

(i) Cycle tyres and tubes have been declared as an Essential Commodity under the Essential Commodities Act. Powers have also been delegated under the Essential Commodities Act. Powers have also been delegated under the Act to the State Governments to regulate the distribution and supply of all the essential commodities including cycle tyres and tubes. This delegation enables prevention of hoarding and profiteering in such commodities.

(ii) The manufacturers of tyres and tubes have been asked to hold the price line and to ensure regular supplies to their dealer and the consumers Cooperative Stores. The manufacturers have agreed to supply 10 per cent of their production available for commercial supplies to the Cooperative Stores. The supplies of cycle tyres and tubes to various wholesale and other Cooperative Stores in Delhi is regulated by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi

(iii) The Delhi Administration has devised detailed arrangements for regular supply of cycle and rickshaw tyres and tubes to genuine consumers on production of municipal tax receipts and municipal licences of the Rickshaw owner. Cycle tyre and tube dealers have been directed to maintain clear accounts of their sales and stocks to enable officers of Delhi Administration to have complete check and to ensure that these instructions are scrupulously followed. The Association of Cyc'e dealers has also been directed by Delhi Administration to arrange for supervision on the work of individual dealers so as to ensure that none malpractices are indulged in by any of their member-dealers. The Association has further sought to improve the system by issuing a card to each cycle Rickshaw operator as an identity card. Columns have been printed on this card to specify the quantity and the date of supply.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ADVANCE OF CHINESE ARMY CLOSE TO
THE SIKKIM BORDER

Shri Samar Guha (Contai): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon.

"Chinese army advancing close to the Sikkim border and intensifying anti-Indian mispropaganda and the reported clash between Chinese patrols and the Indian frontier guards resulting in the death of four Indian Jawans."

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chinese forces have for a long time now been in position in strength across our northern borders. There has been no significant change of late.

Since 3rd July 1966, the Chinese have been making propaganda over loudspeakers across Nathu La with a view to undermining the morale and discipline of the Indian troops by giving entirely false stories about conditions in India. The Chinese Government have totally miscalculated the effect of these broadcasts on the morale and resolve of the Indian troops who treat such crude propaganda with the contempt it deserves.

Government have taken suitable counter measures to refute the Chinese falsehoods and to expose their aggressive intention towards India. These measures include carrying out of counter broadcasts by loudspeakers across the border at Nathu La. These facts have been brought to the notice of the House on 1-8-1966 and 7-11-1966.

No clash has occurred recently between Chinese and Indian army personnel at the Sikkim border. Hence

the question of the death of 4 of our Jawans does not arise.

Government are fully alive to the threat posed by the presence of Chinese forces close to the Tibet border and constantly review the steps needed to safeguard the security and territorial integrity of the country.

Shri Samar Guha: Sir, I am sorry to make a remark that while preparing the statement the Defence Minister did not carefully go through the wordings of the Calling Attention Notice. I draw his attention to the wording of the Calling Attention Notice where it is said:

"to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the Chinese army advancing close to the Sikkim border..."

That is the most important point. Recently, perhaps on 24th May, a report appeared in almost all the papers that one PTI correspondent visited Nathu La and other passes in the Sikkim area and coming back he reported that the Chinese army had moved in some places to the extent of only ten feet away from our border and in some cases only four feet near the Sikkim border. In view of this tactical move of the Chinese army towards our frontier and also in view of certain developments taking place in China as also in East Pakistan in collusion with China, the recent barbarous treatment meted out to our diplomats there, the intensification of Chinese propaganda against India, the Chinese attempt to complicate the Naga and Mizo affairs, the acceleration of supply of arms, tanks and aircraft by China and participation of the Chinese experts in imparting training in guerilla warfare, and also the recent visit of the Defence Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan to Peking and also certain military move undertaken by Pakistan, whether the tactical move of the Chinese army and also concerted move jointly by China and Pakistan constitute a threat to us and whether they show the evil designs of China and Pakistan against India?

