

[Shai Krishnamoorty Rao]
of the Committee on Private Members'
Bills and Resolutions.

12.45 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

FORTY-NINTH REPORT

The Minister of State in the Departments of Parliamentary Affairs and Communications (Shri Jaganatha Rao):
I beg to present the Forty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.46 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PRIME MINISTER'S TALKS WITH UNDERGROUND
NAGA LEADERS

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh) : A delegation of underground Nagas, led by Shri Sukhai Kughato, called on the Prime Minister at New Delhi on 10th and 11th August, 1966.

During these meetings they made a statement of their historical case and rights and expressed a keen desire to live in peace, friendship and cooperation with us. The Prime Minister told them that there was not much point in going into the past; the present was more relevant and what was even more important was the future which could give new and greater opportunities to the Nagas to work for their prosperity. She explained to them our parliamentary democracy and our constitutional safeguards for preserving the rights of the people, their cultural, heritage and their way of life.

The Nagas expressed their admiration for the Indian democratic system and our efforts to find peaceful solutions. They

said that they wanted to be closest to us. The Prime Minister assured them that their legitimate rights would be protected and they need have no apprehension of any interference in their way of life within the Indian Union. She suggested that they might consult their friends and come again at a later date when we could discuss with them in greater detail. In the meanwhile it was necessary that peace should be maintained and no effort should be made by the underground Nagas to seek any assistance from outside as it could only complicate matters.

The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and, I believe, we moved forward in understanding each other's point of view.

The House will, no doubt, appreciate that these talks are aimed at removing misgivings and creating an atmosphere of confidence in which a solution could emerge in keeping with our declared stand. It is, therefore, difficult for me to go into greater details, but I should like to assure the Hon'ble Members that we are seeking a solution in keeping with Government policy approved by Parliament.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati) : May I seek a clarification? On the eve of their coming to see our Prime Minister in April 1966, the Naga underground leaders issued a pamphlet entitled *Nagaland Declaration of peace* where they have enunciated that as a sovereign government, they want to live in peace, friendship and co-operation—the words used in the statement of the Government of India.

Last time, before coming to see our Prime Minister, the Naga underground leaders said that the Government of India have recognised the Federal Government of Nagaland. That attitude of the Naga underground leaders has undergone a metamorphosis, to our understanding. Whatever that may be, may I know whether is