

matter is being examined by the Sports Council and the Government will await its report before taking a decision in this matter.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know whether Government have enquired into the various charges made against the Sports body including misuse of funds, before allocating further sums, and if so, what is the progress so far made in this direction?

**Dr K. L. Shrivastava:** If any such thing comes to the notice of Government, they do enquire into it

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

##### Refugees from Tibet

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**S N Q.**  
**No. 15.** { **Shri M. E. Masani.**  
**Shri Asoka Mehta:**  
**Shri Frank Anthony:**  
**Shri Nausahir Bharucha:**  
**Shri Geray:**  
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri A. M. Tariq:**  
**Shri Nek Ram Nagi:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news report in *The Statesman* (Delhi) of March 21 which states —

"The Government of India's present anxiety concerns the movement of refugees towards the long and rambling frontiers India has taken steps to strengthen the check-posts and the orders are that no refugees should be allowed to cross over"

(b) if so, whether the report is correct, and

(c) if not, what is the policy Government propose to follow in the matter of giving effect to international law and practice of giving asylum to political refugees entering the country from Tibet?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The general instructions issued by the Government of India some time ago were that any persons endeavouring to cross our frontier should be stopped at our check post and should not be allowed to cross over unless they have the necessary travel papers. The existing strength of our check posts on the borders is sufficient for dealing with normal movements between India and Tibet. There has thus far not been any substantial increase in the movement of persons from the Tibet region into India. If necessity arises the strength of our check posts will be increased.

2 The general position under International Law is that a State is free to admit or not to admit a foreigner into its territory. This applies to giving asylum also. It is thus a matter entirely in the discretion of the Government concerned. It is the sovereign right of the State to give asylum when it chooses but no individual can insist on obtaining such asylum. Individual cases have to be considered on merits whenever occasion for this arises.

**Shri M. E. Masani:** Does not the Prime Minister appreciate that since the Chinese authorities have given instructions to their soldiers to shoot at sight any groups or individual Tibetans who may be crossing the frontier into India and carrying out those instructions would mean in fact co-operating in their butchery?

**Mr Speaker:** What is the hon. Member asking?

**An Hon. Member:** Speech-making

**Mr Speaker:** What is his question?

**Shri M. E. Masani:** Is the Prime Minister aware that Austria, which enjoys a neutral status and had diplomatic relations with Hungary in 1936, threw its frontiers wide open to receive thousands of Hungarian refugees and why cannot this country follow the same brave policy?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Primarily because this is not Austria or Hungary

and secondly because the question has not arisen. As I have said, we have not had any large numbers, or even small numbers, of people, apart from the normal traffic. The question has not arisen; it is a hypothetical question. Whenever any question arises, it will have to be considered in the context of events and conditions there. It is obviously impossible for me to give an answer to a question which has not arisen.

**Shri M. E. Masani:** If a group of...

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member will kindly read Rule 41. Matters involving high policy cannot be asked in a question.

**Shri M. E. Masani:** Would you allow me to elucidate the answer given by the Prime Minister?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is going on giving suggestions. He is not eliciting information.

**Shri M. E. Masani:** I am eliciting information.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is it?

**Shri M. E. Masani:** Will the Prime Minister explain what would happen if a party of 25 or 30 Tibetans who are followed in hot pursuit by Chinese forces come to the frontier? Will their lives be protected or will they be allowed to be butchered?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the hon. Member is also a barrister. This is irrelevant according to all standards. Hypothetical questions cannot be asked.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** The Prime Minister has said that it is always within the discretion of a sovereign power to admit to asylum to those who may seek it. We have a specific context and that is, presumably the Chinese Government have given an order to their soldiers to shoot any Tibetan seeking entry into India. In that context, I want to ask the Prime Minister how he proposes to give asylum to a Tibetan, because he has said each will have to be considered

on merits, and the Chinese soldiers have been told to shoot them at sight.

