

Publication of Phizo's letter in U.S. Paper

S.N.Q.
No. 2A. { Shri Shree Narayan Das
Dr. Y. S. Parmar:
Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:
Shri M. Elias:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the publication of a letter in the 'New York Times' on the 2nd September, 1957 purporting to have been written by Mr. Phizo, the Naga rebel leader;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India;

(c) whether any and if so, what steps have been taken to counteract the wrong impression that it might have created there; and

(d) whether the authentic text of the said letter as published in the 'New York Times' is available?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Government have seen the *Reuter* message referred to by the Hon'ble Member. They have also seen the text of the letter purporting to have been written by Phizo in the 'New York Times' of September 2.

(c) and (d). The letter contains a number of false allegations and it is clearly propagandist in character. We are asking our Embassy in Washington to write to the 'New York Times', giving the correct facts.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the Government has been able to ascertain with regard to the authenticity or otherwise of this letter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not possible for us to say definitely whether it is authentic or not; it is quite likely it may not be. Mr. Phizo is an

absconder and I conceive he can send it or somebody can send it on his behalf.

Shri Ranga: Has any Press statement been issued in our own country contradicting it? It does a lot of mischief.

Shri C. D. Fande: Nobody reads it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think any detailed statement is issued; it is possible a brief contradiction might have been issued but I am not quite sure.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know if the Prime Minister has satisfied himself that the U.S. Government which has friendly relations with us can or cannot put forward the plea of freedom of the Press to shield the publication, at a very difficult time for India, of a mischievous correspondence from a person engaged in subversive activities and if not what diplomatic steps he contemplates taking?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think the U.S. Government has anything to do with this matter. It is a fact that the Press in the United States publishes things which are not sometimes to the liking of the U.S. Government. They may not be liked. But, there is no question of our protesting to the U.S. Government about some publication in one of the newspapers there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: May I know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to one of our own papers, though with a limited circulation, *Christian Times*, which may have some circulation among the Christians in India where this letter to the 'New York Times' has got bold headlines and the entire thing has been reproduced? As it is necessary to clear that position, may I know whether the Government proposes to make a clarification on the entire subject?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I was not aware of this publication nor have I heard of this periodical to which the hon. Member has referred.

I should be grateful if she would pass it on to me.

Shri Y. S. Parmar: Is it a fact that a certain foreign power has been behind the demand for a separate Naga State?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of it.

Shri Y. S. Parmar: Is it a fact that the Naga chiefs and representatives of the Nagas met at a convention and gave up the demand for a separate State and have decided to have a State within the Indian Union?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question? Does the letter in the *New York Times* contain all that? Next question.

Kashmir Issue

S.N.Q. No. 27. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to a Pakistan Government Information Department hand-out, giving the Foreign Minister's views regarding solving Kashmir issue which suggests the stationing of U.N. force to guard the cease-fire line;

(b) if so, whether any copy of the hand-out has been procured for scrutiny; and

(c) the reaction of Government in this regard?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Government have seen a press report on the subject.

(b) A copy of this hand-out is being obtained

(c) It has been made perfectly clear on many occasions that India will under no circumstances allow any foreign force on her territory.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether it is known to the Gov-

ernment of India whether any member of the Security Council is going to put forward any specific resolution when the Jarring Report will be considered there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. How am I to answer that question? I cannot enter into the minds of other Governments and members of the Security Council. Presumably some members will put forward resolutions as they function.

Shri Mahanty: While appreciating what the Prime Minister has said now that India will refuse to the landing of any foreign troops in the Indian territory, may we know why the Government of India was silent when the U.N. forces were sent to Gaza strip in Middle-East?

Mr. Speaker: Syria and Middle-East? Are they part of Kashmir?

Shri Mahanty: No, Sir. It is about the U.N. forces...

Mr. Speaker: I understand the question but it does not arise out of this question

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Industrial Committee on Mines

*1626. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Committee on Mines other than Coal Mines will be convened to discuss the draft legislation constituting the Manganese Mines Labour Welfare Fund Organisation; and

(b) if not, how Government propose to consult the workers' organisation in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Such a Committee has not been constituted so far.

(b) The proposal to constitute the Manganese Mines Labour Welfare Fund will be placed before the next meeting of the Standing Labour Committee.