

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

Vol. I Second Day of the Third Session of First Parliament of India No. 1

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 13th February, 1953

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER (SHRI M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR) *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**RECRUITMENT OF GURKHAS FOR THE
BRITISH ARMY**

*1. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British camps in the territory of the Indian Union, for the recruitment of Gurkhas, have been wound up; and

(b) whether the Government of India have given any alternative assurances to the Government of U.K. regarding transit of Gurkhas recruited for the British Army, *via* the territory of the Indian Union?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his question in this House on the 12th December 1952. The position taken up by the Government of India in this matter has been accepted by the U.K. Government. The matter is under discussion between the Governments of Nepal and the U.K.

(b) Under the Tripartite Agreement signed in 1947 between the Governments of the U.K., Nepal and India, the Government of India agreed to give transport facilities through India to Gurkhas from Nepal. This Agreement continues and no fresh assurance has been given.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of our attitude towards this whole question of the British activities in Malaya, are we going to reconsider this tripartite agreement in regard to the recruitment of Gurkha troops in Nepal itself?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What happens in Nepal is obviously not directly the concern of the Government of
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India; it is a matter which the Government of Nepal is considering. The tripartite agreement, so far as we are concerned, was only something in which we obliged the Government of Nepal chiefly: that is, to allow people—as, in case, they can go; individuals can go from Nepal across; armed people do not go; it is individuals who come and go—and we agreed then to allow them. Even that, we have stated we cannot permit for long. That is because we could not easily put an end to the agreement, but we made it clear that this cannot be an indefinite thing.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Has any time-limit been set regarding the termination of the facilities even in regard to the transit of these troops through our country?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: At present the only time-limit is the time limit of the treaty. For the moment I forget what the date is when it expires.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I ask if it is a fact that our Government has sent some of our own men in the Engineering Corps, like Havildar Ponnuswami and Jamedar Jagannath Rao, to Malaya and Hong Kong to serve with the Gurkha contingents of the Malaya Army?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I have no information on that point. If the hon. Member wishes, I shall enquire. So far as I know, nothing has been done officially. I do not know of individuals recruited privately.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Is it a fact that the British have facility given to them in Barrackpore, by the Government of India, for training the Gurkhas?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is what had been done previously and what we are stopping.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any doctors from India have been

recruited by the United Kingdom for affording medical facilities to the Gurkha trainees in Malaya?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know about it; I have no information at all. There may be, possibly, recruitment individually—not for any particular purpose. For instance, doctors have been recruited for Burma and other places; people recruit them, and we put no bar in their way. But I am not aware of any person being recruited particularly for the Gurkhas there.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the training arrangements at Barrackpore and also at Darjeeling have ceased to function, or whether they are still functioning?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I rather doubt if it has ceased to function. It is rather difficult to take unilateral action when the Nepal Government is also involved in it. We informed the Nepal Government two or more months ago, as well as the U. K. Government, that these centres will cease. It took about a month or so, or more, for replies to come. They agreed to its being done and then they agreed to have conversations between themselves. I cannot exactly say at what stage this matter is.

INDO-AMERICAN TREATY OF COMMERCE AND NAVIGATION

*2. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether discussions between the Government of India and the United States of America for the conclusion of the Indo-American Treaty of Commerce and Navigation are over; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the treaty on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Nanadas: May I know since when the negotiations have been going on?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Negotiations have been going on for some time, but there has been no progress since October because that Government was busy with its Presidential election.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether any steps have been taken in these negotiations, to acquire more ships for Indian shipping, from the United States?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It has nothing to do with the treaty. It is an independent proposition, if you want to acquire. It has nothing to do with proposals for a treaty for commerce, etc. between the two countries.

Shri V. P. Nayar: What I wanted to know was whether in this treaty of commerce and navigation any effort had been made for acquiring from the U. S. A. more ships for Indian shipping and thus prevent the monopoly of foreign shipping in India's foreign trade?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, what I am saying is, it is a very pertinent matter to be considered—how far we can do it having regard to our resources and the rest. But it has nothing to do with this treaty.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether Government have dropped the idea of this treaty?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir.

ESTIMATES OF HIRAKUD PROJECT

*3. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates of the Hirakud Project have gone up,

(b) if so, by how much and for what reasons;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to scrutinise the reasons for the increase; and

(d) if so, what are the steps?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (d). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communique which issued on the 9th Feb. 1953, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 1]

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it is a fact that a permanent residence on a lavish scale is being constructed for the Chief Engineer, whose original estimate was Rs. 58 thousand and present estimate exceeds Rs. 79 thousand?

Shri Hathi: I would require notice of the question.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact that one contractor had been granted eight instalments of advance payment towards the Rs. 79 thousand in a period of four months and only Rs. 2 thousand has been recovered up-to-date?