

Committee set up to settle border disputes between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh

*1056. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**

DR. BIJOY MONDAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since finalised a proposal to set up a Committee for Assam, Arunachal Pradesh with representation of Central Government for demarcation of border disputes between these two States;

(b) if so, the names of the personnel of the Committee; and

(c) the time by which the Committee will submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c). In a meeting which the Home Minister had with the Governor, Assam, Chief Minister, Assam and Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh on 12th April, 1970, it was agreed that a high-powered tripartite Committee, comprising representatives of the Centre, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh will be constituted to demarcate the boundary with such adjustments as may be mutually agreed upon. Action has been initiated to constitute the Committee. The time for completion of the work will be determined by the Committee taking into account the terrain and the climatic factors.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister to part (b) and (c) of my question is very ambiguous and at the same time it is very evasive. The hon. Minister has said that the action has been initiated to constitute the Committee. Long before, the decision has been taken to constitute a high-powered tripartite Committee to settle the boundary disputes between Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. But what action is being taken now? Will the hon. Minister kindly elaborate it? He has said that the high-powered tripartite Committee comprising representatives of the Centre, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh with such adjustments as may be mutually agreed upon will be constituted. Have they mutually agreed to settle the dispute between them? If that is so, what was the necessity for them to approach the Centre? What does he mean by saying "mutually agreed upon by the two States"? If they do not agree, then what will be the fate of the Committee? At the same time he has said that the time for completion of the

work will be determined by the Committee taking into account the terrain and the climatic factors. Will the climatic factors also come in the picture while settling the boundary disputes between the two States?

MR. SPEAKER: For the completion of the work, whether conditions will also have to be taken into account.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: I have not been able to follow that. Will the Minister kindly elaborate this statement?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Sir, I am sorry my hon. friend is not able to follow what I said. I have said that there was a meeting which took place on the 12th April, which I called and at that meeting the Governor of Assam, the Chief Minister of Assam and the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh were present. It was held quite recently and there, certain things were agreed upon. The point at issue is really delineation, demarcation of the boundary. We have called upon the Surveyor General to take this up immediately and already the work is in hand. The representatives of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh have joined the party of the Director-General and have undertaken the work of demarcating this boundary. A good deal of work has already been completed. I think the work is proceeding satisfactorily and I hope that everything that is in dispute will be settled in a peaceful manner.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Sometimes the complacent attitude of the Central Government may lead to so many complications. You might recollect that the Government in 1970 not only intended but declared to set up a committee or commission to go into the question of boundary dispute between the two States—Haryana and Punjab. Up-till-now, you will be surprised to know that even the terms of reference of this committee or commission have not been decided between the two States or by the Centre what to speak of setting up a committee or commission. This leads to so many complications leading to strained relations between the States and the people are involved.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you confine yourself to Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: What is the difficulty he is finding in constituting this committee? Whether any terms of reference have been drawn up by the Central Government uptill now.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Every thing has been done. I may again tell him in more details. A meeting had taken place on the 12th of April where the following decision was taken. The agreement reached between the two Chief Ministers at Gauhati on the 20th of March 1979 should be implemented speedily in letter and spirit. Ground survey in the five areas agreed to in the meeting should be undertaken by the survey of India commencing from the 23rd of April. It has already commenced. That is what I had said. The work has commenced; and a certain portion has already been completed. Then the next question was about the high-powered tripartite committee comprising of representatives from Centre and Arunachal Pradesh should be constituted. This was to be done in two stages: delineation of the boundary according to existing notification on the map. The map will then be referred to the States and Union Territories' Government for acceptance with mutually agreed adjustment as may be necessary; survey on the ground and demarcation with pillars. It was agreed that security for the survey party will be provided by the Central Reserve Police Force who will, for this purpose, work under the overall control of the IG, CRPF. We are not taking it as complacently as my hon. friend is afraid of. Pending completion of demarcation *status quo* as obtaining prior to recent incident of this year would be maintained by both sides. And then a suggestion has been put forward that the representatives of the Centre should be drawn from the Survey of India Office at Dehra Dun rather than from the establishment of the Survey of India in the north-east region. This too has been accepted so that there may be no local influence; and the Director-General of Survey has agreed to nominate a suitable officer. I think there every thing in detail has been done.

DR. BIJOY MONDAL : I came to know from the Minister's answer that a high-powered tripartite committee is going to be formed and action has been initiated. But this region is a very sensitive region and occasionally there were conflicts. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what will be the guidelines for constituting such a committee ?

Secondly, the matter should be expedited in view of the circumstances prevailing there. So, may I know from the Minister will he do his level best to have the dispute settled at an early date and third...

