

Shri Manubhai Shah: I think the decision of the Government should be available within three months or so.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There is a genuine fear in the minds of workers that modernisation will result in the elimination of human labour. May I know whether before taking a final decision the various trade union organisations will be taken into confidence?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The matter is obvious. We have always had the policy of modernisation or rehabilitation without retrenchment and subject to the decision of the Indian Labour Conference. All these things are being worked out. Therefore there is no question of any further assurance on that account.

Arrest of Kashmiri Muslims in Tibet

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*690. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri P. K. Deo:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Muslim leaders of Kashmir were recently arrested in Lhasa by the Chinese authorities;

(b) if so, what is their number;

(c) whether they are kept in Lhasa jails or have been taken elsewhere; and

(d) whether Government have received any intimation from the Chinese authorities about those Muslim leaders?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Recently there has been no arrest of Kashmiri Muslims in Tibet.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Q. No. 703 and Q. No. 690 are the same questions. One relates to Kashmiri Muslims from Tibet and the other to arrest of

Kashmiri Muslims in Tibet. They may be taken together.

Mr. Speaker: Q. No. 703 may also be answered along with this.

Kashmiri Muslims from Tibet

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*703. { **Shri Subiman Ghose:**
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Wodeyar:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there has been renewed migration of Kashmiri Muslims from Lhasa;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the causes of sudden influx and recent migration; and

(c) the number of Kashmiri Muslims who have since come to India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) A number of Kashmiri Muslims have come from Tibet to India recently.

(b) For the last year and a half these Kashmiri Muslims have been trying to return to India. The Chinese authorities raised some difficulties in regard to their return claiming that they were Chinese nationals. In the White Papers I to IV on Sino-Indian relations, a number of Notes have been published in regard to this matter. In September, 1960 these Kashmiri Muslims were permitted by the Chinese authorities to leave Tibet.

(c) Approximately 675.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know if the Ladakhi Muslims who were arrested there some time ago, not exactly recently, have been kept in Lhasa Jail or somewhere else and whether our Consulate people or

anybody else have succeeded in contacting them?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): A large number of these Muslims from Ladakh have now been allowed to come to India. They are in India in fact. I cannot say where they were kept. They were there in some kind of detention. It was obviously detention. Some were not in detention at all. But they had to report themselves. Some, I believe, are still there. I do not know what further information the hon. Member requires.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is mentioned in the White Paper that some persons were arrested and sentenced to 10 or 15 years imprisonment. Has any of our officials contacted them in Jail or at least approached the Chinese Government to contact them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think any of our officials were permitted to pay visits to the prison. The Chinese case was that these people were Chinese nationals. They denied the fact that they were Indian nationals. But ultimately owing to our pursuing this matter for months and months, they have allowed a large number of them—the number is given there—to come to India. They are now in India. How many are left behind, I do not know.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is precisely my point. Previously when the Chinese did not admit them to be Indian nationals, they arrested their leaders and sentenced them to 10 to 15 years rigorous imprisonment. Now are they going to consider the cases of those sentenced persons *de novo* or not because now they have taken up the stand that they can return to India?

Mr. Speaker: Are they kept in jail?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Indian Consul General at Lhasa had been repeatedly requesting the Foreign Bureau for the release of Kashmiris still under detention and also to

facilitate their return to India. The Foreign Bureau has, however, refused to entertain the Consul General's representations stating that the arrested persons were not Indian nationals. The Consul General will, however, continue to press for their release. They are still there.

Shri Vajpayee: What is the number of those who are detained in Tibet? Are we not in a position even to ascertain their number?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: There are about eleven Kashmiris arrested by the Chinese authorities in Tibet. Recently there have been no arrests. But at present three persons are undergoing imprisonment, four are in detention camp and the remaining four were released on different dates.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that some of these Kashmiri Muslims in Tibet were subject to a vigorous syllabus of political education on the line that India is an expansionist country who grabs other peoples' territory and it is India who instigated the revolt in Tibet? If so, what steps have Government taken to rewash the brains of those who have come back?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Braj Raj Singh.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, is it not important?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

Shri Hem Barua: Some of the Kashmiri Muslims who have come back . . .

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member asks some questions merely for the purpose of asking them here. What answer does he expect? We do not know what brain-washing is. Does he want this hon. House and the Government also to take to brain-washing of hon. Members?

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit that some of the Kashmiri Muslims who have come back . . .

Mr. Speaker: It is meaningless.

Shri Hem Barua: They have made statements in the press

Mr. Speaker: I do not know how they can be brain-washed here. We do not take to brain-washing here.

