

SHRI BASUMATARI: My question is this. The Naga people and the Assamese people had a very cordial relation for a long time and since long past. Since, however, the creation of the separate State of Nagaland, their relations have become acutely uncordial. May I, therefore, know how long the Government of India will take to settle this border dispute?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: We are trying our best to settle it as early as possible.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Exhibition on Netaji's Life at Port Blair Andamans

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S.N.Q. 8 **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:**
SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta requested the Government of India for extending necessary facilities and assistance for opening an Exhibition on Netaji's life and activities on 21st October, this year, at Port Blair in Andamans;

(b) whether the Bureau has also requested the Government to take step to install a big-size portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the lounge of the Port Blair Airport to commemorate arrival of Netaji in Andamans in 1943; and

(c) if so, the reaction Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Dr. Sisir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta,

wrote a letter to the Home Minister on the 30th June 1969, stating that the Bureau propose to hold a small photographic exhibition on Netaji's life (with particular emphasis on his visit to the Andamans) at Port Blair for a week or 10 days, commencing on the 21st October, 1969, and that the Bureau also propose that a super-size enlargement of the original photograph of Netaji arrival at the airport in Port Blair may be formally installed in the airport lounge on the 21st October 1969. Dr. Bose sought the concurrence and cooperation of the Home Minister in this regard. The Home Minister has already sent a reply to Dr. Bose on the 23rd July, 1969, stating that there is no objection to the Bureau holding the exhibition referred to above, and that the question of installation of the photograph in the lounge of the Port Blair airport might, however, be finalised with the Department of Civil Aviation. The Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation have also informed Dr. Bose on the 25th June 1969 that the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation welcomes the proposal of the Bureau to have a large photograph of Netaji's arrival in Port Blair at the airport lounge subject to the enlargement being inspected by that Ministry before it is sent for installation. Thus the reference made in part (b) of the question to a portrait of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is to have a large group and location photograph of Netaji's arrival in Port Blair (and not of just Netaji himself) subject to the enlargement being of acceptable quality. This matter is under correspondence between the Ministry of Tourism & Civil Aviation and Netaji Research Bureau, and no final decision has been taken.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I offer my thanks to the Government and also to the Home Minister for their happily changed attitude towards Netaji after two decades of freedom. The arrival of Netaji at Port Blair in Andamans has a great historical importance, for, in 1943, he arrived there as the first

President or Head of a free India, recognised by 15 international States. Netaji, the saint-patriot and a great, revolutionary architect of Indian and Asiatic revolution hoisted the first flag of Indian freedom at Port Blair, and therefore, Andamans and Nicobar had the unique honour of being recognised as the first place of sacred soil of free India. Netaji installed the provisional government of free India on the 21st October, 1943....

MR. SPEAKER: Do not make a long statement; come to the question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: 21st October is the real Independence Day of revolutionary India. My question is this: in view of the admission of the Government in the course of a reply to a Call Attention motion of mine, on the preservation of Andaman cellular Jail, when the Government agreed to consider the proposal that the name of Andamans and Nicobar will be changed to Shahid and Swaraj Dwip as was done by the provisional government of Netaji, will the Government change the name? Secondly, I want to know whether all the relics and historical documents related to Netaji's arrival in Andamans and also the local headquarters of the Andaman Government there, along with the other relics of the old revolutionaries in Andaman cellular jail, will be preserved; will the Government take steps to preserve them as a local, national monument there?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The hon. Member has raised two new points. One is about maintaining some of the memorials and other things connected with Netaji's visit to Andamans. As an interim reply, the information that we have got from the Andaman administration is that there is nothing specific which is known or nothing particularly associated with his visit is available there, except that it is mentioned that he lived in the house of the Chief Commissioner, in the residence of Rose Island, but that building is completely dilapidated; ex-

cept some fallen falls, there is nothing of the building. So, there is nothing to be preserved as far as his visit is concerned.

