

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, the 19th April, 1961/
Chaitra 29, 1883 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Defence of Sikkim

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*1611. { Shri Assar:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sikkim Government have requested the Central Government to allow them to raise a separate para military force for the defence of Sikkim; and

(b) if so, nature of action taken in this regard?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri J. N. Hazarika): (a) The Sikkim Government have suggested their association with the defence of Sikkim through the formation of a Sikkim militia.

(b) This matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Shri Assar: May I know when a decision will be taken?

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The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When it has been fully considered.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: May I know whether this militia will be commanded by the Indian officers? Has this point been decided?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: At present there is no Sikkim militia. If it is a question of who is to command it, obviously the only possible commander can be an Indian trained officer. Who else? I do not think the Sikkimese have any trained people.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if adequate arrangements for the defence of Sikkim exist at present?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We think the arrangements are quite adequate.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: How is it that the need or occasion arose for the raising of such a para-military force when it is the direct responsibility of the Government of India to defend Sikkim?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The militia or a kind of home guards suggested is just any home guards in the various parts of India. They are not up to the standard of the army, of course. The suggestion was made. That is why we are considering it. They do not take the place of the army.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the Chinese refusal to acknowledge India's special relations with the Himalayan States of Sikkim and Bhutan is one of the reasons for

Sikkim to organise a militia of her own in order to meet any emergent situation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think so. It has nothing to do with it. It is only a proposal.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सिक्किम की तरह भूटान सरकार ने भी भारत सरकार से अपनी सुरक्षा के लिए कुछ अनुरोध किया था, यदि हाँ, तो भारत सरकार ने भूटान की सुरक्षा के सम्बन्ध में भी कुछ विषय व्यवस्था की हैं ?

श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू : अनुरोध करने का प्रश्न तो है नहीं क्योंकि यह तो जानी हुई बात है और सब लोग इसको स्वीकार करते हैं कि भूटान की रक्षा करना हमारी जिम्मेदारी है ।

Shri Tyagi: The defence of Sikkim is the responsibility of the Government of India, and this militia, as suggested in this question, is also proposed to be raised for the defence of Sikkim. So, if it is allowed to be independent of the defence forces of India, there will be two defence forces defending Sikkim. May I, therefore, know whether the Prime Minister will see to it that this force, if raised, acts under the control of the Defence Ministry?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is obvious, Sir. Nobody can raise it or train it or officer it or control it, except our army people, if it is decided, but we have not decided about the nature of it. The idea is, as I hinted, that it should be in the nature of some kind of home guard.

Shri Tyagi: Because it is for the defence of Sikkim. If it is for any other purpose, I can understand, but it is for the defence of Sikkim.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have not framed the question. I have only to answer it. If I had been asked to frame, I would not have used "mili-

tia" for instance; I would not have used many words.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know if the proposed militia for Sikkim would have any connection with the auxiliary force in India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What is the auxiliary force to which the hon. Member refers?

Mr. Speaker: He thinks there is an auxiliary force here.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: Just as we have got military trained personnel in India. . . .

Mr. Speaker: The question is not understandable. Next question.

Indian Holy Shrines in Pakistan

*1612, **Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to the meeting of Joint Committee of Pakistan and India envisaged in May, 1955 Agreement about consideration of ways and means to maintain the sanctity of holy shrines left in Pakistan and protection of their property; and

(b) if no progress has been made, what steps are intended in this connection?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) The first meeting of the Indo-Pak Joint Committee on shrines, in pursuance of the 1955 Agreement, was held at Karachi on the 24th and 25th January, 1958. The Government of Pakistan have, so far, not given any reply to our invitation for holding the second meeting in New Delhi.

(b) Our Acting High Commissioner in Karachi is pressing the Government of Pakistan for an early decision.

Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi: What were the matters that were discussed in the first or only meeting that was held,