

concerned, that only concerns consumers in the northern part of India.

CONTROL OF MOVEMENTS OF NAGAS BETWEEN INDIA AND BURMA

*1972. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Burma and India have framed any border rules and regulations in order to control the movement of Nagas from one country to the other where they have relatives;

(b) if so, whether these rules and regulations will be laid on the Table of the House;

(c) whether the two Governments in any of their recent conferences have decided to tighten the border rules and regulations or to introduce passport system;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the feelings and opinions of the Nagas of both the countries were taken into consideration before any such measure was decided upon?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):

(a) and (b). Members of the hill tribes (including Nagas)—both Indian and Burmese—living in the territories adjacent to the Indo-Burmese land frontier who habitually travel between India and Burma and do not proceed beyond 25 miles of the land frontier are exempt from the provisions of the passport rules.

(c) to (e). The introduction of a passport system within the 25 miles' limit of the border does not arise. However, to prevent the entry of known undesirable elements like opium smugglers etc. a pass system has been introduced by the Political Officer, Tirap Frontier Tract. In the case of genuine traders and others who go to see their goods across the border it has been represented that the rules should be relaxed further. This matter is under consideration.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Governments of Burma and India have appointed a Commission to deal with the problems of controlling the movement of tribal people in the frontier areas and of the demarcation of the boundaries in the said area and if so, when it was appointed and how many members are there in the Commission?

Shri J. N. Hazarika: No Commission so far has been appointed.

Shri Rishang Keishing: In view of the existing close family relationships

among the tribal people in the Indo-Burma frontier areas, may I know whether Government will continue to pursue this liberal policy of controlling movement of the tribals in the Indo-Burma frontiers?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Certainly I may repeat what I said a little while ago that the Indo-Burma frontier is one of the frontiers in the world where on either side there is complete friendship. There is no apprehension about each other and they live in complete friendship with each other.

Shri Rishang Keishing: May I know whether it is a fact that Burmese currency brought into India by Indian tribals which they got as remuneration of their relatives who are serving in Burma was often seized and never returned to them and if so, whether Government will make enquiries in this matter?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There have been some difficulties over this currency problem. In fact, we raised it ourselves in our talks with the Burma Government. The difficulties, as far as I can remember, were largely on the other side, i.e., on the Burma side. Anyhow we are prepared to consider this matter most favourably.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether proper demarcation of the India-Burma border has been made and if not, is there any chance of getting it done shortly?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Certain parts are not precisely defined nor does it appear that there is any urgency in the matter.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Will Government take necessary steps to see that those currencies already seized are returned to those people?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not aware of currencies being seized. Perhaps they have been deposited. Obviously they have to be returned. The difficulty is not that of returning them but about the use of currencies on either side of the border. In that matter our Government were completely agreeable to a certain flexibility and we had made that proposal to the Burma Government. I am not at the present moment aware of what the final response of the Burma Government was except that they were also agreeable within limits.