**Mr. Speaker:** If they are shot at sight, how can they enter India?

**Shri Frank Anthony:** There need not be any deliberate mis-assumption of my question. When they will be seeking presumably asylum on a large scale, the Chinese soldiers being ordered to shoot them at sight, I want to know how we are going to admit them and consider each case on merit?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** You have been pleased to answer that question, Sir. All these are hypothetical approaches. There has not been any slightest, vaguest approach to us of this kind or any facts indicating that such an approach, such a thing, might happen. How can I answer that? Secondly, if I may say so, I do not know, because there are so many rumours and statements. If people are shot at sight, surely the hon. Member does not imagine this kind of thing happening on the border: People sitting on the border and waiting for people to approach the border. This kind of thing does not happen; if they are sitting on the border, nobody will go to that border. They will go to some other border or they will be shot down before. This kind of thing does not happen—people being pursued and so on.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** May I raise a point of order? I seek your guidance. Since I have not given you notice in regard to it—whether it is a question of privilege or not—I am raising it as a point of order. I want to know how it is that the Chinese Embassy here have issued officially....

**Mr. Speaker:** We have got some adjournment motions. The hon. Member can wait and see.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** I have not finished the question. It is a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** It does not arise out of this. The point of order must arise out of the question. It does not arise out of this question—what the Chinese Embassy has done here. The hon. Member will kindly wait and see. There are some adjournment motions relating to that subject.

**Shri Nanshir Bharucha:** May I know whether the Government have addressed any communication to the Peking authorities conveying the Government's reaction to the military occupation of Tibet?

**Mr. Speaker:** How does it arise out of this?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir; the military occupation of Tibet has been in existence for the last few years.

**Shri Braj Raj Singh:** If the Dalai Lama approaches the border, shall he be allowed political asylum here in India, because it is given in the Press that if the Dalai Lama crosses the border, he will not be shot at, but others who cross the border from Tibet will be shot at. So, if the Dalai Lama crosses the border, shall he be given asylum here?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am really unable to understand this question. Is the newspaper correspondent the Prime Minister of India? Here the hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly said no such question has arisen. If any, when those persons come in, certainly he will consider, not in groups, but each individual case on merits. Why should he unnecessarily embarrass and put a question as to what will happen if the Dalai Lama comes in?

श्री ब्र० राज० सिंह : मैं इज्जत माव  
बजीरे भाजम से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि  
ल्हासा में लद्दाख के तकरीबन ६० के करीब  
तालिबान्म वीजूद हैं इस के मलावा वहाँ  
चार बहुत बड़े कुचक हैं, क्या उन के वापिस  
पाने के लिये और उन की सलामती के लिये  
हकूमत ने क्या इन्तिजामात किये हैं ?

۱ مہوں سزے آہ وزیر اعظم سے یہ جاننا  
چاہتا ہوں کہ اسے ۶۰ ہوں اداخ کے تقریباً

۶۰۰ کے قریب طالب علم موجود ہیں  
اور وہاں چار بہت بڑے کوشک ہیں -  
ان کے واپس آنے کے لئے اور ان کی  
سلامتی کے لئے حکومت نے کیا  
انتظامات کیے ہیں -

श्री ब्रजराजसिंह नेहरू : हमें तो मालूम  
नहीं था कि लद्दाख के वहाँ लामा या भीर  
लोग कितने ल्हासा में थे या उस के इर्द गिर्द थे  
क्योंकि हमारे पास कोई फँहरीस्त नहीं है।  
दो रोज हुए हम से यह पूछा गया, हमें कहा  
गया कि दरियाफ्त करे इस के बारे में। चुनावे  
फौरन हम ने दरियाफ्त करने की कोशिश की  
है ल्हासा से उन की खैरियत के बारे में।  
बात यह है कि यों तो जो वहाँ हिन्दुस्तान के  
नैदानल जाते हैं, उन की फँहरीस्त हमारे  
पास रहती है, लेकिन पुराने जमाने से  
लद्दाख की तरफ से जो जाते हैं, आमदोरफ्त  
रहती है, उस की कोई फँहरीस्त नहीं है  
और न उन के नाम हमारे पास रहते हैं।  
लेकिन हम दरियाफ्त कर रहे हैं।

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Goray.

**Shri B. C. Kamble:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Chinese

**Mr. Speaker:** I have called Shri Goray.

**Shri Goray:** The Prime Minister said just now about the refugees, that the policy of the Government will be decided upon when the need arises I would like to say that when the need arises it may be rather too late to decide the policy. You cannot start digging a well when you are thirsty. I am saying that the policy should be decided upon just now.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has said so. He has already said about the policy in the House

**Shri Goray:** I think it is very inadequate, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is all right. That is not under discussion now.

