

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** There is no ban on them, but there are certain considerations which we expect them to observe.

**Shri Nambiar:** In view of the fact that certain members belonging to the Cultural Delegation which returned from its visit to China are speaking and writing against friendly relations between India and China what steps do Government propose to take?

**Several Hon. Members:** Question.

**Shri Nambiar:** I can quote instances.

#### ASSAM TEA

\*1030. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what were the prices of various grades of Assam tea sold in Calcutta market in the years 1951 and 1952?

(b) What were the internal sale prices of various grades of Assam tea in the State of Assam in the same period?

(c) Is it a fact that the consumers of Assam tea have to pay a higher price for it in Assam?

(d) Do Government propose to enquire into the matter and take necessary steps?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 13.]

(b) In the absence of any auction facilities, only a very small proportion of poor quality teas are sold at the gardens in Assam in loose form for local consumption at varying prices; but no statistics of such sales are available.

(c) Government are not aware if consumers of Assam have to pay higher prices for local teas.

(d) The required information is being called for with a view to seeing what steps Government can appropriately take.

**Shri Bell Ram Das:** In view of the fact that the world price of tea is going down gradually, will it not be desirable to lower down the price of tea in India also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I have no doubt, Sir, that it is desirable. The only trouble about it is how to achieve it. We have not got any price control over tea. Possibly we might have to

think of it in future, if the disparity between local producers' price and the selling price to Indian consumers is great.

**Shri Bell Ram Das:** Is the Government aware of the fact that highly adulterated tea is being sold in Assam?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I have not got the information.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know, Sir, what is the gap between the cost of production and the sale price of Assam tea now?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The trouble about it is this. In the statement that we have furnished, we have given four categories of estates and five categories of tea. Which particular item on which the hon. member wants information, I am unable to find out.

#### GERM WARFARE IN KOREA

\*1031. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the report of the International Scientific Commission which investigated into the charges of germ-warfare in Korea, has been brought to the notice of the Government of India?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** A copy of the report has been recently received by the Government of India. Copies were distributed to all members of the United Nations, by the U.N. Secretariat, at the request of the Soviet Delegation to whom a copy of the report had been sent by the Secretariat of the 'World Peace Council'.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know, Sir, what are the conclusions of the International Scientific Commission?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Broadly speaking, the conclusions of this report are that the germ warfare was used in certain areas.

**Dr. Rama Rao:** May I know, Sir, if the Government of India have ratified the Geneva Protocol against germ warfare?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** For the moment I cannot speak with precision, but we have always been in favour of ratification.

**Shri Nambiar:** In view of the fact that Government have ratified the Geneva protocol and in view of the fact that Government have acceded that germ warfare was used in Korea, will the Government of India raise the issue in the United Nations? What steps are taken in that respect?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Hon. member's second presumption is not correct.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** Is it a fact that one of the Indian scientists invited to serve on this Commission, was unable to go and sit on the Commission, on account of the pressure brought to bear on him by the Government of India?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know what the hon. member is referring to.

**Shri Raghavaiah:** I would like to submit that Col. Sokhey who was invited and who wanted to serve on this Commission could not work on this Commission because of some influence brought to bear upon him by the Government of India.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** There is no question of pressure. Anybody could have gone. I do not exactly remember whether and how Col. Sokhey referred the matter to us. He may have asked for our advice and we may have given it.

**Shri Namblar:** What advice was given, Sir?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That advice is confidential.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of the appreciation by the Prime Minister of the gravity of the conclusions reached by the International Scientific Commission, in spite of the fact that we ourselves have not been in a position to verify those conclusions one way or the other, is it in the contemplation of Government to proceed further in this matter, because it is something which concerns the peace of the world and the way in which civilisation is to progress?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is a suggestion for action.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** He may answer, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How am I to allow all suggestions?

**Shri Raghavaiah:** In view of the fact that we have accepted the Geneva protocol and the use of germ warfare in Korea is against the convention, may I know whether the Government of India are prepared to withdraw the Medical Mission that we have sent to South Korea?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** May I, Sir, point out that in this matter there is no certainty, in spite of the fact that

certain eminent scientists may say something. It is not for me to deny what they say or affirm. But there are two parties to this matter. One denies it absolutely; the other affirms it. All the enquiries that have taken place—however eminent the gentlemen concerned might be—were from that point of view one-sided, appointed by one party. I mean in such a very serious matter it is desirable to have an enquiry which is believed in or which is sponsored by both the parties or all the parties concerned. That is the difficulty. One cannot in a very grave matter of this kind proceed on balances of probabilities but on definite certainties.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know if there was any proposal from the United Nations to investigate into this matter and what happened afterwards?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I believe various proposals have been made by some countries—I am not quite sure of the United Nations, as such—but by members of the United Nations. Always the difficulty has been that the proposal made by one side is considered partial by the other and not accepted.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the Government of India have any information from our own men who are there, and may I know what they say regarding the germ warfare?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Hon. Members will permit me to say from such little experience as I gathered many years ago that it is almost a practical impossibility for anybody to say definitely after a period of time. One may presume things, but to say with dead certainty after some time is very difficult; and certainly our Ambassador and others are in no position to say this or that.

PARLIAMENTARY WING OF GOVERNMENT  
PRESS, NEW DELHI

\*1032. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state whether the Parliamentary wing of the New Delhi Press is functioning to cater to the normal and urgent needs of the Parliament of India?

(b) Have sufficient accommodation and staff been provided for the Wing?

(c) Is the staff working overtime during the session period of Parliament allowed any extra facilities and if so, what are they?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b) Yes.