About naming of the island. I think it would be an improper decision for me to take here or for you to take here. As far as the change of name of the area is concerned, the people of the area themselves we have consulted the Home Minister's Advisory Committee—are not very keen to change the name of the place.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: This is the picture of Netaji hoisting the first flag of Independence at Andamans. (Picture shown) My second question is, whether the Government will synchronise the timing of the visit of the proposed delegation of Members of Parliament to the Andamans with the opening ceremony of the Netaji Exhibition at Port Blair on 21st October, 1969?

May I know whether the Government will in press upon the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism that free transport should be given to the organisers of the Netaji Exhibition and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry should also be requested to cover that function through radio, film and other publicity media?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: He has made certain suggestions which involve financial commitment. I cannot make any commitment straightway, so far as the question of finance is concerned. About synchronising the visit of the delegation with 21st October, it is a constructive suggestion and I will certainly have it looked into.

SHRI AMIYANATH BOSE: As the Government have now decided to commemorate the arrival of Netaji in Andamans in 1943, will the Home Minister write to the Japanese, through proper channels, requesting the Japanese Government to supply to the Government of India the relevant diplomatic documents and other records regarding the transfer of Andaman and

Nicobar Islands to the Provisional Government of Free India? Perhaps the Home Minister is aware that after the war started the Japanese occupied the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. After the setting up of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, the Provisional Government demanded Andaman and Nicobar Islands as their territory and then the transfer took place. Therefore, there are diplomatic documents and other records in the custody of the Japanese Government regarding this transfer. It is right and proper that we should take such documents from the Japanese Government at this stage.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: It is a new suggestion. I will have to have it examined, in consultation with External Affairs Ministry.

SHRI BISHWANATH ROY: Leaving aside the question of naming or re-naming that island, may I know whether there is any scheme or proposal under the consideration of government for setting up any memorial in connection with the martyrdom of so many revolutionaries who lost their lives as a result of the tortures inflicted by the British Government?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: As a memorial to the people who laid down their lives there the cellular jail is proposed to be maintained. The other aspects are under examination.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: While we may, and we should, establish memorials for the visit of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, I would like to take this opportunity in this House for the first time to clear the records, as far as Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned. While it is true that Andaman and Nicobar Islands were declared the seat of the Provisional Government of Netaji Subhaschandra Bose, as I have to be true to the people whom I represent, I must state that during that period three-fourths of the island was completely annihilated by the Japanese fascists. There is no house

in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has not suffered the scar of the Second World War. Hundreds of local people were thrown into jails, thousands were decimated and thousands were thrown into the seas. I am saying this because, although it is a historical fact that Andaman and Nicobar Islands became the symbol of the Indian people's struggle for freedom and they acquired that island, it must also be said that, as far as we are concerned, we were completely annihilated, completely destroyed, the entire population of the island were destroyed, by the Japanese fascists during that very period when the Provisional Government was functioning there.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I want to know one thing from him—was it before the visit of Netaji or after?

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Since he had his say, let me now be allowed to speak. My answer is: before, during the visit and afterward. The famous Cellular Jail of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was full of prisoners who were tortured.

Sir, you had been to the Islands and you know of the martyrdom of Sardar Dewan Singh. You have heard that a person whose name is not known was tortured by the Japanese for six or seven months—a person who died by his motherland, who refused to surrender and give up his own comrades as far as the Japanese were concerned.

There is absolutely no dispute about the role Netaji had played by hoisting the National Flag in the then general political situation of the country. But I want to set the record straight, because this is the first time that I am getting an opportunity, by saying how we who were suffering under the Japanese fascists felt during that particular period.

Secondly, we have a soul in the Islands. We do not want the name of our Islands to be changed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask a question.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: Sir, when everyone is making a speech, please allow me to make a speech. I have no question to ask. Let me make a speech.

As far as the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned, we have a soul. Our history did not start in 1943. Our history started earlier in 1857. We are the progeny of some of the convicts, the revolutionaries, of the 1857 Revolution. The history of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands started in 1857. It was linked to 1921 when the Mopla rebels came there. It was linked to 1934 when the terrorists, the revolutionaries, came there. Therefore the history of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is a very, very long history.