**Shri B. C. Kamble:** Is it a fact that the Chinese authorities have issued orders to shoot? Then, will the Union Government exercise discretion

in favour of admitting the refugees in India?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It is very extraordinary. The Chinese order to shoot, if they issued such an order, has no relation to this question of our admitting people or not admitting people. Nothing has happened on the borders of India. It is in the interior of Tibet that this is happening. And, certainly it is not a question of our not having a policy. We have got a very clear policy. But the implementation of that policy depends upon the circumstances. All our check-posts have been informed of the broad policies that should be pursued in these matters. Obviously, I cannot be expected to say that when a large crowd comes suddenly. I should admit it—or if half the population comes. How can I commit the Government of India to any such thing?

**Shri M. E. Masani:** Why not?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Because, will not admit them. I should be quite clear about it, because no country can possibly say, if you take the past history of thousands of years "we will admit everyone".

**Shri M. E. Masani:** Austria admitted thousands of people.

**Shri Raghunath Singh:** But we are not Austrians.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Shri Masani's information on the subject is no doubt very intimate. I cannot challenge that. But I do say that no country can give a guarantee, or should give a guarantee, that "we will admit every person who wants to cross the border".

**Shri Tyagi:** On a point of order. It has been conventional in all Parliaments everywhere practically that the Ministers in charge of Foreign Affairs and Defence have been enjoying the privilege of keeping away information on matters pertaining to high diplomatic policy for the safety of the nation itself. Shall we not observe

that convention here in this Parliament on matters which pertain to our future relationship, that the Ministers concerned may enjoy the privilege of keeping the information from the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not able to understand the point of order.

**Raja Mahendra Pratap:** I just want to ask one very important question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I will be forced to take disciplinary action against him.

**Raja Mahendra Pratap:** Only against me and not against others?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. There must be a limit to this. Does the hon. Member, Shri Tyagi, mean to say that the hon. Prime Minister need not have said all that he has said?

**Shri Tyagi:** I would like to suggest that the hon. Minister in charge of Foreign Affairs and the one in charge of Defence Affairs may have the privilege of keeping information from the House if the situation so requires.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of some adjournment motions.

**Shri Naushir Bharucha:** We have still to ask some questions. I would like to know whether the Prime Minister has communicated his reactions regarding the latest developments in Tibet to the Chinese authorities, any type of reactions?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, sir, if he is referring to the statements which were issued yesterday.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will come to them. There are some adjournment motions on the subject.

**Raja Mahendra Pratap:** Just one point. I have been abroad for 31 years and I have been often a refugee in a way. The British Government wanted to capture me in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Government boldly

said "we cannot give him up". And when I was in Peking, the British Government had extra-territorial rights in China and the British Government wanted to capture me. The French Legation told me: we would inform you if the British take any action against you. So, I was protected all the time in all the countries of the world, non-British countries. Under these circumstances, I can request you, I can beg of you, that you kindly give asylum to every Tibetan who comes here. There is no harm in it.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of adjournment motions.....

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I request you to permit us to put some more questions.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, they will not be answered now.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Import of Iron and Steel

\*1537. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 859 on the 24th November, 1958 and state:

(a) whether there has been any further fall from the anticipated fall of 0.5 million tons in the import of iron and steel during 1958;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this fall in the import of iron and steel has affected the industrial growth and construction works in the country with particular reference to Bihar?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). Imports in 1958 were about half a million tons less than in 1957. This was more or less as anticipated.

(c) Indigenous production in 1958 was about the same as in the previous

year. The total availability of steel was slightly less; industrial users like others could not, therefore, receive adequate quantities of steel and there was some short supply for construction works, both in the field of public activity and private construction. It is difficult to evaluate these precisely and even more difficult to do so with reference to a particular State. Though the overall allocation of steel to industries using steel was maintained at the same level as in 1957, some of the relatively less important steel-using industries obtained less raw material as a result of giving higher priority to more important industries.

##### Fabricated Steel

\*1547. Shri Morarka: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 83 on the 19th November, 1958 and state:

(a) the expected cost of 250,000 tons of fabricated steel to be imported for the steel plants; and

(b) the reasons why statistics of imports of fabricated steel are not maintained?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) The average price of fabricated steel imported for the three steel plants is about Rs. 1,350 per ton.

(b) The reason is that Indian trade statistics are compiled on the basis of the Standard International Trade Classification. This classification does not include the term "fabricated steel". Since the end of 1957, however, a head called "finished structural parts of iron or steel including assembled structures" has been introduced and this includes part of what is commonly known here as fabricated steel. The rest will, no doubt, be included under other appropriate heads.