri G. B. Pant: The factory was closed, I think, sometime in the month of September.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What was the number of labourers regularly employed in that factory subsequent to this closure?

Shri G. B. Pant: The number of workmen there is not known to me. But that was a temporary factory consisting of temporary establishment under the Indo-Norwegian project for manufacturing premo pipes of a special type for special purpose and when that was achieved the factory had no specific work to do and the raw material also was not available. Ultimately in a conference which was attended by the officers of the Public Health Engineering Department of the factory, the President of the Factory Workers' Union and the President of the AITUC, it was decided that in view of the indefinite closure of the factory all the staff and workmen of the factory except a skeleton staff to attend to the upkeep of machinery and buildings of the factory should be retrenched, and that the staff and workmen so retrenched should be paid their retrenchment benefit. This decision was taken in consultation with the representatives of the AITUC and Public Health Engineering Department.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it a fact that this factory was specially set up for the purpose of supplying the requirements of pipes for the water-supply scheme to benefit the entire coastal tract of Quilon district; if so, may I know whether it is not a fact that the work is now held up for want of this material?

Shri G. B. Pant: I understand that 5,400 premo units of 28" diameter have been manufactured, and at present perhaps that is the number that is needed.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that this factory was only making water mains and it was not making any other pipes required for the scheme with the result that the scheme cannot be pushed through now?