

## **Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru**

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### **(e) Tibet**

#### **261. In the Rajya Sabha: Tibetan Refugees in Bhutan<sup>1</sup>**

M.S. Gurupada Swamy:<sup>2</sup> Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have banned the entry of Tibetan refugees into India through Bhutan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Lakshmi Menon): It is not a fact that the Government of India have banned the entry of Tibetan refugees into India from Bhutan. About 1800 Tibetan refugees have entered India so far through Bhutan.

M.S. Gurupada Swamy: May I know, Sir, whether any request was made before to the Bhutan Government that these refugees should be settled down there itself and not be allowed to come to India?

Lakshmi Menon: When the refugees entered Bhutan, they could have stayed on there, but because of the limited resources of the Bhutan Government we

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<sup>1</sup> Oral answers to questions, 1 September 1960. Rajya Sabha Debates, Vol. XXX, Nos. 17-24, 31 August-9 September 1960, cols 3037-3038.

<sup>2</sup> PSP.

were settle them in India.<sup>3</sup> The Bhutan Government has given employment for about 3,000 refugees in road making.

M.S. Gurupada Swamy: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that refugees are still coming from Bhutan to India, and, if so, what the number is in the current month?

Lakshmi Menon: I have not got the breakup for the current month.

Faridul Haq Ansari:<sup>4</sup> There has been a report in the press that these refugees who are in Bhutan are running away from Bhutan towards India. May I know how far it is correct?

Chairman: They are not running away from Bhutan.

Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member's question is so odd that I do not understand it—running away from whom, how, who is running about, for physical exercise or what?

Faridul Haq Ansari: Leaving Bhutan and coming to India.

Chairman: The answer was that Bhutan had accommodated already three thousand refugees and more could not be accommodated, and therefore they were coming to India. That was the answer.

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<sup>3</sup> See SWJN/SS/62/item 145.

<sup>4</sup> PSP.

## 262. In the Lok Sabha: Refugees Prefer Darjeeling<sup>5</sup>

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:<sup>6</sup>

- (a) Whether it is a fact that all the Tibetan refugees who have recently come from Tibet want to be settled at Darjeeling;
- (b) If so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) Whether proper screening is done of these refugees; and
- (d) Whether the Tibetans who came to Gorakhpur have expressed their desire to settle down at Darjeeling?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (J.N. Hazarika): (a) and (b). No Sir, not all the refugees want to settle in Darjeeling, but many of them prefer to do so, as there is already in the Darjeeling District a large settled Tibetan population, and as the climate of Darjeeling would suit them better.

(c) All refugees who enter India are properly screened.

(d) The refugees who came to Gorakhpur would also prefer to settle in Darjeeling for the reasons stated above.

P. K. Deo: In view of the strategic importance of the northern border, may I know if the Government is considering settling these Tibetan refugees in the Nilgiri hills where the climate is equally good?

Speaker: It is away from the border that is what he wants.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Jawaharlal Nehru): There

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<sup>5</sup> Oral answers to questions, 2 September 1960. Lok Sabha Debates, Vol. XLVI, 29 August-9 September 1960, cols 6356-6357.

<sup>6</sup> Question by Ganatantra Parishad MP P.K. Deo and Congress MP Ajit Singh Sarhadi.

is no proposal before us about the Nilgiri hills, but, as a matter of fact, not for the reasons mentioned by the hon. Member, but just to find suitable agricultural land, we are considering some proposals to settle them further south.<sup>7</sup>

### **263. In the Rajya Sabha: Report on Refugees in Uttar Pradesh<sup>8</sup>**

Niranjan Singh:<sup>9</sup> Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government have received any report from the District Magistrate, Gorakhpur, directly or through the State Government about the moving of Tibetan refugees from Nautanwa and Sunnali;
- (b) If so, what is the number of such refugees; and
- (c) What is the total number of refugees who are likely to leave India?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Jawaharlal Nehru): (a)

Yes, Sir, a report was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) About 400 Tibetan refugees were reported to be camping in the Gorakhpur district.

(c) 265 of these refugees have left for Nepal so far.

### **246. In the Rajya Sabha: Legal Enquiry Committee on Tibet<sup>10</sup>**

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<sup>7</sup> See item 47.

