

Soviet ship "Vitiaz" at Cochin at the end of January, 1960 where it specially called for them. Results will be available only when our Scientists return from the expedition which will not be before April.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know if any expenditure is to be incurred by the Government of India in connection with this?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: They get free board and lodging and other facilities.

Shri Aurobindo Ghosal: May I know if any scientists of any other country of South-East Asia have joined the team?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I believe they have invited scientists from other South-East Asian countries also.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the survey will have any important significance for our defence strategy? If so, why was it entrusted to a foreign ship rather than being done by our own ship?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Nobody here has entrusted it to them. There are the high seas. We have not entrusted this work to them and this has nothing to do with any political affairs or strategy. The investigation is about the structure, character, origin and gyration of water mass, chemical and biological variation of ocean water, collection of meteorological and aerological information, relief and geological structure of the ocean ground deposit and water suspension. These are high scientific matters of investigation which any country may undertake. They have undertaken it and they have been good enough to invite some of our scientists as well as scientists from Indonesia, Ceylon and some other countries. We have gladly accepted the invitation.

Evacuation of Indian Kashmiri Traders from Tibet

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*911. { **Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:**
Shri Daljit Singh
Shrimati Meera Ahmed:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:
Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 764 on the 10th December, 1959 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any reply from the Chinese Government regarding the evacuation of Indian Kashmiri traders from Tibet; and

(b) if so, the nature of the reply received?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri (Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reply may be seen at page 123 of White Paper No. III which was laid on the Table of the House on the 10th March, 1960.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In reply to a previous question, the hon. Deputy Minister stated that he had pointed out that under international usage persons of Indian origin found eligible both for Indian and Chinese nationality should be given the option of exercising their right to choose whatever nationality they prefer. May I know whether this suggestion has been accepted by the Chinese Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Chinese Government have said that they proceed on the assumption that they are Chinese nationals and, therefore, they must renounce their Chinese nationality and then apply for new nationality. We do not think that is the correct position to take up because we do not acknowledge that they are Chinese nationals.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what has happened to the property that might have been left there or might have been acquired by these Indian traders there?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The persons referred to in this question are persons who are sitting there. They are there. This is a question of their coming away from there which is being impeded. So, the question of leaving property will only arise when they come away.

Shri Vajpayee: In view of the fact that the Chinese Government has rejected our claim in this regard, may I know what further steps Government propose to take? Will this question be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the two Prime Ministers?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In such matters the only steps that are taken are continued discussions at the diplomatic level. They have been carried on. As to whether this particular matter will come up in any talks with the Prime Minister of China when he comes here, I cannot definitely say how matters will take shape.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether Government is aware that many of these traders in Tibet have married Tibetan women? If so, do they propose to take their wives with them or do they propose to come alone?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are aware that many of them have married in Tibet. When the future of the husbands is not certain I cannot say definitely as to what will happen to their wives.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that some of these Ladakhi traders in Tibet have both Indian passports and Chinese visas also? If so, what is standing in the way of their evacuation? What is the specific ground?

Mr. Speaker: If they have got Indian passports what is the difficulty in their evacuation?

Shri Hem Barua: Chinese visas also.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not say with regard to any particular individual; but, generally, they did not take Indian passports because no question arose in those days of taking Indian passports. They have been living there for a considerable time. A few may have it.

Shri Hem Barua: In reply to a question on this subject on a previous occasion it was specifically said that there are some Ladakhis there in Tibet who have Indian passports and Chinese visas.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Their case is a different one. But we are talking about the Kashmiri Muslims in this question. They have been resident there, sometimes for a generation or two and have carried on without taking any passports. Now, they want Indian passports and we are prepared to give it to them. Hence the difficulty has arisen.

Shri P. G. Deb: What is the total number of these Kashmiri traders?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: There are 124 families, consisting of 162 males, 184 females and 237 minors of both sexes. Each family should apply to the Indian Consul General at Lhasa for the grant of Indian nationality.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether there our trade agents in Lhasa and elsewhere in Tibet are in a position to look after the facilities and welfare of the Indian traders and others in Tibet?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is difficult for me to answer about looking after their facilities. We are constantly trying to help them, sometimes succeeding and sometimes not succeeding.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the security guards posted at the Consulate there have been withdrawn by now?

Mr. Speaker: It is a different question.

Shri Hem Barua: When the security guards are posted there the Consul-General cannot look after the interests of these people because they are not allowed to get in touch with the Consulate. If it is withdrawn, they can establish contact with the Consulate there and have their problems solved to a certain extent. That is why I put this question.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The answer I can give cannot be very precise. Sometimes they get in touch with them; but it is not always very easy to do so.

लाहौल और स्पिति में रेडियो लाइसेंस शुल्क

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*६१२. { श्री हेम राज :
श्री पद्म देव :
श्री राम कृष्ण गुप्त :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री १५ दिसम्बर, १९५६ के अतारंकित प्रश्न संख्या १४४४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि लाहौल और स्पिति के भ्रादिम जाति क्षेत्रों को रेडियो लाइसेंस शुल्क से मुक्त करने का प्रश्न कहा तक पहुंचा है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री आ० च० जोशी) : रेडियो पर से लाइसेंस फीस हटा देने से लाहौल और स्पिति के गरीब निवासियों को रेडियो सुनने की सुविधाएं शायद ही मिल सकेंगी क्योंकि यह लोग अपने रेडियो मोल नहीं ले सकते। पंजाब सरकार को यह सलाह दी गई है कि लाहौल और स्पिति क्षेत्र के गरीबों को सामुदायिक श्रवण योजना के अन्तर्गत रेडियो दिलवाये जायें जैसा कि वह भ्रादिम जाति और पिछड़े क्षेत्रों पर लागू होती है।

[The question has been examined and it is felt that mere exemption from payment of licence fee will not afford radio listening facilities to the poor inhabitants of the Lahaul and Spiti areas who cannot afford to purchase their own radio sets. The Punjab Government has been advised that villages in the Lahaul and

Spiti areas may be supplied radio sets under the Community Listening Scheme as applicable to tribal and backward areas.]

Shri Hem Raj: In view of the fact that these areas are not accessible for 8 or 9 months in the year and there are no facilities even for postal mails to be taken there, will Government consider the question of giving community sets free to the Punjab Government and exempt them from the licence fees?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The question of exemption will not arise if community sets are given. The hon. Member is aware that the licence fee for community sets is much less than for home sets; and whatever fee is there that will be shared by the Government itself.

Shri Hem Raj: In view of the fact that the area is sparsely populated—it has only a population of 4,000 in an area of 6,000 sq. miles—will Government consider the advisability of giving some radio sets free to the Punjab Government for being distributed in every village?

Dr. Keskar: The last part of my reply practically implied that. Any set which is supplied under the provision that has been made for tribal areas means that the set will not cost anything to the community. The cost will be shared by the Government of India and the Government of Punjab; and it will be installed and maintained there, entirely, by the Punjab Government.

श्री पद्म देव : माननीय मंत्री को यह मालूम है कि आज-कल के दिवसों में उस इलाके में विशेष प्रकार की अफगाहें उड़ाई जाती हैं। प्रश्न यह पूछा गया था कि जो लोग रेडियो सेट्स खरीद सकते हैं, वे फीस से एग्जेंट किए जा सकते हैं या नहीं। इस में यह नहीं था कि कृषि वहां के लोग गरीब हैं, इस लिए उनको एग्जेंट किया जाये। प्रश्न यह है कि जो गरीब भी खरीद सकते हैं, आया उनको ऊपर