

LOK SABHA DEBATES

2805

2806

LOK SABHA

Monday, June 5, 1967/Jyaistha 15,
1889 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Tension on Assam-Nagaland Borders

+

- *271. Shri Bibhut Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:
Shri Beni Shankar Sharma:
Shri Onkar Lal Borwa:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:
Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
Shri D. N. Deb:
Shri Liladhar Kotaki:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri N. R. Laskar:
Shri Gadhakr Snpakar:
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri J. B. Singh:
Shri Ranjit Singh:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
Shri Shri Gopal Saboo:
Shri Swell:
Shrimati Jyotma Chanda:
Shri Vihwa Nath Pandey:
Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee:

Will the Minister of External Affairs
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the
underground Nagas have fortified

the entire 12-mile long area from
Bandarchulia to Newsonowal of
Assam and have deployed armed
Naga hostiles in some strategic
points;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Govern-
ment in this regard?

The Minister of External Affairs
(Shri M. C. Chagla): (a) and (b).
According to information available
to the Government, gangs of Naga
Underground were noticed in areas
opposite to the Assam State border
outposts of Newsonowal, Kheremia,
Panimora, Bandarchulia, Gahorichora,
Garjan, Tengajan, and Raidanguri,
during April, 1967. The Government
have no information about fortifica-
tion of the area by the hostile Nagas.

(c) Suitable precautionary mea-
sures have been taken to meet the
situation in case the hostile gangs
indulge in unlawful activities.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : राज्य शास्त्र और
राजनीति धर्म को याद रखते हुए मैं मंत्री
जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार का 30-
प्रद रुपये का बजट बनता है—लेकिन
नागा लोग क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं इस के
बारे में मंत्री जी ने अभी बताया कि पता
नहीं है। प्रखबारों को देखने से पता चला
है कि नागा लोगों का सम्बन्ध चीन से
है, वे वहाँ से ट्रेनिंग ले कर आ रहे हैं और चीनी
लोग भी नागालैंड में घुस गये हैं। मैं
जानना चाहता हूँ कि नागा लोगों की सुरक्षा
के लिये तथा नागालैंड पर सरकार का
अधिकार रहे, इसके लिये सरकार क्या कार्य-
वाही कर रही है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We try and gather as much information as possible, but the question has been asked about a specific matter to which I have given a specific answer. It is not as if we are not in touch with what is happening. We know about the Nagas going to China, being trained and coming back, but as the question relates to a specific area, the answer has been given specifically.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मेरे मवाल का जवाब नहीं आया। मेरा मवाल इसी से सम्बन्ध रखता है—नागा लोग बाहर से ट्रेनिंग ले कर ग्रामाम बाइंडर पर अपना घोर्बा बना रहे हैं, चीनी लोग वहाँ आ चुके हैं—यह स्पेसिफिक मवाल इसी से सम्बन्ध रखता है। कहीं कहे कि कलकत्ता जाइये, न। कलकत्ता सीधे चला जाय, या कलकत्ता कभे जायंगे उस का बोझा इतिहास बतलाना चाहिये—आखिर यह राजघर्म का मामला है।

Shri M. C. Chagla: The Assam Government has taken strict security measures and raised village protection parties to take effective action against such encroachments and to check any breach of law and order by the underground.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: On a point of order. Both Assam and Nagaland are States of the Indian Union, and therefore they come within the purview of the Home Ministry. May I know in what capacity the External Affairs Ministry is answering this question, and whether by dealing with it under the External Affairs Ministry he is not unnecessarily complicating the situation in Nagaland and all those areas?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I have answered this question several times. My hon. friend is quite right. Nagaland is a State of India, it is an internal matter, which should be left to the Home Ministry, and the External Affairs Ministry will be only too happy to transfer this subject to them.

एक माननीय सचिव : क्यों नहीं कर रहे हैं ?

श्री M. C. Chagla: The Nagaland Cabinet has requested us specifically to continue this subject with the External Affairs Ministry for some-time.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: What are the reasons for that.

Shri M. C. Chagla: It is in deference to the wishes of the Nagaland Cabinet that this subject is being dealt with by the External Affairs Ministry.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: If the Government of Kerala were to make a similar request will you agree to it?

Mr. Speaker: We are going away from the question. This question had been discussed so many times and this is not the first time that the E.A. Minister is dealing with this. So, there is no point of order... (Interruptions.) I agree with you, but certainly it is not a point of order.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Keeping in view the internal fortifications that they are making and the external help they are getting, how long are the Government going to continue these so-called peace talks?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I have already answered that question and I shall answer again. We feel that some good has come out of the talks with the Naga underground, and so long as we have that feeling—and we have the hope and expectation that some good will emerge out of these talks—the talks should continue.

