

11.57 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCESTATEMENTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER OF
NEPAL ALLEGING ANTI-NEPAL GOVERN-
MENT ACTIVITIES AS BEING DIRECTED FROM
INDIA

Shri P. G. Deb (Angul): 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 statements of the Foreign Minister of Nepal alleging that the anti-Nepal Government activities by Nepali Congress in Nepal were being directed from within India by certain former Nepalese Government Ministers.”.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): The Foreign Minister of Nepal was reported during the month of January 1962 to have made several statements alleging that armed raids on Nepalese territory were organised and carried out by Nepalese from Indian territory. His allegations were investigated and found to be without any foundation. No armed Nepalese organisation exists in India, and no hostile expeditions have entered Nepal from India. Nor has Indian territory been used to train and organise squads of armed Nepalese for the purpose of carrying out subversive activities in Nepal. Every allegation made so far was investigated and no evidence in support has come to light.

The Government of India have therefore refuted the allegations and repudiated any suggestion of Indian interference in Nepal. Furthermore, they have drawn the attention of the Government of Nepal to the nature of the terrain and the many openings on the border, and also the fact that the movement of Nepalese across it is unrestricted. Even so, the Indian border authorities have been instructed to take all possible precautions to prevent the transit of armed persons, arms, ammunitions, explosives and other prohibited articles into Nepal. The Government

of India are satisfied that the police are doing their best to carry out these instructions scrupulously.

The Government of India have assured the Government of Nepal that Nepalese in India found violating Indian laws would be dealt with according to those laws and that strict vigilance on the border will continue to be exercised with a view to preventing the smuggling of arms, ammunition, etc. into Nepal.

12 hrs.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I seek a clarification?

Mr. Speaker: Not now. There are other hon. Members who tabled the Notice.

Shri Hem Barua: It stands in my name also.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Hem Barua: May I draw the attention of the Prime Minister to a statement made by the Nepalese Foreign Minister on March 14 at Kathmandu? Referring to the statement made by the Prime Minister on the floor of the House on the 14th, the Nepalese Foreign Minister says:

“...an admission for the first time that Nepalese anti-national elements have smuggled unlicensed arms and ammunition into Nepal . . .”

I just want to know from the Prime Minister how the Nepalese Foreign Minister could put an interpretation of this sort on the statement that was made by the Prime Minister here. I found that statement to be very specific. Would the Prime Minister take the trouble of clarifying our position, and as regards those arms and ammunitions that were displayed by the Foreign Ministry to a body of foreign correspondents at Kathmandu telling them that they do not belong to our country, that they were not smuggled from our country, that they might be the arms and ammunition that our country helps the Nepalese Army with?

[Shri Hem Barua]

There should be a specific statement on this or else we might be misunderstood; there is an attempt to create that impression all over the world.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The question that has just been answered deals with this very matter. I do not know what the Nepalese Foreign Minister has said. There is some brief report in the press. I do not know what the exact words were.

It is obvious that what I said was rather the reverse of what the Nepalese Foreign Minister had said. I cannot say what particular arms and ammunition they have found. I do not know, unless they say something definite, because Indian arms and ammunition have been supplied to the Nepalese Army. It is possible that the local rebels might have got them from some of their outposts. All I can say is that we have taken adequate measures to prevent these arms and ammunition going across the border. I cannot guarantee against some odd thing going across. It is a long border. There is free transit on the border. But nothing substantial can possibly go across because of the steps that we have taken.

Shri Hem Barua: Would the Prime Minister take the trouble of telling the Nepalese Foreign Minister that his interpretation of the statement is absolutely wrong?

Mr. Speaker: The proceedings of the House are open to the public.

12.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

INDIA-CHINA CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNUAL REPORT OF INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I beg to lay on the Table —

(1) a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) Chinese Government's note dated the 3rd December, 1961, regarding renewal of 1954 Agreement between India and China on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India.

(ii) Government of India's reply dated the 15th December, 1961.

(iii) Government of India's protest to the Chinese Government dated the 25th January, 1962, regarding violation of air space.

(iv) Chinese Government's protest dated the 24th January, 1962, regarding violation of their space.

(v) Government of India's reply dated the 22nd February, 1962.

(vi) Government of India's reply dated the 26th February, 1962, in reply to Chinese Government's note of 30th November, 1961, regarding violation of Indian territory.

(vii) Government of India's protest dated the 9th March, 1962, regarding violation of air space.

(viii) Government of India's protest dated the 10th March, 1962, regarding violation of air space by Chinese aircraft.

(ix) Chinese Government's protest dated the 4th January, 1962, regarding violation of air space.

(x) Government of India's reply dated the 10th March, 1962, regarding violation of air space by Chinese aircraft.

(xi) Chinese Government's note dated the 26th February, 1962.

(xii) Government of India's reply dated the 13th March, 1962.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3515/62].

(2) Annual Report of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, for the year 1959-60. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3516/62].