Shri Hem Barua: They have admitted that they were subjected to political education.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. Shri Braj Raj Singh.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: About the eleven persons who are either detained or sentenced and are in jails in Tibet, has it been given by the Chinese authorities that they are not Indian nationals? If so, have the Government of India approached them saying that they happen to be Indian nationals just like the other persons who have returned to India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is the argument that has gone on for some months. Many of these people have been in Tibet for a large number of years. Some have married Tibetan ladies. This argument has gone on as to whether they are Indian nationals or Tibetan or Chinese nationals. Under great pressure from these people themselves, a considerable number of them have been allowed to come back. In regard to the eleven, the Chinese authorities have not agreed that they are Indian nationals. That is the stand on which we have been carrying on the argument.

Shri Raghunath Singh: What is the charge against them and will these 600 Kashmiris who came from Tibet be treated as Indian citizens or not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The question is whether they are Indian nationals or Chinese nationals. The charge is, presuming them to be Chinese nationals, that they do not fall in with the views of the State and are agitating and whatever else they may be doing. I cannot answer what the exact charge is. I have not seen it. But the fact that they are behaving in ways which are not agreeable to the Chinese Govern-

ment, I take it, has led to their being arrested.

Shri Kalika Singh: May I know whether the Chinese action is directed against the people in general in Lhasa or against the Kashmiri Muslims only?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is only against people whose nationality are not known; not against the people in general. Some people have been living there for 10, 20 or 30 years and, as I said, some of them have married there. The Chinese claim that they are Chinese or Tibetan nationals, while they say "No, we are Indian nationals" and we support them.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that they have stayed there and got married to those ladies there and they still continue to be Indians, is any effort made by the Indian Government to ascertain how many Indians there are, where they are and what their occupations are? Is there no necessity for the Government to use their good offices to help those people to come back here if they so desire?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If the hon. Member reads the White Paper he will get an answer to this question.

Shri Ranga: I am unable to follow the reply.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I said these matters are dealt with in the communications in the White Paper that has been issued. So, the hon. Member can get that information from that. That is to say, we know fairly precisely those who claim to be Indian nationals. In regard to some there is no dispute; so they have come back. In regard to some there has been some dispute whether they are Kashmiri Muslims or Ladakh Buddhists and about their nationality. This dispute arose—previously there was no dispute—when the disturbances in Tibet took place in a rather big way a year and a half ago. Then the matter came up. Previously, the question did not come up. After that, they wanted to leave Tibet and do so on the basis of Indian nationality. So,

they approached our Consulate General and now some hundreds of people have been allowed to move. But some others are still there and this argument is still there as to what their nationalities are.

Shri Hem Barua: May I put a question? In view of the fact that the hon. Prime Minister admitted that some of the Kashmiri Muslims have married Tibetan women, may I know whether the Kashmiri Muslims who want to come back are also permitted to take their Tibetan wives with them?

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Mafida Ahmed.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: May I know whether any effective measures are being taken to check infiltration of undesirable elements among the Kashmiri Muslims?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Some measures are taken. I cannot guarantee the effectiveness of them. I cannot guarantee they are always effective. We try our best.

Hindustan Salt Co. Ltd.

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*694. { Shri P. R. Patel;
Shri M. M. Gandhi:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Salt (Private) Co., Ltd. sold 30 lakhs mds. of Kharaghoda salt at 0.42 nP. per maund;

(b) whether any tenders were invited and if not why;

(c) whether it is a fact that the market price on the date of transaction of sale was 0.55 nP. per maund;

(d) for how many maunds orders to disptach Khargahoda salt were pending for execution with Hindustan Salt Co., Ltd. and whether the orders were accepted at 0.55 nP. price;

(e) whether the difference between the market price 0.55 nP. per maund

and the negotiated sale price 0.42 nP. per maund may cause the company a loss of Rs. 390,000; and

(f) whether the negotiated transaction was done with 'Gujarat Salt Trading Corporation'—a very recently started concern?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The transaction referred to relates to the disposal of accumulations of powdery salt of the 1958 crop for which there was no demand. Tata Chemicals offered to take 5 lakh maunds of this stuff for use in their Soda Ash Plant. The maximum price that could be secured from that firm was 40 nP. per maund, in view of the fact that the firm had to incur rail transport expenses involving a break of gauge as well as pay the Cess. This disposal initiated further enquiries for the accumulated powdery salt and a group of Kharaghoda Salt Traders offered to take the entire accumulation of about 30 lakh maunds at the same price as that at which the sale had been effected to Tatas. The management of the Hindustan Salt Company was able to secure a slightly higher price by negotiation namely 42 nP. for the second deal which enabled the Company to clear completely the accumulations of the 1958 powdery salt. These two disposals would render available sufficient storage space for the incoming 1960 crop, whose production would otherwise have had to be more severely curtailed for lack of storage space.

(c) The sale price fixed by the Hindustan Salt Company for their crystalline salt was 55 nP. per Bengal maund.

(d) Orders for 73,914 B. maunds at 0.55 nP. per maund were pending with the Company on the date the deal was finalised.

(e) Yes, Sir.