

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.]

- (4) Note of the Indian Government, 13th December, 1959 along with Statement of Shri Karam Singh. (Placed in Library, See No. LT-1791/59.)

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I point out that the papers now laid on the Table by the hon. Prime Minister do not include the Chinese reply to his letter of the 16th November, 1959? A month has passed. How long are we going to wait for their reply?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We are dealing with the question of the treatment of Indian prisoners. These are the only papers in relation to that that I had promised to place, and I have placed them. As for the reply, I cannot place a reply on the Table of the House when I have not received it.

DISCUSSION ON STATE TRADING CORPORATION REPORT

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): On behalf of Shri Kanungo, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of statement correcting the information given on the 11th September, 1959, in reply to the point raised by Shri V. P. Nayar during the discussion on the Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited regarding the association of the Directors of the Corporation with private firms. [See Appendix III, Annexure No. 37].

ANNUAL REPORT OF HINDUSTAN ANTIBIOTICS LIMITED

Shri Manubhai Shah: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (i) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the year 1958-59 along with the Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1793/59.]

12.17 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

MINORITY COMMUNITY IN EAST PAKISTAN

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabadwip): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The restrictions reported to have been imposed by the Government of East Pakistan on members of minority community in the matter of renewal of their passports."

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Government of India have, during the last few months, seen reports in the Press that no fresh passports were being issued to the minority community in East Pakistan, that the passports presented for renewal were being seized and that the applicants for India-Pakistan passports were being asked to pay a security deposit of Rs. 100.

From enquiries, it has been ascertained that the Government of East Pakistan have:

- (i) undertaken a rigorous check of the antecedents of passport holders, particularly those belonging to the minority community, as a part of the drive against smuggling and large numbers of passports are held up with the district authorities pending the conclusion of necessary enquiries;
- (ii) directed that those applying for new India-Pakistan passports should deposit Rs. 100 before issue of the passport and those who already hold a passport should deposit Rs. 100 before undertaking travel to India; and