

cided that the condition of termination of service of the staff in aided schools during the period of probation with the prior approval of the department, should remain operative as hitherto.

Babina Cantonment

1000. Dr. Sushila Nayar: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number and amount of new taxes imposed on the villagers of Babina as a result of the inclusion of the village with Babina Cantonment;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from the villagers or their representatives in this connection; and

(c) if so, action taken or proposed to be taken to give relief to the villagers?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) to (c). A statement setting out the particulars asked for is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 23].

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION IN CONGO AND INSECURITY TO INDIAN TROOPS SERVING WITH U.N.

Mr. Speaker: I have got some Adjournment Motions. One group of Adjournment Motions relates to the following:

"The situation of grave insecurity to our troops under U.N. Command in the Congo, arising out of the recent disclosure that an Indian Major in Elizabethville is still untraced as also the fact that a Gurkha who accompanied the Major was found stabbed to death".

What is the information about this?

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): I wish to make one point, Sir. This adjournment motion is in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Let him wait. Let us hear the Defence Minister.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): On the evening of 28th November, 1961, at Elizabethville, while Mr. Ironsmith and Mr. Urquhart, American citizens and U.N. officials—were in a motor-car, both Mr. Ironsmith and Mr. Urquhart, it is understood, were forcibly pulled out by Tshombe's troops and manhandled. Mr. Ironsmith was brought back to the American consulate but Mr. Urquhart was taken away by para commandos of Tshombe's army. I would like to say that all this occurred in the presence of Senator Dodd who was in the place at that time. The Katanga authorities were warned that if Urquhart was not returned—all that was within 40 minutes—suitable military action would be taken by the United Nations. Later in the evening, Munungo, the so-called Foreign Minister of the Katanga Government, brought back Urquhart to the American consulate at about midnight. He was found to be badly hurt. Meantime, Major Ajit Singh with one other rank of the Gurkha Rifles Battalion, ignorant of the return of Mr. Urquhart, left to search Mr. Urquhart. When they did not return until 4 O'clock in the morning on the 29th November, a search was commenced. The body of rifleman Narayan Bahadur Gurung was found concealed in a bush, wrapped in gendarmerie vehicle tarpaulin at about 11 hours yesterday. The rifleman appeared to have been shot in the back at very close range after being pulled out of the vehicle. His body was not found to be mutilated as has been reported in the newspapers.

Rifleman Narayan Bahadur was cremated with full military honours yesterday afternoon, and steps have been taken to inform the next of

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kin, according to the usual procedures here.

According to the latest information available to us, no trace has been yet found of Major Ajit Singh or his jeep, but there are unconfirmed indications that he may be alive and in the custody of the para commandos of mercenaries.

The U.N. Command in Katanga has lodged a strong protest with the Katanga authorities and it is understood that Munungo has promised to try personally to look for Major Ajit Singh.

Shri Hem Barua: On a previous occasion, the Defence Minister disclosed that 11 of our soldiers in the Congo were killed. My information obtained through a very reliable source is that about 500 soldiers there were injured and most of them are in the hospital. Whatever that might be, after that, news comes that Major Ajit Singh is untraced up till now. Another man has been killed. My submission is this. I do not know under what terms and conditions our troops were lent to the Congo to operate under the United Nations' command. Whatever that might be, my submission is that air protection should be given to our troops operating in the Congo.

Another point is, the U.N. command must be asked to make a thorough search in order to discover or find out this Major, Major Ajit Singh, who has been untraced up till now, and then compensation to the families of the people killed in the Congo should be paid as soon as possible. Then, the UN command must be told that this sort of thing must not be allowed to continue, because, you are sending soldiers to the Congo, and not cannon-fodder.

