

Naval Prize Money

1026. **Shri A. V. Raghavan:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Naval prize money allotted to India;

(b) what was the basis on which the amount was disbursed among the claimants; and

(c) the number of officers and ratings who are yet to receive the prize money and the amount outstanding?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah):

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 7].

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED RELEASE OF I.A.F. AIRMEN BY NAGA HOSTILES

Mr. Speaker: I have got four calling-attention-notices from Shri S. M. Banerjee, Shri Nath Pai, Shri Priya Gupta, Shri Hem Barua and Shri P. C. Borooah.

I shall call upon Shri S. M. Banerjee to read it out.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I have not got the form.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): I believe that it has been withheld.

Mr. Speaker: I have called the hon. Member because I thought that some information that might be available just now or just at present might be given to the House, and if further information is available, that can be given afterwards. This notice is about the release of our airmen by the Naga

hostiles. Can the hon. Prime Minister give that information?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We have heard from our Embassy in Rangoon that the Burmese Government have informed them that the four Indian airmen were handed over to them on the 5th of May, on the Indo-Burmese border by the Naga hostiles. We have not got more information yet. But it is presumed that they will be taken to Mandalay soon, in a day or two, possibly; because they have had a hard time they might be hospitalised there for a day or two to rest, and then they will be taken to Rangoon where they will be handed over to our Embassy and then transported here. That is all the information that I can give now.

May I express my gratitude to the Burmese Government for their help in this matter?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any intimation has been sent to their relations or their parents about their release?

Mr. Speaker: Let us have them first on the 14th instant, and then probably it would be better that that information might be given.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They will be very happy to receive this information. The parents of one of the captains are at Kanpur, and his mother is actually on the death-bed.

Mr. Speaker: We hope that they will be handed over to us. Let us wait for three or four days before we can give them the information. If something intervenes, then what would be the position?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This much information at least can be given to them.