

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 3, 1962/Agrahayana 12, 1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED EXISTENCE OF CHINESE ESPIONAGE RING IN ASSAM AND NEFA

Shri S. M. Banerjee: (Kanpur): Sir, under Rule 197, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

Reported Chinese espionage ring in Assam and NEFA.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Sir, the report that appeared in the *Times of India* on the 28th November in regard to the alleged Chinese espionage ring in Assam and NEFA has been carefully examined. I am informed that no Chinese agent was arrested as alleged in the Rangapara area and that no transistorised communications equipment has been recovered there. It is true that one of the refugee Chinese had run a tea shop at Bomdila, where he had been settled by the NEFA authorities for some time, but in 1961 he was moved away from this place. Government are fully aware of the dangers of espionage activity and the need to control and counter it firmly and effectively.

It is correct that a large number of Chinese have been arrested in 2320 (Ai) LS—1

Assam and in the northern districts of West Bengal and are being removed for internment. I would like to assure the House that the strictest possible measures are being and will be taken to deal with any acts of subversion or espionage.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the *Times of India* of the 28th November it was stated:

"It is perfectly clear that no espionage system can be effectively operated by a country through its own nationals alone. It is likely that the Chinese planted their agents among the Tibetan refugees, who came down to India earlier, and that enemy agents will be found among the NEFA tribal evacuees who are at present trickling down to the plains"

It also said that there are Indians in other walks of life who have also been doing this job.

May I know whether our security measures and intelligence, which have unfortunately failed, have been tightened up and, if so, what positive steps have been taken to see that these elements are combed out properly?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Well, Sir, it is a very general statement which the *Times of India* has made. In any country and in any area it could be easily said, or perhaps in China itself it could be said that there are Indian agents in China. Similarly it could be said that there are Indian agents of China in India. I cannot reply to that point as to what the *Times of India* has said. As I said, it is not entirely correct. It is difficult to say anything on that

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

point. But we have to remain vigilant and careful.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether some of the Tibetan refugees were used in this, because they have been employed in various undertakings in India.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: No, we have not any such information that Tibetan refugees as such have been employed in that kind of activity.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : चीनी जो गिरफ्तार हुए हैं क्या उन से इस किस्म की इनक्वायरी की गई है कि उन का हिन्दुस्तानियों से कोई लिंक था या उन्होंने ने लिंक पैदा किया जिस की कि बिना पर वह हिन्दुस्तान में चीन के हक में और हिन्दुस्तान के खिलाफ प्रचार कर सके और काम कर सके और अगर कोई नतीजा निकला है तो ऐसे हिन्दुस्तानियों के खिलाफ क्या सल्ल ऐक्शन लिया गया है या लिया जाने वाला है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : कोई हिन्दुस्तानी ऐसा गिरफ्तार नहीं हुआ है । मैं ने तो कहा है कि चीनी गिरफ्तार हुए हैं . . .

श्री बागड़ी : मैं ने . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य जानना चाहते हैं कि जो गिरफ्तार हुए हैं उन से कोई ऐसी इत्तिला मिली है कि हमारे हिन्दुस्तानी भी उन को कोई मदद दे रहे थे और अगर ऐसी इत्तिला मिली है तो उन के बरखिलाफ क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : ऐसी इत्तिला नहीं मिली है और न शायद वह यह कहने को तैयार होंगे कि वहां उन की मदद करते रहे हैं ।

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): In recent days, there has been a mushroom growth of restaurants and tea-shops especially in Shilong and near-about areas, and may I

know whether Government have verified whether these hotels and restaurants are large centres of espionage for Chinese purposes?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Of course, we have now taken action and those restaurants and tea-shops will no longer function.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I want to know whether the Government have verified whether any of these places have been working as espionage centres by the Chinese.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: These tea-shops, etc.?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Yes.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: The hon. Member is suggesting that they are perhaps yet functioning as such centres?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Yes.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: Well, as far as I am aware, they are not, but a very large number, about 1,100,—as far as I remember—Chinese have been arrested in Assam and therefore these centres, even if they were being misused in any shape or form before, are not being allowed to function, So, there is no fear of any such thing.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangbad): Is it a fact that very recently a Chinese spy was caught redhanded by the Gauhati police taking photographs of the big Brahmaputra bridge, that he was given bail by the local magistrate, of Rs. 1,000 only, that an Indian local resident stood surety and that the Chinese jumped bail. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: That has been discussed here.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It was not discussed here; not at all. This is the first time it is being mentioned here. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member spoke about that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But it has not been replied to; it has not been answered. Is it a fact that he jumped bail and has absconded since and, if so, what measures are being taken by Government not merely to weed out such spies from NEFA and Assam but also such uncautious and probably suspect officers and other Indian citizens in Assam and NEFA?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: As far as I am aware, the information of the hon. Member is not quite correct. Yet, I would also myself like to look into the details. But as far as I had come to know of it, I made enquiries and found that what the hon. Member has said just now is not wholly correct and any kind of reflection on the officers in regard to that particular matter is not justified.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: What is the correct story then? Let us have it. If mine is not correct, let him give the correct story.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Tyagi: Was he given bail or not?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that it is not wholly correct. Therefore, naturally, Members want to know to what extent it is correct.

Shri Tyagi: Was he let off on bail or not?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I do not exactly remember the details, and therefore, I said that.

Shri Tyagi: Was he let off on bail or not?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let him give the information tomorrow, then.

Mr. Speaker: But it is not necessary that it should be tomorrow.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: During this session.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the Chinese have displayed extraordinary knowledge of the diffi-

cult terrain as also of the unmapped tortuous tracks of NEFA, may I know whether it is not a fact that the Chinese have organised a deep-seated espionage ring in that area, even by allowing Chinese girls to be married to NEFA tribesmen and, if so, may I know whether the Government have taken any positive steps to see that the Chinese wives of Indian tribesmen do not percolate into the Assam plains with the stream of refugees that is coming up?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: About the latter part, I entirely agree. In fact, that is the main question which the hon. Member has put. We will certainly be careful and take necessary action.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, my question has not been answered. I wanted to know about the Chinese wives of the Indian tribesmen.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I answered that.

Mr. Speaker: That is what he answered.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि गिरफ्तार हुए चाइनीज की तादाद कितनी है ? क्या मैं यह भी जान सकता हूँ कि क्या हिस्ट्री में कोई भी मिसाल ऐसी है कि दुश्मन पन्द्रह हजार फीट ऊंची पहाड़ियों को लांच कर तीन दिन में २५ मील आगे आ गया हो ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मिनिस्टर साहब सिर्फ यह बतायें कि गिरफ्तार हुए चाइनीज की तादाद कितनी है ?

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : उन की तादाद आसाम में ११०० और करीब ६३६ वेस्ट बंगाल में है ।

12.11 hrs.

REPORTED ATTACK ON
DR. S. GOPAL

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम १९७ के अन्तर्गत प्रधान मंत्री का ध्यान निम्न अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर आकृष्ट करता