Shri Krishna Menon: So far as the first part of this question is concerned, first of all, it does not arise out of this Adjournment Motion. But I did give all these facts the other day. There

are no Indian troops as such in the UN, that is to say, and what is more, the Commander of this particular lot is Brigadier Raja, who is the commander. I would like to submit that in an operation of this kind, things of this kind happen and the necessary steps are taken. No protection can be offered to our troops; the troops have gone there to protect somebody else. The search for Major Ajit Singh is going on and the necessary action will be taken. The recent resolution passed by the United Nations gives authority to the Secretary-General to take all possible measures if necessary.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Whether or not they are called Indian troops or soldiers in the Congo, they were Indian troops when we sent them. And when these troops were being sent we were assured that they were not expected to get into any warfare. Secondly, they were going there merely as messengers of peace, to maintain peace there in a peaceful manner, and not to take interest in the civil war. But now we find that our troops are being utilised under the UN command not only for maintaining peace in a peaceful manner on the site of the major area there but also to take part in the UN warfare, in their civil war on behalf of one area as against another rebellious area. Therefore, I think it is time that we take a decision, and the best way to prevent a recurrence of such incidents would be to fix a time-limit by which it should be possible for us to give notice to the UN command to send back our troops and withdraw them from the civil war for which we did not bargain. *(Interruptions).*

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not know how the hon. Member got this idea that we have sent troops there not for any military purposes but for other purposes. Certain-

ly no assurance of that kind was given, could be given or was intended to be given. Obviously, there was going to be a very difficult situation, and they would be used for any purpose including military, violent purposes if the United Nations so decided.

Shri Ranga: Was not the assurance given to this House that our troops will not be utilised in the civil war?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. I do not accept this situation as a civil war even.

Shri Ranga: Is there no civil war?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not accept the situation as a civil war. It is a war against the United Nations. Some people rebelled against the United Nations and the troops under the United Nations have to fight them if necessary. Previously, there was some ambiguity about the instructions given by the United Nations. That has been removed now completely. It is obvious that when you enter a war situation, one cannot call about—somebody cannot ask us, "Why don't you protect the soldiers?" They are meant to protect others; to protect the situation and to protect themselves. The army does not carry a police force to protect itself!

Shri Hem Barua: I meant air protection given to our troops operating under the UN command. The Defence Minister misinterpreted it, and you are trying to do the same thing.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Here is a war situation and not only a normal war situation but an extraordinary situation, as we read in the papers from day to day what happens there. Some people are there in Mr. Tshombe's army and Congolese army who behave in a manner which is opposed to even normal civilised warfare, if warfare can ever be civilised. It is happening. It is unfortunate and regrettable that accidents happen—one man died and the other is missing—but we have to take these things in our stride and take steps accordingly.

Brig. Raja took some steps in regard to the American gentleman, Mr. Urquhart and gave 40 minutes' notice saying, he must be returned in 40 minutes. He was returned within 40 minutes. The Foreign Minister of Mr. Tshombe's Government has himself gone out in search of Maj. Ajit Singh. What can we do about it except to press the United Nations to take adequate action in such matters?

The hon. Member suggested that because Major Ajit Singh is unfortunately missing and somebody had been killed, we should give them notice that our soldiers would be withdrawn. That is a very extraordinary suggestion for the hon. Member to make. In another context, he wants war to be declared all round and armies to be marched.

Shri Ranga: That is for the protection of our territorial rights, not to go somewhere else and be killed.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Therefore, his suggestion is, whenever a soldier is killed, withdraw your army.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): My submission is. . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am not calling the hon. Member. I have heard sufficiently about this matter.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): There is a slight difference between what has appeared in the papers and what the Defence Minister stated. In the papers it is stated that one of the drivers has been killed. According to the Defence Minister, a particular Gurkha was first injured, then a search party went and the attendant was killed. Now Major Ajit Singh is missing. Because of this confusion, we would like to know how the events had happened and whether it is true that the Gurkha was injured, as a result of which the search party went, and what has happened to the Gurkha, whether he is safe and alive.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know. We have given the account as

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we have received it directly and not derived it from the newspapers. A party was being given where a number of people including this American gentleman, Mr. Urquhart. . . .

Shri Hem Barua: Italian, not American.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is immaterial. Mr. Urquhart, American Senator Dodd and others were present there. From that party, Mr. Urquhart and others were going to another party within half an hour. When they were going there, they were seized outside. In the presence of Mr. Dodd and others, Mr. Urquhart was taken away. Thereafter, an ultimatum was given by the UN Commander, I think Brig. Raja, that he must be produced within 40 minutes and he was produced in fact by the Katanga authorities.

