

ter of State that as far as his information goes, there are no Chinese in NEFA, and may I ask him as to what is his source of information? Is it only the intelligence of the Home Ministry, or has the Minister taken care also to find out from the military people etc. who operate in that area, because during the NEFA hostilities we found to our cost that our intelligence had failed miserably? May I know if he has taken the trouble to find out as to what is happening there from our military people who are posted there, or is he depending only on Home Ministry's intelligence?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: When we give our assessment here, it is naturally evaluation of information received from both the sources, military sources and intelligence sources and the statement is made on the basis of absolutely reasonable information. One need not normally go back to what happened before 1962. We had learnt the lesson, the very costly lesson from them and they were not wasted on us.

Mr. Speaker: Next question, 335.

Shri Hem Barua: 341 also may be taken.

Mr. Speaker: Only the word 'Mizo' is common to both. 335.

Escape of Mizos

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*335. **Shri Swell:**

Shri Kikar Singh:

Shri Kolai Birua:

Dr. Karnj Singh:

Shri Hem Raj:

Shri Sharda Nand:

Shri J. B. Singh:

Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:

Shri Ranjit Singh:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Mizos who have entered into East Pakistan during the last six months;

(b) whether Government have brought this to the notice of the Government of Pakistan;

(c) if so, the reaction to or the reply from Pakistan Government in the matter; and

(d) the steps being taken to seal the border to prevent Mizos from going to East Pakistan?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) According to our information, Mizo hostiles have been in contact with Pakistan for sometime, but it is not possible to give the number of rebels who crossed over the Pakistan during the last six months.

(b) and (c). A number of protests were lodged with the Pakistan Government demanding discontinuance by Pakistan of the facilities given by them to Mizo hostiles, but the Pakistan Government have repeatedly denied having provided any assistance whatsoever.

(d) Defence forces have been assisting the civil authorities to check the activities of Mizo hostiles.

Shri Swell: The Mizo rebellion has been there for the last more than one year. From time to time we get statements from the Government saying that the rebellion was breaking up. The latest incident occurred on May the 23rd when an ambush took place on the Silchar-Aijal road, the main line of communication almost for the entire district, in which 16 of our securitymen lost their lives. It would go to indicate that far from the rebellion weakening, it gained further accretion of strength and firepower. May I know whether this is not the sign that the Mizos have been receiving active assistance in arms, ammunition and other ways from neighbouring foreign countries?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: There was an ambush in which we lost some lives but that was an isolated incident compared to the progress of our peace-keeping operations. We have made very good progress in that respect. A good many Mizo rebels have surrendered to our security forces and many

of their important people have been captured by us, whereas this is an isolated incident. By and large our progress towards eliminating these Mizo rebels has been satisfactory.

Shri Swell: I am very sorry to hear the reply of the Minister. He says that the incident of May 27th was an isolated incident whereas reports that we get show that this is only the latest in the series of such incidents that have taken place. The complaint of our security forces is that the Government does not give out the correct figures of the casualties that they suffer and the result is that the security forces feel extremely reluctant to go against the hostiles and may I know whether the latest policy of the Government of moving the Mizo villages into 19 centres and leaving out wide areas of the district for the operation of the Mizo hostiles is not working against us?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): I was trying to find out the purpose of the question which the hon. Member was putting. The purpose seems quite obvious. He wants to prove that the grouping system is a failure. As I had occasion to explain this position on the floor of the House, it is certainly one more measure we have taken. So far, on balance, I can say that this grouping system has certainly given us certain advantages. I cannot say at this stage whether it has completely succeeded or not, but it certainly has given one advantage, that these Mizo rebels used to take advantage of the scattered population to terrorise them and to take away their food and other supplies from them, which is being denied too them, and as a result of this, the Mizo rebels have become a little more desperate.

The ambush to which he made reference is one of them. I know that it is also one of the series of incidents that took place, but when there is a rebellion, ambush is certainly a part of it. One has to learn to live with it. Unfortunately in this particular ambush also, one of the aspects is this:

as I said last time, an ambush has certainly an element of surprise; a surprise attack is made as a result of which some life is normally lost, but in this particular case, I must say I have got all the sympathy for those people who lost their lives, but tactically they were rather mistaken, and they were rather negligent in their job in this way, that if there is fear of any ambush, the group that makes progress does not move in groups; the group moves slowly; moves on foot and unfortunately, here, the whole lot was travelling in vehicle which was against standing orders as a result of which they lost their lives.