श्री क० ना० सिन्हा : क्या वह सही है कि प्रेम में जो यह बला आई है कि बाइना में बहुत से नागा ट्रेन्ड हो कर इधर-उधर के साथ आ गये हैं और वे लोग उस एरिया में घोर बून्दरे एरिया में फोटीफिकेशन कर रहे हैं—क्या सरकार को इसकी सुझाव

है? यदि हाँ, तो इसके सम्बन्ध में नवनिर्देश क्या स्ट्रेप्ट के रही है? यदि नहीं, तो आपकी सी आई० डी० क्या काम कर रही है, क्या यह उस का फेलोअर नहीं है?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes, Sir. It does not strictly arise out of this question. Our information is that one or two bands did go to China and have returned. All precautionary and security measures are being taken to deal with the situation.

Shri K. P. Singh Deo: May I know whether a Naga youth was found at Amguri smuggling arms from Pakistan into Nagaland? Are these incidents not recurring, because in the month of March also two trunk-loads of explosives were found while they were being smuggled. Will the Minister say whether there is a regular arms smuggling going on from Pakistan into Nagaland and, if so, what steps are taken to prevent it?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are aware of the fact that arms have been smuggled from Pakistan and that some Naga hostiles have been involved just as some Naga hostiles went to China and have returned to Nagaland after getting training. The most that I can say is that we are keeping a close watch. But you must remember that the terrain is too difficult to prevent the Naga underground from escaping into unfriendly countries like China and Pakistan. Burma is giving us wholehearted co-operation. But if anybody has any knowledge of the terrain, thick jungle and the long border, they would appreciate the difficulty of preventing a few Naga underground escaping or coming back. As I said, we are keeping a close watch and we take every precaution to strengthen our security.

Shri Lladhar Koteki: With regard to (c) the hon. Minister replied that suitable measures have been taken to prevent the activities of the hostile Nagas. In spite of these measures, the depredations of the hostile Nagas

in the neighbouring district of Sibsagar have been continued. Therefore, May I know whether the Government have decided to take this matter very seriously and devise some effective ways of stopping these activities of the hostile Nagas?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I cannot accept the underlying assumption of the question, namely that the Government should consider this more seriously. We look upon this problem as extremely serious and extremely dangerous to the security of the country. We are taking every possible measure to counteract these activities.

Shri N. E. Laskar: The whole thing centres round on one point that we have to check the Naga hostiles from bringing arms from China and Pakistan. May I know what steps the Government is taking to check these people from getting arms from countries like China and Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: He has explained at length the difficulty about the terrain and all that.

Shri N. E. Laskar: What concrete steps are they taking to check them from getting arms from other countries?

Shri M. C. Chagla: The positive steps we are taking are first to prevent the Naga hostiles from leaving our country and going into unfriendly countries. We will try our best to see that they do not escape. But as I pointed out, the terrain is such that sometimes it is impossible to prevent 50 or 60 Naga hostiles from escaping. The next thing is, if they escape and we know they have escaped, we keep a watch and see that they do not return. There again, the terrain is such that they might get back.

Shri Dhireswar Kalita: On a point of order, Sir. The Minister says that the terrain is difficult and it is impossible to keep a watch. He always says so; then what is the utility of discussing here the same thing.

Mr. Speaker: You may not be satisfied with the answer. That is a different matter. Shri Supakar.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: We are hearing of the depredations of Naga hostiles almost every day. May I know how far the Nagaland Cabinet and the friendly Nagas there are helpful in checking or preventing the Naga hostiles from committing these depredations almost every day?

Shri M. C. Chagla: As far as we know, the friendly Nagas do not approve of what the hostile Nagas are doing. That is all I can say. As you know, talks are going on between the Prime Minister and the Nagas and it would not be right for me to express an opinion which might in any way prejudice these talks or create difficulties.

श्री मधु लिखये : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या असम और नागा लैंड के बीच में सीमा को ले कर कोई झगड़ा है जिस का घसर वहाँ शान्ति रखने के काम पर पड़ रहा है ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes, Sir. There are some border disputes. I am happy to say that recently the Chief Ministers of Assam and Nagaland met at Shillong and decided that further meetings at Chief Secretaries' level should take place to remove tension on the inter-State border. The Chief Ministers are trying to solve them. They are minor problems which can be easily adjusted.

श्री जार्ज करमेश्वीच : नागाओं के घोर से चीन जाने घोर घाने का काम जो काफी दिनों से चल रहा है, इस मामले पर जब नागाओं के प्रतिनिधि प्रधान मंत्री से मिलने चाये थे तब क्या उन लोगों से चीन के साथ रिश्ता रखने के बारे में कोई मवाल पूछा गया था ? क्या उन से कहा गया था कि जब तक बात चीत चल रही है तब तक कम से कम ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये ?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We have today in force the suspension of operations agreement to which the friendly Nagas

are a party. They fully realise their obligations under this agreement. As far as we know, they are doing their best to carry out the terms of the agreement. But there is a section—fortunately it is a very small section—which is hostile to us, which is giving us difficulties, which is creating trouble and which is going to China or Pakistan. Our whole problem is to see that that small minority gets smaller and smaller every day and those who are friendly with us get more friendly and agree to remain within the Indian Union.