MR. SPEAKER : Two is good enough. Even that is covered already.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I have already said that the work is in hand. The tripartite Committee is really representative of the centre and of the two States. The two States have put forward the names of their officers and the work of boundary delineation which is the subject of dispute is in hand and progressing faster.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : The boundary dispute in the Northern Eastern Region does not confine to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh only. In fact the boundary dispute is a major problem in North Eastern area. There is a dispute between Assam and Arunachal, Assam and Meghalaya, Assam and Nagaland and others. Recently we had to face many unpleasant incidents in Assam and Nagaland and also between Assam and Meghalaya. There are several refugees in Langpid area of Meghalaya because of Assam border dispute and all sorts of things. The meeting to which the Home Minister has referred, I believe in that meeting the Chief Minister of Nagaland was also present, though unfortunately the Chief Minister of Meghalaya could not be present on that day. I would like to know from the Home Minister whether the Committee to which he has referred just now will also go into the dispute of boundary between Assam and Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya and other areas also. In view of the grave situation which is prevailing there which we cannot afford to have, I would like to know specifically from the Home Minister, how long will it take to come to settlement in regard to boundary disputes of all the States of the North Eastern Region ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : First of all this question related only to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. I referred to the meeting which discussed these matters. But I have no hesitation in replying this point. We had also a meeting with the Chief Ministers of other States—Nagaland, etc. Meghalaya Chief Minister as he says could not come, that is quite correct. But we have taken the boundary disputes in hand and they will also be dealt with in exactly the same manner. The survey parties will go and demarcate these things. A senior officer of the Central Government has been deputed to be present on the spot to iron out any difficulties and differences that may arise on the spot.

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA : My constituency is on the border where there has been trouble. This is important. In 1971 the States Reorganisation Act was passed. Certain boundaries were defined and notified. Now it appears from the statement of the Minister that there is a high level high powered

Committee and that there will be revision of the notification of the boundary as would be acceptable and would be mutually agreed upon by the Members of the Committee of the respective States. Now can we proceed on the basis that this definition of the boundary as notified in 1971 Act will be revised? The whole thing arises from the claim of Arunachal administration to areas which belonged to Assam. My question is whether it is going to function like a Commission hear both sides and to determine which will be mutually agreed boundary on the ground for demarcation by the Survey of India acceptable to members of these Committees. So, this is a specific question and I want a specific answer. If it is agreed to, there will be trouble. My people will also oppose it. Is it going to happen like that ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : The hon. Member has somewhat misunderstood the position. There is no question of changing whatever was notified at the time the States were constituted. Naturally, it was defined on paper which line will be where. Now, we have decided that it will have to be delineated on the ground and in the process if there are some adjustments necessary, with the consent of the two Chief Ministers it will be settled.

Postcard racket in Delhi

*1068. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :
SHRI SHANKERSINHJI
VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a postcard racket has been unearthed in Delhi as reported in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 11th April, 1979;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether any arrest has been made; and

(d) the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. On 6-4-1979, on a complaint from the Post Master General, Delhi Circle, the Delhi Police unearthed a gang indulging in the supply of fake post cards. Eight persons were arrested in this connection. 8240 fake post cards, 1065 reply cards and printing papers with the block of post cards were also seized. A case—FIR No. 529—was registered at P.S. Gandhi Nagar and is under investigation.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : The complaint was made on 6th April, 1979. Thereafter investigations were made. I want specific information on two points. What was the nature of the complaint exactly made by the Post Master ? The complaints were made on 6th of April, 1979. When were the arrests made in this connection ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I have got this much information that the Crime Branch of Delhi Police unearthed a gang indulging in the supply of fake postcards. 8 persons were arrested on 6th and 8240 fake postcards were recovered from them.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the nature of the complaint made and when was the complaint made ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL) : The nature of the complaint is like this. One Shri Babu Lal, a kingpin of this racket, used to supply the faked postcards to various firms after getting the names of the firms printed thereon to avoid the detection of the same and 229 such faked postcards were recovered from different firms. Besides this, Shri Babu Lal disclosed that he had been supplying the faked postcards to a stamp vendor of Chandni Chowk Post Office for disposal. 410 postcards were recovered from the same vendor's box kept in the post office. These are the details I have got.

MR. SPEAKER : When were the arrests made ? Have you got the figure ?

SHRI S. D. PATIL : That is not with me.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : That is the major thing because the grievance is, the lethargy on the part of the investigating machinery and the police to work in the matter. The Post Master gives name, makes a specific charge and still the investigation drags on. Therefore, the grievance is whether there was any lethargy in taking action on the complaint ?

SHRI S. D. PATIL : There is no lethargy or negligence on the part of the investigating machinery. The Security Printing Press, Nasik was approached for expert opinion. We want to verify whether the postcards are fake ones. We will compare the block and the material. After establishing that it is a faked one, further proceedings will be taken into hand.