Meanwhile, not knowing that he had been produced, an Indian officer went out or was sent out—Major Ajit Singh with a Gurkha driver—in search of Mr. Urquhart and they disappeared. Later, the driver's body was found in a bush, apparently shot at close range. These are the broad facts. Major Ajit Singh has not been found yet. There is some kind of a report that he might still be living and may be under the detention of the Katanga people. These are the facts so far as we know.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: I want to make one submission. I beg to remind that the Government was hesitating to strike. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have not called him. What is the meaning of his going on?

Raja Mahendra Pratap: You allow others, but you do not allow me.

Mr. Speaker: I would not allow him. I have very great regard for the hon. Member, both for his age and for his previous experience, but in and out he makes irrelevant statements. I

cannot allow him to go on like this. Unless he catches my eye and I call upon him, he ought not to stand and speak. I will take very serious steps about this matter. I have been very indulgent to him.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It is stated in the newspaper.

"A Gurkha driver who had accompanied Major Ajit Singh in his search was found stabbed to death by Swedish UN patrols with tracker dogs".

A Reuter report says: that the body was found with multiple injuries outside Mr. Tshombe's residence in Elisabethville. I would like to know whether Mr. Tshombe's house has been searched and whether Major Ajit Singh is there, because according to the Press news, the body of the driver was there.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): May I suggest that whatever information Government receive tomorrow or day after, that may be communicated to the House?

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): We fully support the sentiments of the Prime Minister and express our disagreement with what Shri Ranga said. But there is one sentence to be uttered in addition to this. Nobody expects soldiers who have gone to do battle at the command of the UN to be defended in the way it has been understood. They have not gone to play a cricket match. Our complaint is, they are not fighting, but they are being ambushed and murdered. If they die discharging their duties, it is correct. What the Government of India should see is that the UN is not paralysed, as it is today. That is our submission. If they die in the discharge of their duties, that is honourable death. But today Mr. Tshombe's men are murdering them.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. We do

not like their being ambushed and all that. It is not war, whatever else it may be. But there it is. The UN authorities also do not like it; there is no doubt about it. It may be, as the hon. Member says, that the UN authorities have in the past been not very swift in taking action. It is because it is a very complicated authority, emanating from New York and coming through various other sources. But now, so far as the resolution of the UN Security Council is concerned, they have got a much clearer authority.

In reply to the other hon. Member, may I say that our information is that the body of the Gurkha driver was found in a bush and in fact from the American consulate, the people there heard the shot being fired; they did not see it. They presumed that that shot hit the driver. The body was removed and later put in a bush, covered with tarpaulin or something. Mr. Tshombe is not there, so far as I know, but one of his Ministers, Mr. Munungo, was there. It was he who produced Mr. Urquhart and who had undertaken to go in search of Major Ajit Singh.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the statements made, I do not think it is necessary to adjourn the House to allow this discussion.

An Hon. Member: What about Shri Braj Raj Singh's suggestion?

Mr. Speaker: That will be taken note of.

REPORTED MISSING OF PORTUGUESE
TROOPS ON GOA BORDER

Mr. Speaker: There are notices of three adjournment motions, all relating to the same matter. I shall read the first one:

"Reported massing of Portuguese Troops and army on Goa border as evidenced by:

1. Deploying of 2,500 Portuguese Troops on Goa border.

2. 750 Portuguese Troops at Mazali border.
3. About 3,000 white Portuguese soliders landed in Goa.
4. Naval craft stationed near Karwar.
5. Landing of an aircraft at Panjim."

This is what has appeared in the newspaper. Does he want to add to it?

Shri Goray (Poona): That is what has appeared in the newspaper.

Shri Nath Pai: There was also a news item that was broadcast by the All India Radio this morning. It is an official agency and it is not normally given to this kind of sensation. It broadcast a news item which does not appear in the Press, viz., a Portuguese aircraft was reported to have landed at Panjim. It gives the number of concentration of Portuguese forces to the order of 700 at Mazali. In the light of this, we would like to know if Government have any information.

Mr. Speaker: The same thing is given here.

Shri Tangamani: Also one of the armed vessels belonging to the Portuguese has left that island.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: First of all, may I say that anything that the All India Radio broadcasts is not necessary official. They have got their own correspondents and they also take their news from newspaper agencies. No doubt normally they try to exercise some care, more care perhaps than....

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is a Government enterprise and their source is correct.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a question of private enterprise or public enterprise. They rely on the normal agencies like PTI, Reuter, etc., and sometimes their own correspon-