श्री जार्ज करमेश्वीच : मुझे एक खुलासा चाहिये। प्रधान मंत्री और नागाओं के बीच जो बात चीत चल रही है उन में जो नागा हैं वह फ्रेंडली नागा हैं या होस्टाइल नागा हैं ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा अनुसूचित मंत्री (बीजली इंदिरा गांधी) : मुझे लगता है कि वह फ्रेंडली होस्टाइल नागा हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने पहला प्रश्न यह पूछा था कि उन लोगों से चीन के बारे में कुछ कहा गया है या नहीं। हम ने उन में कहा है।

Shri Hem Barua: Before the Indian Government could extend the so-called cease-fire agreement, the Naga hostiles extended the cease-fire agreement unilaterally, because the suspension of hostilities helps them this way: under the cover of the suspension of hostilities, the Naga hostiles have started a parallel government with the existing government in Nagaland; they have gone to China and Pakistan for collection of arms and, at the same time, the latest information is this: they have collected arms only from China and Pakistan but also from east European countries. Now, they are doing all these things under the cover of the so-called cease-fire agreement. As a matter of fact, they have deliberately and systematically violated the so-called cease-fire agreement. In the face of that, may I know whether our

Government have brought this fact to the notice of the underground Naga leaders with whom they are having confabulations at present and who are sending their delegates to London to meet Mr. Phizo, that this sort of violation of the so-called cease-fire agreement would not help the peaceful solution of the Nagaland problem and they must stop it?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Yes, Sir. I must confess my regret that there has been violation of the suspension of the operation agreement. I would not call it 'cease-fire' because we are not dealing with a foreign country. The proper expression is suspension of operation. As the Prime Minister has pointed out, during her talks with the Nagas, all this has been pointed out, that really if any progress is to be made, the terms of the suspension of operation agreement should be strictly adhered to, but when the hostile Nagas are not entirely under the control of the friendly Nagas....

Shri Hem Barua: If they are not entirely under the control of the present leadership, I would like to know, with whom the Prime Minister is having confabulations, and what is the purpose in having confabulations or discussions with these Naga hostiles who cannot control their own followers who are going to China and Pakistan and collecting arms to destroy our government?

Shri M. C. Chagla: Have we not got experience of history, where a large majority cannot control a small minority? If there is a small minority which is hostile to us, which does things which are not the right things to do, which violate the agreement, well, it is not quite correct to say that we should break off all negotiations with the large majority of friendly Nagas.

Shri Hem Barua: But those negotiations have failed.

Mr. Speaker: Order. order. **Shri Dwivedy.**

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: It is clear now that the Nagas who are negotiating with the Government have got no control over the hostile activities carried on by some Nagas or the violations that are taking place. May I know whether the friendly Nagas who are carrying on negotiations are prepared to do with the representatives of the Government of India, to find them, locate them and expose them to the public that these are the persons who are responsible for the violation of the cease-fire in Nagaland?

Shri M. C. Chagla: That is a suggestion for action. I am sure the Prime Minister will bear this in mind in the next round of talks.

Shri Hem Barua: The Naga underground leaders have not condemned this.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Sir, I did not hear what the Minister said.

Shri M. C. Chagla: I said this is a suggestion for action, I am sure the Prime Minister will bear this in mind in the next round of talks with the friendly Nagas, as to what action the friendly Nagas should take in order to prevent the action of the hostile Nagas, of going to China and Pakistan to get arms.

Shri Ranjit Singh: In view of the fact that the negotiations at the moment being conducted by the Government are being used by the Nagas as a cover for preparations for a more widespread rebellion and for the purpose of preparing a bigger, so-called, Naga army, has the Government at all considered any method other than negotiations to solve the Naga problem? And, over a similar terrain, when Burma was able to control the rebellion of Kaarens, has the Government at all considered the ways and means employed by the Government of Burma, with a much smaller army than ours, in solving their Kaarens problem? Then, lastly, the hon. Minister had given an assurance on 22nd May that he would consider...

method of solving the Naga problem as the Mizo problem was solved, that is by regrouping of the Naga villages. Has any action been taken in that direction?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I do not accept, with great respect to my hon. friend, the suggestion that the discussions that are being carried on by friendly Nagas is a cover for raising an army or for improving the strength of the hostile Nagas. (An Hon. Member: Question?) It is not fair to make the suggestion as far as the friendly Nagas are concerned. It is not as a cover they are doing it; they are genuinely anxious to try and see if a settlement can be arrived at as much as we are genuinely anxious to see that a settlement is arrived at. With regard to the question of Burma, my hon. friend does not know that Burma has the same problem that we have. They have also failed to check some of the members of the rebels trying from crossing over to the other countries. As I said, Burma is giving us full co-operation as far as the escape of hostile Nagas is concerned. Whatever help they can give, the Burmese Government have been giving us and we ought to be thankful to the Burmese Government for that.