We have a soul. The name of Andaman is in our soul. The tribes of Andaman are known with this name. The Nicobari Tribes are known with this name. We do not want to give up our soul. We will not be having any name if it is changed. Of course, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose should be honoured by erecting as many memorials as you want to erect. But our name cannot be allowed to be changed. We are opposed to a change of the name.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The name of Andaman and Nicobar was changed by the free Government of India under Netaji.

SHRI K. R. GANESH: We are not going to allow you to do this. Our name cannot be changed by you . . . (Interruption).

There is a soul . . . (Interruption).

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is a concocted lie. Shri Ganesh was not there at that time in Andaman. He was then in Madras . . . (Interruption).

He did not know actual facts in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I

visited Burma, Malaya, Indonesia and Philippines and there met Dr. Bamaw, Dr. Seokarno, Dr. Laurel, who were then head of States of those countries. They and all other Indian representatives in S. E. Asia told me that not a single Indian was touched by the Japanese after Netaji formed the provisional Azad Hind Government and assumed power. Even when the Japanese ill-treated the people of those countries, they took the help of Netaji who saved their countrymen from the Japanese atrocities. All Indians in South-east Asia told me that the Japanese Government, after Netaji assumed power, did not ill-treat any Indian in any place in South-east Asia including Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This gentleman who complains about the ill-treatment by the Japanese was not at that time in Andaman. The name of Shahid and Swaraj Dwipas was given by the provisional Government of Free India, which was recognised by 15 international States as such. The name given by Netaji has a constitutional propriety which cannot be denied. Therefore it should be renamed as Shahid and Swaraj Dwipas.

MR. SPEAKER: What has happened to you? At every little thing the quarrel starts. I am really surprised about it. We should seriously think of having some committee of peace-makers who should at once jump at the gentleman and make him sit down.

श्री रणधीर सिंह : नेता जी लभाष चन्द्र बोस के नाम के बगैर, उनके योगदान के बगैर हम जो आजाद आजाद हैं, वह हमें नब्बे परसेंट नहीं होते अगर वह नहीं होते। उनकी फीज में चालीस हजार तो खुद मेरी छोटी सी स्टेट के सिपाहीं थे। अंदामन और निकोबार में जहां हजारों आदमी देश के शहीद हुए, उनमें मेरी स्टेट से भी जाकर शहीद हुए। यह उचित है कि सब किस्म का मेमोरियल वहां हो। उसके साथ साथ पार्लिमेंट हाउस के प्रेमिजिज में, उसके हाल में भी हो। यहां उनका नाम नजर नहीं आता है। क्या

वहाँ भी और यहाँ भी और रेड कोर्ट पर भी इमको स्थापित करने के बारे में सरकार गौर कर रही है ताकि आने वाली नस्ले उनको याद रखें, याद रखें उन मुजाहिद को, उस आजादी के परवान को ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: These are suggestions which will be examined.

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बाग के जीवन का एक अन्तिम पृष्ठ भी है जो खोसा हुआ है। उनकी मृत्यु ताइवान के अन्दर एक विमान दुर्घटना में हुई थी। ताइवान सरकार का कहना यह है कि शाहनवाज कमेटी जिनसे नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बाग की मृत्यु के सम्बन्ध के बारे में जांच की थी, उनका कोई भी सदस्य ताइवान नहीं गया जबकि वहाँ की सरकार इस दुर्घटना के सम्बन्ध में पूरा सहयोग देने के लिये तैयार है। इस अन्तिम पृष्ठ को भी पूरी तरह से जानकारी के साथ लिखा जा सके, इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार कुछ निर्णय लेने का विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: This is another suggestion which is under consideration.

SHRI AMIYANATH BOSE: On this matter may I make a submission? Just a month before the death of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru I met him in Delhi and on behalf of the Committee in Calcutta I demanded formation of a proper inquiry commission and he told me, 'Yes'. He was convinced that there were doubts about the findings of the Shahnawaz Inquiry Committee and he agreed that a proper inquiry commission should be formed. Subsequently, after my return to Calcutta, I received a letter from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Of course, I had suggested to him that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court should preside over the Inquiry Commission, and he wrote back that he was not sure, in view of the judicial commitments of the Chief Justice of India, whether he

would head such an Inquiry Commission, but he agreed that it was necessary and desirable that on this incident about aircraft there should be some final finding. Therefore, there was a commitment on the part of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru just before his death that a fresh inquiry commission would be set up. I am reminding the present Prime Minister and also the present Home Minister to redeem that promise of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: This particular aspect is under the consideration of the Government. Very recently the Prime Minister has also received certain memoranda from Members of Parliament . . . (Interruption).

