

Gunshots in Chandni Chowk, Delhi

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*2206. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several people in Chandni Chowk, Delhi were wounded by bullets from a bank sentry's gun on the 19th April, 1959,

(b) if so, the circumstances in which it happened,

(c) the number of people injured and their condition;

(d) whether any inquiry has been instituted, and

(e) if so, the result of such an inquiry?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (e) On the 19th April, 1959, a Cashier of the Bank of Patiala, Charkhi Dadri, District Mohendargarh, took delivery of a cash box from the Chandni Chowk Branch of the Bank. The cash box was placed in a tonga with a gun retainer in the back seat while the Cashier himself sat in front. The gun retainer was carrying a loaded .12 bore DBBL gun which accidentally went off. 12 persons were injured of whom 10 sustained simple injuries and were discharged from hospital after minor treatment. Two persons are still in hospital but are reported to be out of danger. The police have registered a case and the matter is now under investigation.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether from the persons who have been grievously injured any complaints have been received?

Shri Datar: I am not aware whether any complaints have been received, but as I have pointed out, ten persons have already been discharged after treatment. Two are still in hospital.

Shri Prabhat Kar: In view of the fact that the bank peons have to carry

money from the treasury every day with the armed guard, may I know whether the police will take steps to see that a lorry is provided to the banks as is done in Calcutta with the armed police, so that this type of accidents may not happen in the crowded street of Chandni Chowk?

Shri Datar: The hon Member's suggestion is a novel one, but still it would be examined.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I can bring to the notice of the hon Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs that it is done in Calcutta. If it is possible to do it in Calcutta, it is possible to do it in Delhi also.

Shri Datar: We will try to look into it.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister need not have used the word 'novel'. That is the word which provoked the hon. Member!

Shri Datar: 'Novel' means new.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government has ascertained that the gun that was carried by the bank peon was quite in perfect order and was not loose in any sense, because such an accident never occurs, but it has now occurred? May I know whether that question has been examined?

Shri Datar: The gun has been taken into custody and a case has already been registered, and the investigation has started.

Naga Hostiles

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*2207. { **Shri L. Achaw Singh:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a large scale subversive activity of hostile Nagas in the

Tamenglong sub-division of Manipur in recent months and a large number of persons have been arrested during the police operations in these areas and a number of arms seized;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested during the last six months and those standing trial;

(c) the number of persons convicted and charges on which they were convicted; and

(d) the steps taken to control the situation in Tamenglong?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) There has been some activity on the part of Naga hostiles in the Tamenglong sub-division of Manipur recently.

(b) Since the beginning of November 1958, 160 Naga hostiles have been arrested. Cases against 34 are pending in court.

(c) 32, out of which 27 persons have been convicted under the Indian Arms Act, one under section 380 Indian Penal Code and 4 under section 109 Criminal Procedure Code.

(d) Necessary steps have been taken to comb out the affected areas.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: May I know whether a group of Angami Nagas from Kohima has been arrested near the Nungba police station with two books, namely, the *Naga Problem* and *Naga Goodwill Mission*, and may I know whether they have been convicted and, if so, for how long?

Shri Datar: I have given the information that I have. It will be found that a large number of Naga hostiles—160—have been arrested.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: It has appeared in the press that the headman of Tamenglong village has been kidnapped by the Naga hostiles. May I know whether he has been recovered from the hostiles?

Shri Datar: There are some cases of kidnapping, but in a large number

of them, they have now been released.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the Naga hostile activities are increasing of late, in this area, may I know whether the Government have assessed the progress of co-operation towards the restoration of peace and the assurances made to the Government by the Naga People's Convention and, if so, how far they have succeeded in converting those Naga hostiles towards the establishment of peace instead of asking the Government to extend the period of amnesty?

Shri Datar: All that I can say in reply is that Government have been constantly watching the circumstances and assessing the situation.

Shri P. G. Deb: May I know whether the army was employed in these operations?

Shri Datar: No, Sir; so far as I am aware.

Sarimati Mafta, Ahmed: The latest review of the Naga situation made by the area Commissioner, Shri Luthra, reveals that many underground hostiles have surrendered with their arms. May I know whether any effort has been made to find out the clue as to how the terrorists are maintaining continuity of unlicensed arms?

12 hrs.

Shri Datar: Recently there have been surrenders of considerable amounts of arms and ammunitions.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article published recently in the *Daily Express* of London on the materials sent to that paper by the press correspondent of that paper called Mr. Donald Wise, who has sent an exaggerated report saying that during the course of 2 years, 35,000 Naga hostiles have been killed by the army? If so, may I know what steps Government have taken to restrict the entry of

foreign press correspondents to that area, whose identity is of a doubtful nature?

Shri Datar: Government have this problem in view and they are taking necessary action from time to time

Shrimati Manjula Devi: May I know whether the hostile Nagas are receiving outside aid in the form of arms?

Shri Datar: It will be very difficult for me to answer it just now. Secondly, even if I have the material, it may not be in public interest to disclose it.

Shri Raghubath Singh: May I know whether the arms surrendered by the hostile Nagas have been examined and whether they know the make of the arms—Pakistani, Hindustani or UK, etc?

Shri Datar: In some cases, we know the makes.

Shri Ranga: Have Government sent any communication to the *Daily Express* in London contradicting the wrong information that has been published by their correspondent, or, will they do it at least now?

Shri Datar: I am not aware of this particular publication. All the same I shall try, if the hon. Member gives me the date, I shall look into it and see what action is necessary.

Shri Hem Barua: The date is 9th February and the name of the Correspondent is Donald Wise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION No. 32

Riots in Sitamarhi, Bihar

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S.N.Q. No. 32. { Shri Vajpayee.
Shri Assar:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Army was called to assist the Civil Administration in Riot-affected areas of Sitamarhi, Bihar;

(b) if so, the period for which assistance was sought and the period

for which assistance was actually rendered, and

(c) the number of Jawans and officers employed in this operation?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The period is not specified in such cases. Army assistance is given for only so long as the situation demands.

(c) It is not in public interest to disclose the number of troops employed.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to grossly exaggerated accounts of these happenings in the Pakistan Press and if so, whether Government appreciate that it is the summoning of the Army that makes even the wild reports appear plausible?

Shri Krishna Menon: Obligations in this regard are confined to discharging the statutory obligations of placing the army assistance at the disposal of civil authorities when it is requested according to the procedure laid down by law.

An Hon. Member: He is not audible.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that under statutory obligations—he is referring to the Criminal Procedure Code—the army authorities have to come to the help of the civil authorities in maintaining law and order. That was done. If others go on making all sorts of reports, it is none of their business.

Shri Vajpayee: What exactly is the procedure in such cases? I would like to know whether the Defence Ministry, before acceding to the requisition of armed units by local authorities, ascertains whether the situation does in fact warrant such assistance or whether it is incumbent on the Defence Ministry to come to the help of civil authorities.

Mr. Speaker: The matter was discussed here in connection with some other matter and it was pointed out