

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 29, 1959/Vaisakha 9,
1881 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: The House will now
take up Questions. Shri Rajendra
Singh.

Shri S. M Banerjee: Sir, I have been
given priority; my question No. 2125
(re-numbered as 2089-A) has been
given priority.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, yes. Shri Banerjee

Survey of India Party in Nepal

*2089-A. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
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 Shri Tangamani:

Will the Minister of Scientific Re-
search and Cultural Affairs be pleased
to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that No. 25
Field Party of the Survey of India,
Dehra Dun is now in Nepal;

(b) whether two workers of that
party are reported to be missing and
two others have lost their legs and
have become permanently disabled;

(c) whether this was due to the fact
that no adequate protection was given
to them against snow; and

(d) if so, whether any inquiry has
been instituted?

The Minister of Scientific Research
and Cultural Affairs (Shri Humayun
Kabir): (a) Yes, Sir.

90 (A) L.S.D.—1

(b) and (c). Two Nepali porters died
and one Survey of India Khalasi was
frostbitten on the night of 30-31st
January 1959 when coming down from
an observation post at 15000 feet after
their tent had collapsed as a result of
heavy snowfall. It appears that the
sudden accident in the extreme cold so
numbed them that they left behind
their warm clothing in the tent and
the two porters would not even re-
spond to the appeal of the Khalasi to
take shelter in a nearby cave.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know
what types of equipment were provid-
ed to the employees of the No. 25
Field Party and whether different
scales and types of equipment were
provided for different classes of em-
ployees, that is, for class I, class II,
class III and class IV employees?

Shri Humayun Kabir: To the first
part of the question the answer is
that they were each issued with two
blankets, one posteen coat, one ground
sheet, one water bottle, one chisel,
one pair of gloves, one Balaclava cap,
one pair of putties, a pair of socks
and a pair of Bhotia shoes, besides
equipment and utensils.

About the other part of the question
I ask for notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know
whether the Ministry of External
Affairs, in their letter dated 17-4-55,
have prescribed rates of special daily
allowance to these employees who
are working in foreign territories, that
is, in Pakistan and Nepal, why these
were discontinued, whether the unions
and associations have represented in
this behalf, and with what results.

Shri Humayun Kabir: Sir, this does
not arise out of the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Because they are running a risk. The hon Minister replied previously that they always run a risk, same as the other people there in the area. But they are working in a foreign territory and because they run a risk they should be given the special allowance. It does arise

Mr Speaker: The hon Member will table another question so far as that matter is concerned

Shri Prabhat Kar: What compensation will be paid to the disabled persons and the dependents of the displaced persons?

Shri Humayun Kabir: It will depend upon the degree of disability. So far as the Khalasi is concerned, he has been discharged from the hospital and he is now able to walk. After the extent of disability is known he will be given disability benefits according to certain schedules which have been laid down.

श्री भक्त बर्दान : माननीय मंत्री जी ने इसके पाठों की० के उत्तर में बताया है कि इन्कवायरी करने की व्यवस्था की गयी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन अफसर वह इन्कवायरी कर रहे हैं और कब तक उनकी रिपोर्ट आने की घोषणा की जा सकती है ?

श्री हुमायूँ कबीर इसमें हमेशा कोर्ट आफ इन्कवायरी बैठता है। and it is also laid down how the Court of Enquiry is to be conducted

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In regard to the workers in this area who work in hazardous conditions, may I know if without discrimination adequate security arrangements as well as special precautionary provisions are made for the class I, II, III and IV employees?

Shri Humayun Kabir: In these matters there is uniformity of treatment, and I can add that in this particular case the porters and the Khalasis had been given explicit instructions that if there was heavy

snowfall they should immediately come down; and the Khalasi who survived reported that he had asked the porters to come down, but the porters refused, saying that the weather would improve the next morning and that they did not want to climb back again.

Shri Prabhat Kar: In reply to Unstarred Question No. 1423 the hon. Minister replied that the Survey of India staff working in the field are not subjected to any special risks. In view of the incident which has happened, how can that reply—that the Survey of India staff are not subject to any special risks—be justified?

Shri Humayun Kabir: I do not have that unstarred question before me at the moment, but I can reply all the same. This particular party is not part of the normal work of the Survey of India, and that reply must have referred to the normal work of the Survey of India. This party is a part of India's aid to Nepal under the Colombo Plan.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr Speaker: I am not going to spend away one hour on this one question; it is enough that I have given it priority. Next question.

College for Delhi Villages

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*2100. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to start a college for the benefit of the residents of the Delhi villages; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrivastava): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise