

cations between Imphal and Silcher are subject to a great delay due to the disconnection of the direct link between Cachar and Manipur;

(b) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(c) whether steps are being taken to restore the direct telecommunication?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Dr. P. Subbarayan): (a) There has been no direct link, telegraph or telephone, between Imphal and Silcher since after the last war.

(b) There have been no complaints. The traffic is very small and is subject to delay due to interruptions.

(c) The traffic does not justify provision of a direct link but the position will be reviewed after the road line is completed.

12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

TREATMENT METED OUT TO SHRI KARAM SINGH

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): On a point of order, Sir, yesterday, a question relating to Shri Karam Singh was asked. You were kind enough to put it in a proper form. It was asked whether he was made to sit on frost, whether he was made to walk on snow and whether he was put out in night time. No reply was given. The reply given amounted to saying that the treatment meted out to him was generous and polite.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): No, no.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Today, it has been published in the *Statesman* that he was severely beaten by Chinese forces the day after he was arrested, that he was forced to walk and sleep on snow for three nights, no bed was provided to him and for

two days he was not even given food. I would therefore request you that true facts may be revealed to this House as to what he said to our officers in Jammu hospital.

श्री कुशबल्ल राय (लेटी) : मैंने इस सम्बन्ध में एक ऐडजर्नमेंट मोशन दिया था। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार की ओर से इस बात का प्रयत्न होना चाहिये था कि वह स्वयम् आकर यह बयान दें जब कर्नलसिंह का कल बयान हो गया था। कल यहाँ कहा गया कि वह फास्ट बाइट से सफर कर रहे हैं और उनकी हाँसत अभी अच्छी नहीं है। यह भी कहा गया है कि चीन सरकार ने यह कहा है कि उन के पास जो ट्रीटमेंट किया गया है वह बला और भिन्नवत्—वा फ्रेंडशी ऐड वनरस। जब आप मेरा ऐडजर्नमेंट मोशन नहीं ऐंसाक कर रहे हैं तो कम से कम एक स्टेटमेंट तो बयनमेंट की तरफ से करा दें कि असल वाक्या क्या है।

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): This is a matter in which I can very well understand the desire and anxiety of the House to know what exactly the facts were. The first information that reached us, that is, 2 or 3 weeks ago, when Shri Karam Singh reached Leh, I think, or Srinagar, was to the effect that he had been badly treated. It was a relatively brief report of what he said: not one sentence, it was longer than that. It was not a very full report. Immediately we sent that report to the Chinese Government and protested against this treatment. This House will remember, in the course of the debate, reference was made to the treatment of prisoners, Geneva Convention, etc.

Then, the reply to that was received a few days back, as I informed the House, I think in which they said, no, we treated him well and generously, which, of course, was directly contrary to the report we had received from Shri Karam Singh.

As the original report of Shri Karam Singh was relatively a brief one,

(Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):

without details, we wanted to have an amplified and full report from him. We did not wish to trouble him too much immediately, because, the poor man was suffering in hospital. But, in the course of the last few days, some further particulars have been obtained from him. In fact, they have just reached us—I received the report just ten minutes ago. I have not been able to read it even. There is no doubt that the first general impression is that the treatment accorded to Shri Karam Singh and others was bad: in fact, very bad. It seems rather a grim story of bad treatment. I should like, naturally, to consider his report which I have not read yet—I just got it 10 minutes ago—fully and take such other steps in regard to it so far as the Chinese Government is concerned. It would be right and obviously desirable that I should take the House into our confidence in this matter. But, at the present moment, I have not yet even read that report, and it is rather difficult for me. I would suggest, if you will permit me to make a statement about this a few days later.....

Mr. Speaker: On Monday? Today is the 11th.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir, on Monday.

Mr. Speaker: On the 14th. All right.

Shri Supakar (Sambalpur): On a point of information, yesterday we put some short notice questions on the subject. Unfortunately, at that time, because information was not given to us, we could not put further supplementary questions on the point. But, we find that even though the hon. Prime Minister has not received information, we find certain things, very serious things published in the newspapers. I wish to know whether this information that has been published this morning in the newspapers was available to the Government earlier.

Mr. Speaker: These things that have appeared in the newspapers today.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I must confess that I have not read the newspapers today at all. I have had no time. I was so much rushing about because of various reasons known to this House, I am sometimes unable to read the newspapers. Today is one of the days when I have not seen the newspapers.

Shrimati Benuka Ray (Malda): It is in the *Statesman*.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: But, yesterday there was some reference to this, I think, in the newspapers.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Today it is there.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Anyhow, I am told that the account given in the newspapers is by no means accurate. In part it may be correct; but certainly in part it is not correct. It may be said that some kind of semi-leakage took place in Srinagar or Jammu perhaps, not authorised, with the result that a bit is correct; a bit is quite wrong. So, it is difficult for me, unless I go through the whole thing carefully and give the House the facts as they are supplied to us, to say much about the newspaper reports at this stage. But, I say, I repeat, when the question came up yesterday, I was not in possession of this information which has just come this morning.

श्री जगबन्त राय : कर्मसिंह ने जो बयान दिया है उसकी एक नकल या समरी हम को मिल जानी चाहिये ।

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot at the moment say whether we will give. But, inevitably, if I make a statement, that statement itself will be a bit of a summary.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In this connection, in my speech in the debate on the Sino-Indian border problem, I mentioned regarding the statement of

Dr. Baliga in Hong Kong, I do not know whether this thing also has not been published correctly. Because Dr. Baliga said about Shri Karam Singh, I would like to know whether he had gone there in prior consultation with any of our Ministers and whether on his return, he did see either the Prime Minister or any Minister or governmental authority and explain to them the gist of his talk or give an authentic report of his talk.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This raises a different question, but I should like to clarify it in so far as I can. I wish to go a little further back.

Dr. Baliga had been invited together with a number of others by the Chinese Government to their annual celebrations beginning on 1st October. Dr. Baliga came to me then and said: "I have been invited, but in view of the developments that have taken place in Ladakh, I do not propose to accept this invitation". And he did not. He said: "Going to this celebration would be inappropriate for me at this stage." I entirely agreed with him and he did not go. He asked me then, "Later, some time later, may I go?" I said: "Certainly, if you want to go." He said, "As a tourist I am going, may I go?" I said, "It is welcome to you to go later."

Then, some other developments took place and he, together with his wife, fixed up their going there, as they told me, as tourists, and before they were going, he came and saw me again, and said: "I have fixed it up. I am going day after tomorrow. These unfortunate developments are occurring from day to day. Should I go? Should I cancel my visit?" I told him I did not wish to come in his way if he was going as a tourist; he and his wife could go.

They had fixed it up, so he went. And when he came back, he came to see me. In fact, he came directly here and saw me, and said that although he had gone in a non-official, tourist's capacity, he had met some

leading personalities there—because, if I may say so, he is known there as a very famous surgeon in Bombay, and his services have been requisitioned for surgical purposes repeatedly in Bombay. So, they knew him; they said: "We want to thank you for the work you have done for our people there".

So, he did see some noted personalities. I saw him, I think, perhaps for ten minutes only. There was not very much new that he said. He said: "All I can say is what the Chinese people or the leaders told me. I can have no opinion, I am merely conveying to you what they said." As far as I remember, he said something to the effect of their great desire for peaceful settlements and peace etc. I do not quite remember if he said anything about these prisoners to me then, possibly he did, but that was that the Chinese had issued a statement to this effect—he knew nothing about it obviously—that these prisoners were treated well. That is all that he told me, and that came, I think, from a message from Hong Kong too.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Before he arrived, that message had come.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It was not to me. He was asked by somebody in Hong Kong, and he said this was the Chinese story. He repeated that, he was not committed to it, he knew nothing about it.

Shri Jadhav (Malegaon): May I know whether the statement of Shri Karam Singh has been tape-recorded, and whether the Government has received its text?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know whether it has been tape-recorded or not. I have got a copy of it. Whether it is tape-recorded or not I cannot say.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): I just want to request the hon. Prime Minister not to send any protest to foreign countries unless full information is gathered. In this case I am

the Table

[Shri Tyagi]

afraid his Ministry has let him down, because they made a protest to China about this incident without knowing the full details. On the sketchy statement taken in the beginning, a protest ought not to have been sent, for if they receive full details now and if they forward them now again to China, they will be deemed to be an afterthought.

Some Hon. Members: What is the harm?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member, Shri Tyagi's warning has force in it. That is perfectly true, but one has always to balance these things. If we do not protest at the right time, and do so weeks later, then also it may be said: "Why didn't they do so originally?"

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I make a request that when the Prime Minister makes his statement about this, the full statement of Shri Karam Singh may be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I just said it would not be laid on the Table—without reading it I am saying that. I am saying without knowing what it contains that I do not propose to give any assurance of this kind.

Mr. Speaker: All relevant facts will be taken into account including newspaper reports. The hon. Prime Minister has said that he would make as full a statement as possible. In view of that I do not think it is necessary to give my consent to the adjournment motion.

12.14 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT ON MARKET ARRIVALS OF FOOD-GRAINS

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report on an Enquiry into the Pace and Pattern

of Market Arrivals of Foodgrains for the 1958-59 Season. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1780/59.]

12.14½ hrs.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 43

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): On behalf of Shri A. M. Thomas, I want to make the following statement.

In reply to the supplementaries to Starred Question No. 43 by S/s. Goray and Valvi on 17-11-1959 regarding the Fourth All India Conference of Warehousemen, I had mentioned certain figures regarding the number of warehouses functioning under the Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations, the warehouses likely to be built during the next two years and the present stock position in all the warehouses. The correct figures are given in the statement laid on the table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 19.]

12.15 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House for the week commencing 14th December will consist of—

- (1) Consideration and passing of the Indian Statistical Institute Bill.
- (2) Consideration of any item of business carried over from today's Order Paper.
- (3) Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Sugar (Special Excise Duty) Ordinance, 1959.
- (4) Consideration and passing of the Sugar (Special Excise Duty) Bill, 1959.