With regard to the third part of his question as to what can be an alternative to the talks, as I have said over and over again, we must pursue with these talks with the hope that some result will ultimately come about.

Shri Ranjit Singh: Sir, the third part of my question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: There are some more names on the list. (Interruption).

Shri Swell: Sir, the Minister in his reply said that some members of the Naga underground were sighted in this part of Nagaland bordering Assam. For the matter of that, Naga underground members are sighted everywhere. They are sighted in Kohima, in Chidama, three miles from Kohima, having a camp there.

Therefore, the presence of a few members of the underground Nagas in this particular part of Nagaland need not be construed as any sign of hostility on their part. May I know: (a) whether the Nagaland State Government had enquired into this whole matter and had found out that there was no concentration of underground Nagas in this part and whether this Government has received or asked for this report from the Nagaland State Government; (b) whether it is a fact that the Assam Government has rented out a particular forest in Shibsagar District called the Abhoyपुरi Forest to a certain big business house in this country and that the contractor of this forest had been trespassing into the Desoi Forest of Nagaland and had been illegally falling trees in the forest; and, (c) whether it is a fact that the Nagaland Government in order to stop this illegal extraction of timber from their forest had set up a check-post at Namsa in Tuensang District of Nagaland and nowhere else and whether this Government has enquired into this matter that all this hullabaloo, this kind of crying wolf about of the Nagas concentrating on Assam border, is nothing but a political stunt of the Assam State Government?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I am conscious of the fact that there are some differences between the Nagaland State Government and the Assam State Government with regard to certain forests and other things which form the boundary of the Assam State and the Nagaland State. As I said, these differences are being resolved by the meeting of the two Chief Ministers who met in April and who have decided to continue the talks. With regard to the concentration of the Nagas, I have already given the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Jyotana Chanda.

Shri Swell: That is no answer to my question. Sir, I seek your protection. The Minister cannot just

avoid giving answers to my specific questions. I raised specific questions and he has evaded all of them.

Mr. Speaker: All these point can be raised only in a discussion.

Shri Swell: I am entitled to answers to the questions I have raised, not to something else. This is not the way how we are going to function in this House. I ask something and he goes on saying something else.

Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: May I know whether the Government has given any thoughtful consideration to rehabilitate people on the border of Nagaland and Assam and, if not, whether they will consider it for the sake of security?

Shri M. C. Chagla: It is a suggestion for action. I will, certainly, bear in mind what the hon. lady Member has suggested.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: May I know from the Government whether they have evolved a better method of getting intelligence reports from Nagaland. It seems that the Home Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry are all involved in it. I do not know how the coordination takes place. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government has decided on a policy to woo the hostile Nagas or to take action in accordance with the law of the land.

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are constantly, if not, daily, getting intelligence reports which are being studied by the External Affairs Ministry, the Home Ministry and the Defence Ministry. We try to coordinate these reports and see what can be done about it. With regard to the second question, as I have said, our present policy is to continue the peace talks with the friendly Nagas and see if we can evolve a settlement which is in the national interest.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: I mean hostile Nagas, not friendly Nagas.

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are taking all action we can against them in preventing them from leaving India, in preventing them from importing arms, etc. How we can do that is a matter mostly for defence and security. We are taking such action.

Shri Ranga: May I take it that it is not taken to be a violation of the agreement that we have reached between the two sections, ourselves and the so-called friendly Nagas, if our security forces there are permitted, also authorised by the Government, to deal with such of them, the small minority, who do not agree with the so-called friendly Nagas and who do all this mischief?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I should not think it will be a violation of the agreement. The violation of the agreement is being committed by them. The agreement lays down that they will not import arms from any country and that they will maintain peace and, therefore, there would be nothing wrong if we take action . . .

Shri Ranga: Are we taking action?

Shri M. C. Chagla: We are taking action.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Hem Barua: They are not taking action.

Mr. Speaker: That is a matter of opinion. Next Question.

Kenya Immigration Law

+

*272. **Shri Sradhakur Supakar:**

Shri N. R. Laskar:

Shri P. K. Deo:

Shri D. N. Deb:

Shri K. P. Singh Deo:

Shri Chhitaranjan Ray:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kenya have recently passed a law on immigration, which will deprive about two lakh Indians and Asians of their right to trade in that country; and