SHRI HEM BARUA: The Prime Minister has also made a suggestion to the Cabinet.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: This matter is under the consideration of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

श्री शिव नारायण : सुभाष चन्द्र बाग की हमारी 1942 की मूवमेंट के अग्रदूत रहे है वह कांग्रेस प्रेजीडेंट भी रहे हैं। उन के साथ जो व्यवहार इस देश में हुआ है उसको हम कभी नहीं भूल सकते हैं। हर हिन्दुस्तानी सुभाष बाबू को जानता है। सहगल, दिल्ली, शाह नवाज, ये तीन आदमी आज देश में जन्दा है। वे अमली किस्मा जानते है। सुभाष बाग के प्रति देश का बच्चा-बच्चा अनुगृहीत है। स्वराज्य लाने का श्रेय अगर किसी को है तो सुभाष बाबू को ही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कलकत्ता के ब्यूरो ने जो आप से मदद की मांग की है, उसको देखते हुए आप कितना पैसा उसको देंगे ताकि वह मैमोरियल वर्ग रह का प्रबन्ध कर सके ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I cannot commit myself about the amount. These are suggestions which will have to be considered.

SHRI S. KUNDU: I would like to know whether it is possible to hold an official ceremony every year on the Birthday of Netaji in Andaman, because, I think, if an official ceremony is held, it will lend due regard and honour to the name of Netaji.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I cannot make a commitment. These are suggestions which will have to be considered carefully.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: *rose—*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a Short Notice Question about Exhibition on Netaji's life in Andaman. I know, members are speaking with sentiments. So, I will not interfere. But I would like to say that this is being regularly converted into a debating hour . . .

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: In the Business Advisory Committee we requested you to allow some discussion on the memorandum which has been sent by 350 members about investigation . . . (*Interruptions*) but that has been disallowed because we have no time. I would request you to at least allow one or two members more to ask questions on the Short Notice Question.

श्री यमुना प्रसाद मंडल : गृह मंत्री महोदय ने बार-बार कहा है कि सरकार इस महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न पर गम्भीरतापूर्वक विचार करेगी। मैं समझता हूँ कि भारत के इस सर्वश्रेष्ठ पुत्र के स्मारक के रूप में वहाँ पर इंडिया गेट की तरह का एक नेताजी गेट बनाया जाना चाहिये। बहुत से लोग उस द्वीप को आनन्द द्वीप कहते हैं। मैं श्री गणेश से पुछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्हें पोर्ट ब्लेयर नाम अच्छा लगता है, क्या आनन्द द्वीप अच्छा नाम नहीं है, अगर पोर्ट ब्लेयर के स्थान पर नेता पत्तन कहा जाये, तो उनको क्या नुकसान होगा। वह वहाँ के लोगों से इस बारे में बात करें। स्वतंत्रता से पहले हिन्दुस्तान के पांच लाख गांवों में उन द्वीपों को लाले पानी के नाम से पताग जाता था वहाँ के सेल और जेल में इस देश के कई, रेवोल्यूशनरी रखे गये थे।

