

such a kind of rebate has been abused.

Shri Kanungo: The question is whether there has been any prosecution. I have no information about prosecutions. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: There is a question about Naga Land. The hon. Prime Minister is not here. Shri Assar wants that his question may be taken up. Naga Land comes here every day. So, I will allow Shri Assar's question, 1045A, to be put.

Indian Students in China

1045-A. Shri Assar: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian students in China are harassed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any protest has been made by Government in this matter to the Chinese Government?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) to (c). There is no harassment of Indian students as such but some of them have been subjected to minor pin-pricks. Since the matter has not assumed major proportions it has not been considered necessary to protest to the Chinese Government.

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that Chinese interpreters compulsorily stay with the Indian students against their wish in order to watch the activities of the Indian students?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: It was too rapid for us to follow.

Shri Assar: May I know whether it is a fact that Chinese interpreters and guides were compulsorily staying with Indian students against their wish to watch the activities of the Indian students?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether Chinese interpreters have been posted along with the students to watch their career.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They might have been posted to interpret for them; otherwise we have no information about the harassment that the hon. Member refers to.

Mr. Speaker: What he wants to know is whether after so many years the students have not learned that portion of Chinese to make themselves understood with respect to water and other necessities of life.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The only case of harassment....

Mr. Speaker: If there is an interpreter posted with every Member against his wish, I do not know how the Members will feel.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have pointed out that such cases have not come to our notice. The only case of harassment that has come to our notice is that of Shri G. D. Mehta who left for India last June. He was asked to leave at short notice. His request to stay for a few days was rejected. The usual facilities like transport to the railway station was denied to him. In the farewell tea that he gave to other students, mostly those from Afro-Asian and socialist countries, first the food supply was withheld and later the electricity supply was disconnected for a short time.

Shri Vajpayee: May we know the nature of other pin-pricks which have been mentioned by the hon. Deputy Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Is not this list sufficient? The hon. Deputy Minister has mentioned that facilities of transport were denied to him, food supply was withheld and so on. What else does he want?

Shri Vajpayee: That is only one instance.

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Deputy Minister aware of any other pin-pricks?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir.

Shri Goray: Does denial of food and transport facilities amount only to pin-pricks? In a foreign land, Sir, if food is denied, does that amount only to pin-pricks?

Mr. Speaker: It is not mere pin-prick.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This refers only to one particular student.

Mr. Speaker: All that the hon. Member complains is, even with respect to a single student it amounts to starvation and not a mere pin-prick (*Interruption*). Why is there an attempt made to make light of this. Even if a single student is harassed by denying food supply and transport facilities, that is quite sufficient. It is only an index of what is being done.

Shri Assar: May I know whether the Government are aware of the news that appeared in the papers about the harassment of Indian students; if so, what action has been taken?

Mr. Speaker: Have Government made any enquiries?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Whenever such cases come to the notice of our Ambassador, the matter is taken up with the relevant department or ministry for action.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, I rise to a point of order. The hon. Deputy Minister stated that there are pin-pricks and she has mentioned a particular case. May I know whether the Government have brought that to the notice of the Chinese Government through our Ambassador in Peking or not?

Mr. Speaker: How is it a point of order?

Shri Hem Barua: It is mentioned in the statement.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of Writing and Printing Paper

*1027. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:**
Shri Madhusudan Rao:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4 on the 1st August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a final decision in regard to import of writing and printing paper through State Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided to import 8,800 tons of writing and printing paper through the State Trading Corporation for meeting the requirements of the Controller of Printing and Stationery. Arrangements have already been finalised by the Corporation to import 6,800 tons of paper from Japan against the export of low grade manganese ore. Negotiations for procurement of the balance are in hand.

Press Conferences

*1039. **Shri K. U. Parmar:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for holding Press Conferences by Ministers or Secretaries of various Ministries;

(b) the method of inviting correspondents;

(c) whether it is a fact that in certain cases only a few correspondents are invited and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Ministry propose to take to see that Press Conferences are fairly representative of Press and