About giving wrong figures, we never try to conceal the figures; wherever it is necessary to give the figures, we have given the figures; here on the floor of the House there cannot be wrong figures, because, we can be held up for giving wrong figures.

Dr. Karni Singh: The hon. Minister just mentioned that the Mizos have denied any help being received from China and Pakistan. I would like to know if the Minister is absolutely certain that no help is received by the Mizos from China and Pakistan, both for arms and ammunition for their military training, and also whether there is hand of any east European country behind this?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I think you have misunderstood what I said.

Dr. Karni Singh: I mean the Deputy Minister.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: We never denied it; Pakistan is giving aid to them and those people are getting arms, etc., from Pakistan. We have said that many times.

Dr. Karni Singh: The hon. Minister mentioned that the Mizos have denied having received any help.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: It is not that the Mizos have denied it. I said Pakistan has denied that they have given any arms to the Mizos. I am sorry.

Dr. Karni Singh: Then the question has not been answered. My question about any east European countries in this matter has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: It is about any aid being given by east European countries.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: No, Sir.

Shri Ranjit Singh: Since 1949 onwards up to the present time, since the time of the cease-fire in Kashmir, the army authorities have been recommending that the only way to stop ingress and egress at the borders, of hostiles was to break the physical contact of villagers from the borders, that is, to create a depopulated zone along the borders. We have throughout heard in this House that the country there is a very difficult country, that Nagaland is a close country, meaning in military terms, that it is overgrown with thick forests. So, what steps has the Government taken to create such a depopulated zone in order to break physical contact of the people there in the border and what considerations has the Government given on this recommendations of the security force?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: We are not dealing with Nagaland in this question. We are dealing with Mizo hostiles. As we have already stated, we have undertaken measures to recruit villagers along the Silchar-Aijal road, and that has proved successful.

Shri Ranga: He asked about the depopulated zone and whether any steps have been taken.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: We are dealing with the Mizos in this question.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Once you have allowed the question, he should answer the question.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: There was no proposal of that kind.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the attention of Government was

drawn to a radio broadcast by Peking saying that the Mizo rebels have successfully revolted against the Indian Government, which means an encouragement to the Mizo rebels to rebel against the Government and which shows the diabolical hand of China behind this move? May I know if the Government have any knowledge of that broadcast and what steps Government have taken to see that the Chinese help is not allowed to create another problem for us in Mizoland, as has been created by the Pakistani help at present?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Chinese are certainly interested in subverting India. We know that any trouble in Indian territory anywhere is an opportunity for them and they propagate about it. So far as this matter is concerned, there is no direct contact of the Chinese in the subversive activities with the Mizos. But the Chinese possibly might reach them through Pakistan. I am not eliminating that possibility. Therefore, what we have to take care is to see that Pakistan does not succeed in contacting the Mizos and helping them.

Shri Hem Barua: It is reported that Mizo hostiles go to Dacca in East Pakistan and there they meet the Chinese diplomats.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the Home Minister's repeated statement in the House that problems like that of the Mizos have to be solved by persuasion and mutual understanding, because after all, in spite of their being hostile—many of them—they are our own people, may I know why it is that he is not examining the idea of the regrouping of villages, which, while it may bring us some advantages in the military operations against the hostiles, would alienate completely the sympathy of the local population, because that is what exactly happened in the case of Malaya and South Vietnam where the British and the Americans were trying to operate on that principle? May I know whether the minister will examine this matter and take steps which

would not alienate the sympathies of those Mizos who are not at present hostile?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Before we give up this regrouping, we want to convince ourselves exactly as to what will happen. He himself said that I am emphasising on the political aspect and winning the cooperation of the local people is the most important factor. I find that although in the initial stages the regrouping of villages was resented and resisted by the local people because of certain inconveniences involved, they are coming round now.

Shri Hem Barua: They have welcomed it.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I personally feel that this scheme should be given a fair trial. Before it is completed if it is given up, really speaking we are not learning anything. I do not want it for the sake of the scheme. We will work it but for some time and see what are the advantages and disadvantages. We are trying it for the first time with that determination in Mizoland. We started doing it in Nagaland and possibly we gave it up rather too early. I do not want to feel later on that we gave it up too early. If we want to give it up, it is much better we do so after a fair trial.