Shri Swaran Singh: I have carefully studied the wordings of the calling attention notice and I have even more carefully listened to the fine exposition by the hon. Member of the Chinese postures and the collusion between China and Pakistan. I have also very carefully used my words. If the hon. Member goes home and studies again, he will find the answer. I have nothing to add to it. I would like to say that we are quite conscious of all these factors, political and international, and various moves and postures that have been put forward by the Chinese. This question related to the concentration of Chinese troops and their movement nearer to our borders. On that I have said that there have not been any significant moves in that direction. About the overall political situation and the other moves, we are fully conscious and we are taking whatever corrective steps are necessary to be taken.

Shri Samar Guha: Sir, I seek protection. I would like to know whether the Defence Minister admits that Chinese are advancing close to Sikkim, whether he agrees that in some places Chinese army and the Indian army are only 10 ft. apart and in some places only 4 ft. apart.

Shri Swaran Singh: That is not correct.

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai): When it was said on the floor of this House before the Chinese aggression on us in 1962 that China was carrying on propaganda through 15 transmitters all along the border it was repeatedly denied by the Government spokesmen, including Shri Nehru, who was the Prime Minister then. But after the Chinese aggression it was realised it was admitted, that not 15 transmitters but 63 transmitters were used by the Chinese to carry on their hate-India campaign. May I know whether the hon. Defence Minister is now in a position to tell us that he has taken all steps to

[Shri Hem Barua]

see that this history of past mistakes on our part does not repeat itself? At the same time, judging from what has happened today, China has intensified her posture of hostility towards India. In that context, may I know whether the hon. Defence Minister is in a position to give us an assurance that an attack on Sikkim by China would be considered as an attack on India and that we are prepared to defend the Sikkimese soil when the attack comes?

Shri Swaran Singh: Without entering into the past history, on this specific question, it is well-known to the House to the country and to the Chinese that we are responsible for the defence of Sikkim and our forces are in the Sikkimese territory. The Chinese are on the Tibetan side of that border. So, the Chinese are in no delusion about our attitude and our responsibility in relation to Sikkim. I can only say that in case our territorial integrity is threatened, or any action is resorted to by the Chinese in the Sikkim territory we will not be found wanting. That is all I can say.

Shri B. K. Daschowdhury (Cooch-Bihar): In view of the continuous anti-Indian propanganda by the Chinese creating trouble in the border area in north Bengal, may I know whether Government are aware that a new organisation styled as the Young Study Group has been formed in Sikkim on the very lines of the Red Guards in China with the help and aid of the Chinese Fund and that this organisation has started very strong anti-Indian propanganda in Sikkim and neighbouring border areas creating great trouble throughout north Bengal and thereby threatening the security of India? What action does the Government propose to take against it?

Shri Swaran Singh: About propanganda being carried on in Sikkimese territory, I am afraid, I have not got information. We are in touch with the defence aspects and the situation inside Sikkim also is well under con-

trol of the Chogyal of Sikkim. We have, as the House is no doubt aware, responsibility about the defence of Sikkim and our armed forces also are there. We are in touch with the situation. I have nothing more to add to what I said in reply to the last question.

12.12 hrs.

RE: MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
Query

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldi): Sir, before you go to the other items on the agenda, may I draw your attention to the fact that I tabled an adjournment motion on the conduct of the Chinese diplomats in Delhi? They are doing certain mysterious things. They are being in contact with the Pakistanis and they are uniting Arab students for all sorts of activities. They are not going to leave India before doing some mischief. So, what about my adjournment motion?

12.12½ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

EXPORT OF CASHEW KERNELS (QUALITY CONTROL AND INSPECTION) AMENDMENT RULES, 1967.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Export of Cashew Kernels (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 1967, published in Notification No. S.O. 1785 in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 1967, under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963 [Placed in Library, Sec No. LT-683/67].

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COAL BOARD FOR 1965-66

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report of the Coal Board, Calcutta for the year 1965-66. [Placed in Library, Sec No. LT-684/67].