<sup>8</sup> Written answers to questions, 6 September 1960. Rajya Sabha Debates, Vol. XXX, Nos. 17-24, 29 August-9 September 1960, cols 3627-3628.

<sup>9</sup> PSP.

Maheswar Naik: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) Whether his attention has been drawn to a statement credited to Shri Purushottam Trikamdass, Chairman of the Legal Enquiry Committee on Tibet under the International Commission of Jurists, to the effect that the Government of India refused to co-operate in the investigations of the Committee on Tibetan Affairs; and

(b) If so, how far the statement is correct, and what were the circumstances which led to Government's refusal to co-operate in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes.

(b) The Committee requested facilities from Government for meeting Tibetan refugees in their camps which are under Government control. It was not considered desirable to give such facilities to the Committee. Otherwise, no restrictions were placed on the Committee in meeting refugees outside the camps or in moving about in the country. In fact, the Committee met a large number of refugees as its report will show.

Maheswar Naik: It is reported that the Report of the Committee has been forwarded to the Government of India. May I know whether it contains any operative part and, if so how far that operative part of the findings of the Committee under the International Commission of Jurists is binding on the Government of India.

Lakshmi Menon: It is not binding on the Government of India at all. It is a voluntary organisation which has got consultative status in the United Nations and it has on its own conducted this enquiry and submitted a Report.

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<sup>10</sup> Oral Answers to questions, 6 September 1960. Rajya Sabha Debates, Vol. XXX, Nos. 17-24, 29 August-9 September 1960, cols. 3512-3514.

Maheswar Naik: In that case how is the operative part going to be put into effect?

Jawaharlal Nehru: It is for the Committee to answer.

Gopikrishna Vijaivargiya: May I know whether on this International Commission of Jurists Soviet representatives are also there?

Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir.

M.S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Tibetan refugees in the camps were prevented by the Government of India from seeing and discussing these matters with these people?

Lakshmi Menon: We did not allow them to visit the camps but outside the camps they could meet anybody.

Jawaharlal Nehru: Therefore they were not prevented from meeting anybody. They could and they did meet these people. It was only inside the camps that it was not considered desirable that a gathering should take place.

H.N. Kunzru: What was the reason for that, considering the fact that these lawyers wanted only to do the business which was entrusted to them by the U.N.?

Chairman: What has this to do with the U.N.?

H.N. Kunzru: This International Commission of Jurists was a Commission of responsible persons. Why should it not have been allowed to go into the camps?

Jawaharlal Nehru: It had little do with the U.N. in the formal sense although the organisation is connected with the U.N. Undoubtedly, the Commission consisted of certain well known jurists but the whole question was whether they should go and make their enquires in the middle of the camp. They could and they did meet them outside the camp. We did not think it advisable to disturb the whole atmosphere of the camp by an enquiry in the middle of the camp.

H.N. Kunzru: Could the Government of India itself have held an enquiry into the antecedents of these people or not, into the circumstances that forced them to come to India?

Jawaharlal Nehru: Whose antecedents?

H.N. Kunzru: Could not the Government of India have questioned these Tibetans about the circumstances that forced them to leave Tibet and come to India after they entered India as refugees?

Jawaharlal Nehru: Have we done that?

Chairman: He is asking you whether you instituted any enquiry into...

H.N. Kunzru: No, I want to know whether you thought that you could legitimately go into that or not.

Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India, I suppose, if it chose could have done it but it didn't because it did not think it was necessary to do so because the broad circumstances were well known.

H.N. Kunzru: If some other people wanted to make further enquiries, what was the harm in allowing them to do so?

Jawaharlal Nehru: They had every right to meet them but we did not consider it right to have these enquiries in the middle of the camp which might create a great excitement among these people there and might lead to other consequences.

## **265. Tibetan Refugees<sup>11</sup>**

There are two aspects about this proposal for settlement of Tibetan refugees which seem to me relatively more important: (1) education of children, (2) making this community self-sufficient as rapidly as possible. While we must keep in view every possible economy, there is not much point in economising if this has the effect of delaying their attainment to self-sufficiency.

2. As for education of children, this is very important. It is not quite clear to me how two non-residential primary schools will be adequate. I do not mind at all if sheds are put up and even if a part of the education is done in the open. But the quality of education should be good and not merely some routine affair. These schools will presumably have Tibetan instructors. But in addition to them there should be proper instructors provided by us to teach

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<sup>11</sup> Note, 12 October 1960. It is not mentioned to whom the Note is addressed.

not only Hindi but general subjects.