जिनमें कई इस हाउस के मेम्बर भी थे। क्या गृह मंत्री महोदय मेरे इस छोटे से प्रस्ताव पर विचार करेंगे कि यहाँ के इंडिया गेट की तरह वह एक नेताजी गेट बनाया जाय और आजादी के सिपाइयों और रेवोल्यूशनरीज के लिये मेमोरियल खड़ा किया जाय ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: If at all we want to have a memorial, it should be one specific thing. You cannot have all sorts of memorials everywhere. The idea is under examination. A group of people went and examined what type of memorial of Netaji should be raised. The basic idea is that we should have a statue there and some other activities around the statue. This matter is under examination now.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: Before speaking of monuments for Netaji in Andaman, will the Government look into the decaying house of Subash Chandra Bose in Calcutta? I saw the house. It has been neglected and the records are not protected. Will the Government take measures to protect the records and other things of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I will look into it.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : अण्डमान-निकोबार द्वीप न केवल नेताजी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस बल्कि इस देश के कई उत्तम क्रांति के देशभक्त नेताओं जैसे लाला लाजपत राय और वीर गावरकर से सम्बन्धित रहा है। क्या सरकार उनके आश्रम पर कोई ऐसी स्मारक बनायेगी, जिस से वह स्थान देश वा एक तीर्थस्थान बन जाये और देश भर के लोग देशभक्ति की प्रेरणा लेने के लिए वहाँ तीर्थयात्रा के रूप में जाया करें ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I have mentioned that. The cellular jail is the greatest memorial of the suffering of those great revolutionaries and martyrs. Our idea is to keep it in a proper condition. The idea of having an-

other memorial is also under examination.

SHRI SHANKARRAO MANE: Though the Home Minister has every desire to do something regarding memorial, he is finding it difficult to commit himself in financial matters. May I suggest that at least Netaji's portrait should be placed in the Central Hall for which there may not be much financial commitment? If Government finds it difficult, all the Members of Parliament can contribute for that and we can have a portrait of Netaji in the Central Hall.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: So far as the Central Hall is concerned, the House is in charge of it; Government is not in charge of it.

श्री भारखण्डे राय : हिन्दुस्तान के आखिरी शहन्शाह और 1857 प्रथम स्वातंत्र्य युद्ध के सिपहसालार के अन्तिम दिन रंगून जेल में बंते और उन बहादुरशाह जफ़र की कब्र रंगून में है। उनकी आखिरी इवाहिश थी कि मरने के बाद उनकी मिट्टी को हिन्दुस्तान की मिट्टी में दफनाया जाये। परन्तु अंग्रेजों ने उसे नहीं किया। उनको कब्र पर जो पत्थर है, उस पर लिखा हुआ है कि कभी हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसा अवसर अवश्य आयेगा जब उनकी मिट्टी वहां ले जाई जायेगी। नेता जी सुभाष चन्द्र बोस जब पहली बार सिंगापुर से रंगून गये थे, तो उन्होंने उस कब्र को देखकर यह वचन दिया था और आजाद हिन्द सरकार के प्रधान की हैसियत से यह घोषणा की थी, कि जब हिन्दुस्तान आजाद होगा, तो हम इस मिट्टी को सैनिक सम्मान के साथ अपने देश भर ले जायेंगे, जहां पर इसको राष्ट्रीय सम्मान से आदरपूर्वक दफनाया जायेगा। क्या सरकार इस बारे में कोई कदम उठाने पर विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Personally I am hearing about this matter for the first time. I will certainly look into it.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: The question of inquiry has been raised. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in this House many non-official resolutions and a non-official Bill were moved demanding that Netaji's ashes be brought with full military honours. We argued how the ashes of a person who is likely to be alive can be brought and I remember that the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru agreed with this and said that there are people in this country who do not believe that Netaji is dead and that Bill was withdrawn. That is one of the reasons why there is no portrait of Netaji in the Central Hall. Even Mr. Nehru believed that he may be alive. I would like to know why the Government could not appoint another commission to inquire into the whole thing.

Sir, I quoted from the record. That Bill was withdrawn and Pandit Nehru himself said that it should be withdrawn. Why should they not appoint another Commission to inquire into this? That is my specific question.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: This matter is under the active consideration of the Government. The Prime Minister has recently received certain memorandum from Members of Parliament and we are very actively considering this.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHODHURI: May I know whether in this question it is being suggested that there should be a portrait of Netaji in Port Blair lounge. I would ask the Home Minister: is it not possible to put up a statue of Netaji in the Harbour where the ships coming in can see him at once and also have an institute ever there to train our young men in the ideology and self sacrifice and enthusiasm that Netaji symbolised?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: About the statue I have already mentioned that the question of erection of a statue of Netaji is under consideration and it is a matter of detail as to where it should be located.