

Laos

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*543. { Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement made by King Savang Vathana on the 10th of February, 1961 asking Cambodia, Burma and Malaya to form a Commission to go to Laos 'to establish that this country threatens no one and aspires solely for peace'; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government to this proposal?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes. A statement on these lines was made by King Savang Vathana on 19th of February, 1961.

(b) The Government of India has not been invited to join the proposed Commission and there is, therefore, no question of the Government taking any position in the matter?

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that some countries have already agreed to the proposal, to which the Prime Minister made a reference here, of a broad-based international commission on Laos; if so, may I know the reaction of our Government?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We made a proposal. If it is accepted, we shall act up to it. The only acceptance of it that counts is that the two co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, viz., the Foreign Ministers of the U.K. and the Soviet Union, should agree. So long as they do not agree, we can take no action in this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the Soviet Union has made a proposal that the revival of the Commission must be preceded by a meeting

between the two-co-chairmen; if so, what is the reaction of our Government to that proposal?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of that proposal.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that the King is unwilling to welcome the Commission?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry, Sir, I cannot reply on behalf of the King.

Slaves in NEFA

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*525. { Shri Achar:
Shri B. C. Majhi:
Shri Subodh Hanada:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made as to the number of slaves still to be liberated in NEFA;

(b) if so, what is the total number; and

(c) by what time Government propose to liberate all these slaves?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) and (b). It is not possible to carry out a proper assessment of the number of slaves still to be liberated in NEFA as the people are reluctant to divulge this information. On the basis of the available data, the number of unliberated slaves is estimated to be 300 or so.

(c) It has been decided that all known slaves in NEFA will be liberated by the 31st March, 1962.

Shri Achar: May I know the nature of the conditions of work of these people? If it is against the Constitution, is any liberation necessary? Are they not entitled legally to be free?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: The hon. Member may kindly refer to the state-

ment made by the Prime Minister on the 21st December, 1960, where all details about the status of the slaves and other things have been given.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government propose to pay compensation to the owners of the slaves; if so, whether it is a fact that this compensation is called welfare or rehabilitation grant to the owners of the slaves; if so, why this new nomenclature

12 hrs.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: We have decided to give compensation for the liberation of individual slaves, so that not only are the slaves rehabilitated but also the owners.

Shri Hem Barua: This is a compensation to the owners of the slaves. I do not quarrel with that. But the thing is that this compensation is described as welfare or rehabilitation grant. Why is compensation not called as compensation? Why should there be this new nomenclature?

Mr. Speaker: That is all right.
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether these slaves are of local stock or they are from the plain areas, and whether any land is going to be allotted to them after liberation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They are local people, sometimes belonging possibly to a different tribe locally and sometimes to the same tribe. You must remember that conditions in NEFA, socially and otherwise speaking, are very primitive. It is not very easy to change the normal laws etc. that one has, in this area.

This kind of slavery has been existing for a long time, and any effort suddenly to do something may lead to disorder on a big scale; but it is now vanishing. And all kinds of rules and regulations have been made, one of them being that nobody can be a slave, who was born after the 15th August, 1947. That is one rule. Then, nobody can be a slave who might be-

come a Government employee, a petty employee in Government service. There are dozens of others restricting this, with the intention of finishing this in the next fourteen or fifteen months.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I wanted to know whether any land is going to be allotted to these people or not.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. It will depend on the circumstances. There is no particular rule about that.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: May I know what the process of liberation would be whether it would be by an enactment of the legislature or by administrative orders of the executive? What would be the process of liberation? How will you liberate them?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Political Officer in that district deals with the matter. There is no law to be passed about it. The persons concerned are informed.

राष्ट्रमण्डलीय देशों के प्रधान मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन

अल्पसूचना प्रदन ३. { श्री बजराम सिंह :
श्री नाथ पाई :
श्री बाजपेयी :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन्होंने ने मार्च, १९६१ के दूसरे सप्ताह में होने वाले राष्ट्रमण्डलीय देशों के प्रधान मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में भाग लेने का निश्चय कर लिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे किस तारीख को लन्दन के लिये रवाना हो रहे हैं और इंग्लैण्ड में कितने दिन ठहरेंगे ;

(ग) वर्तमान कार्यक्रम के अनुसार वे कब तक भारत लौटेंगे ;

(घ) क्या राष्ट्रमण्डलीय देशों के प्रधान मंत्री सम्मेलन की कोई कार्य-सूची तैयार की