Shri N. R. Laskar: The Mizo hostiles do not confine themselves to the Mizo district. They have come right up to Cachar and the plains. There are so many incidents. I would like to know if Government have any definite programme so that at least the people in the plain districts may live peacefully on the border.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Naturally sometimes they do come down to the plains in their violent activities and sometimes they loot some villages. The only thing that can be done is to tighten the protection arrangements in the plains possibly with the help

of the local leaders and allowing the people also to organise themselves in a better way.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिजो पहाड़ियों में जो यह विद्रोही लोग कार्य कर रहे हैं इन को पाकिस्तान से सहायता मिलती है, अभी कुछ दिन पहले बताया गया था कि जो नागा विद्रोही कार्य कर रहे हैं उनको भी पाकिस्तान से सहायता मिलती है, इसी प्रकार आसाम और पश्चिमी बंगाल की सीमाओं पर जो दुर्घटनाएँ हो रही हैं उन को भी वह सहायता देते हैं तो इन सब के प्रतिकार के सम्बन्ध में जब गृह मंत्रालय से पूछा जाता है तो वह यह कहते हैं कि हमने विरोध पत्र भेजा है, इस बार कुछ इसमें थोड़ी सी गति आई है, हमारे गृह मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री ने बताया कि सो मैनी टाइम्स, यानी कई बार भेजा, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ जो यह विरोध पत्र भेजे जा रहे हैं क्या हर बार की घटनाओं का पता लगने पर नये सिरे से विरोध पत्र तैयार किये जाते हैं या कोई साइक्लो-स्टाइल कराकर रख रखा है ?

Mr. Speaker: No answer need be given.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Last serial number may be given.

Shri Samar Guha: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that very recently Pakistan has sent 200 Mizos and Kukis after giving them training in a camp situated in Sylhet and another camp situated in Cox Bazar near Chittagong under the leadership of Dem Khosai, and these 200 Mizos and Kukis have taken possession of a hill area called the southern hill area and started plundering there? May I know whether the Government is also aware that in these two training camps that Pakistan has established Chinese guerilla experts are being utilised for giving guerilla war training to the Naga hostiles and Mizo rebels?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Actually, Sir, Pakistan has established more than two training camps for the Mizo hostiles. It is also a fact that recently a group of Mizo hostiles came back from Pakistan.

Mr. Speaker: What about the Chinese? He mentioned about Chinese giving them training.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Some Chinese instructors were noticed in those two camps.

An hon. Member: What was done when they were noticed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let us go to the next question.

Anti-National Activities on Rajasthan Border

*336. **Dr. Karni Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently some people living in the border District of Barmer in Rajasthan have been indulging in anti-national activities in collusion with Pakistanis across the border; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to check these activities?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Karni Singh: Sir, I admire the hon. Minister for his brevity. May I know whether it has been brought to the attention of the hon. Minister that during the Indo-Pakistan war a twenty-mile belt of the border along Rajasthan and Pakistan was cleared of the fifth-column activity that was taking place, and whether this belt of area, what we might call as denazified area, still continue in the present form or have the infiltrators and fifth-columnists returned back?

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: No, Sir. I do not know to whom the hon.

Member refers as fifth-columnists, but some people who migrated to Pakistan during the hostilities did come back. They have been arrested and they are being prosecuted under the law by the Government of Rajasthan.

Dr. Karni Singh: Has it been brought to the attention of Government that during the Indo-Pakistan war the fifth-column which I referred to, and which had operated between India and Pakistan on the Rajasthan border were cleared by the Indian army at that time and they were allowed to come back because certain Ministers of Rajasthan whose constituencies were on the border did not allow the Central Government to see that these fifth-columnists were kept out?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Y. B. Chavan): May I say, Sir, that these questions are loaded questions.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: You must take the load of the Member also into consideration.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: In order to take it I must say that it is loaded. It is not a fact that the whole area was full of fifth-columnists. To say like that would be a wrong thing. There was no question of the area being cleared. Certainly, as it happens in the border area, sometimes the population migrates to both sides, and it happened here also. Some Muslim population did go to the other side. I am not prepared to accept the position that the entire Muslim population are fifth-columnists.

Dr. Karni Singh: I never insinuated them. Sir, I stand to correction. I only said "certain fifth-columnists". I did not say whether they are Hindus or Muslims.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I am making my point clear and when I make my point clear the hon. Member does not like it. The hon. Member himself said in a vague manner that everybody who went to the other side were fifth-columnists. It is not true. Certain people did go to the other side,