

12.36 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: FIRING ON
POLICEMAN FROM CHINESE
TRADE AGENCY

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I want to say something about a matter raised yesterday by Shri Hem Barua about firing in Kalimpong. Now it has been found out that first of all no fire-arms were used. The firing was not by a fire-arm, but by an air gun. It appears that members of the Chinese Trade Agency at Kalimpong have been in the habit, or sometimes they discharge air rifles from their premises in the direction of the police headquarters, maybe just to frighten them, or whatever it maybe. In the past these slugs from the air guns did not hit anybody, they went into the air and fell down, but on the 22nd March when this was done, a slug from one of the air rifles fired from the Chinese Trade Agency's office hit a policeman in the thigh and there was a minor injury. On the 30th March, the SDO at Kalimpong lodged a protest with the CTA about this incident. On the 2nd May the CTA in his reply denied that anybody in the Trade Agency had fired an air gun on that day, and he dismissed the charge as a baseless slander. We have asked the SDO at Kalimpong to let the CTA know that his reply was not satisfactory and if there is any further shooting from his premises, he would be personally held responsible. This is what we have got from the West Bengal Government.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Undoubtedly this Chinese air-gunning is very interesting, but whatever it might be, they fired and injured a policeman, and these policemen are kept in Kalimpong to guard the Chinese Trade Agency. Are we to understand from this that the Chinese Trade Agency there in Kalimpong are not interested in having our policemen guarding them and all that? Or, what might be the reason?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is probably so. The hon. Member said that the Chinese Agency was not interested in having policemen round about. That is probably so. They are interested, but they are interested in not having them.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): On a point of order, Sir. May I submit one thing? This is a matter of procedure. You have been good enough to allow these Call Attention Notices, and I must say that the Opposition is putting forward quite interesting points for statements, but you might kindly agree to just rule that the number of such questions may be limited; otherwise, if all of us give notice of them, at least an hour or so will be spent over it. I would suggest that you might rule that the number of such questions may every day be not more than such and such.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider.

12:40 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUDIT REPORT, POSTS AND TELE-
GRAPHS 1962, AND APPROPRIATION
ACCOUNTS 1960-61

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

- (1) Audit Report, Posts and Telegraphs 1962, under article 151(1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. 97/62.]
- (2) Appropriation Accounts, Posts and Telegraphs, 1960-61. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-98/62.]