

Short Notice Question and Answer**FRENCH POSSESSIONS IN INDIA****S.N.Q. No. 12. Shri Damodara Menon:**

(a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the entire Commune of Naluthara of the French Indian Settlement of Mahe was liberated on the 8th May, 1954 and if so, who is now in charge of the administration there?

(b) Do Government intend to take over the administration of Naluthara and Cheru Kallai, the two enclaves of Mahe, reported to have been liberated from the French rule?

(c) Is it a fact that the French Indian Policemen at Naluthara were escorted to Mahe town through Indian territory by the Indian Police sometime before the liberation forces occupied Naluthara?

(d) Did the authorities in French Mahe request the Indian authorities for help for their successful evacuation of Naluthara?

(e) Will Government make a statement about the Freedom movement in the French possessions and their attitude towards the movement?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes. According to the Government's information the Municipal Commissioners and the members of the Legislative Assembly have formed a Committee for the administration of this enclave.

(b) The Government do not propose to take any unilateral action in the matter.

(c) and (d). Yes. The Government of India were requested by the Governor of Pondicherry to allow the transit of 29 French India Policemen through Indian territory from Naluthara and Mahe. The Governor was evidently anxious for the safety of this isolated Police Force. We saw no objection to the withdrawal of the French Police from Naluthara and escort was provided to prevent any untoward incident occurring during their passage through Indian territory, and to ensure that

the French India Police did in fact go to Mahe.

(e) The attention of the Member is invited to my statements made in the House on the 25th March and 6th April, 1954.

The Government have sent their representatives to Paris, at the invitation of the French Government, with a view to negotiating in regard to the future of the French Establishments in India.

Shri Nambiar: May I know what is the position of similar enclaves in the vicinity of Pondicherry?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: All these enclaves are being put under the charge of local peoples or local committees.

Shri Nambiar: What is the sort of administration going on there; what is the Government like?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot give an exact answer. As the hon. Member knows these are villages and small townships and I suppose the old municipalities are functioning.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the local leaders of these areas requested the Government of India that these areas should be taken over immediately by the Indian Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They had not, of course, actually made that particular request but that is their whole objective, when they asked for the immediate merger with the Government of India.

Shri Punnoose: As the Government of India was good enough to escort the French policemen and now that our representatives have gone to France, may I know whether the Government have asked the Governor of Mahe not to open fire on Indian citizens?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In regard to the question of having escorted the departure of the French police from that area, it meant the exclusion of the French authority from that big area. That is a big enclave near Mahe and

the policemen were there. In fact, the departure meant that the French authority was giving up that big area to the local public. We allowed them to do that and gave some protection to them to go across—it was Indian territory involved—about three-fourths of a mile. We did not want any incident to occur through that short distance.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Recently there have been a number of cases where the French police have pressed into Indian territory and committed a lot of arrests. May I take it that sufficient precautions are now being taken on our border for security arrangements?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. Member means by precaution as if there is some grave danger of something occurring to India or to the Indian borders. There is no such danger. Naturally, precautions are taken for a variety of reasons but, not from the point of view of the hon. Member, that some aggression is going to take place on India.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL FOREST DEPARTMENT

*2456. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government exercise any sort of control or supervision on or give guidance to the State Forest Departments; and

(b) if so, the nature and extent thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes; the Central Board of Forestry, constituted at Ministerial level, secures the necessary co-ordination between States in matters relating to forest management. The Inspector-General of Forests, advises the State in professional and technical matters whenever such advice is sought.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN BIHAR

*2446. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Bihar for the opening of which estimates were sanctioned in 1953;

(b) the names of exchanges that have not been opened so far; and

(c) the causes of delay in opening them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 5.

(b) Sitamarhi, Chakradarpur and Forbesganj.

(c) Delay in getting rented accommodation at Sitamarhi and Forbesganj, and in acquisition of site for an Exchange building at Chakradarpur.

COTTON SAMPLES

*2467. **Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples of Indian cotton tested by the Cotton Technological Laboratory, Matunga, in 1952 and 1953;

(b) whether any investigations have been made to study the mixing of Indian cotton with regard to their fibre properties;

(c) if so, what are the results;

(d) how far research work and testing have been carried on towards establishing a universal standard for staple length regarding short staple Indian cottons; and

(e) what arrangements are being made to clear the accumulation of samples?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The number of samples of Indian Cotton tested by the Cotton Technological Laboratory are:—

1951-52	...	1925
1952-53	...	1974