3. Some arrangement should be made to teach Hindi to the grown-ups also.

## **(f) Nepal**

### **266. To M. Mohsin: Nepali Students' Conference<sup>12</sup>**

I am glad to learn that the Second All India Nepali Students' Conference is going to be held in Bombay next month. The fact that this will have the privilege of being inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Nepal itself indicates the important role that such a Conference can play in still further strengthening the old friendship and cultural bonds between Nepal and India. We welcome Nepali students in India and hope that they will profit by their stay and that the knowledge and training they may get in India, will help them to serve Nepal and her people all the better.

I send my good wishes to the Conference.

### **267. To MEA: The King and the Parliament<sup>13</sup>**

The Nepalese Ambassador came to see me this morning and handed to me personally the attached letter from the King of Nepal.

2. It is not quite easy to understand why he wrote this letter on the eve of

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<sup>12</sup> 13 September 1960. Forwarded with the compliments of the Prime Minister to: Shri M. Mohsin, Secretary, The Second All India Nepali Students' Conference, Sudama Cottage, 214 Walkeshwar Road, Bombay 6.

<sup>13</sup> Note to R.K. Nehru and Subimal Dutt, 12 October 1960.

his departure for the United Kingdom and the USA. He is evidently thinking more and more of making some change in his Government which would mean putting an end to the present Ministry. At the same time possibly he recognises the risks involved in it. He had spoken to me on these lines when he was in Delhi on the last occasion and I had pointed out to him that the best course for him would be to follow the democratic procedures and allow his Parliament to function. If the present Government have the confidence of Parliament, it would be best for them to shoulder the burden of Government and try to solve problems that face Nepal. Any other course will not put an end to the problems but create additional ones and the burden of dealing with them would fall on the King himself.

3. I hardly think that this letter of the King requires an answer from me, more especially as he will be travelling about.

4. I discussed rather briefly with Prime Minister Koirala about the situation in Nepal in New York recently.

5. He was much dissatisfied with what was happening in Nepal but he did not produce any sense of crisis at all. He left New York early. He felt it necessary to go back and see the King before he left for his tour abroad.

### **(i) China**

#### **284. In the Rajya Sabha: Chinese Publications in India<sup>14</sup>**

Nawab Singh Chauhan: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that a book entitled A Simple Geography of China by

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<sup>14</sup> Oral answers to questions, 1 September 1960. Rajya Sabha Debates, Vol.

XXX, Nos. 17- 24, 31 August-9 September 1960, cols 3024-3026.

Wang Hun-heng in which large tracts of Indian territory and Everest etc., of Nepal are shown as Chinese territories, is being openly sold at the People's Book Houses throughout India; and

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b) Yes, the maps in the book show large parts of eastern Ladakh, some parts of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and the whole of the N.E.F.A. as part of China. Necessary steps have been taken under the relevant provisions of the Sea Customs Act, 1878.

*[Translation begins]*

Nawab Singh Chauhan: I asked whether the Government is investigating the open and legal sale of this book by the Peoples' Publishing House? It is anyway being sold illegally.

*[Translation ends.]*

Lakshmi Menon: It is against the Notification issued by the Finance Ministry, but it is true that books are being sold by the Peoples' Publishing House in several States-Delhi, Bihar, Bombay Kerala, U.P. and Madras.

N.M. Lingam: Apart from action under the Sea Customs Act, has any protest been made to the Chinese Government?

Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. It is not a question of protests being made because the Chinese Government and its officers are suffering under a misapprehension about this matter. Argument has been going on about this matter.

Faridul Haq Ansari: May I know as to how this book came into India, and whether any action has been taken against the people who have been selling it all along?

Jawaharlal Nehru: The book, or that part of it, will presumably be seized.

B.K.P. Sinha:<sup>15</sup> May I know who are the people who own, control and run the Peoples' Publishing Houses? What are the political affiliations of those gentlemen?

Lakshmi Menon: Communists.

Bhupesh Gupta: Sir, I object to this kind of remark and question. This is the sort of propaganda that they carry on against our party. They can go and do it outside. I do not know why every time we are brought in. If you think that kind of terms should be used against us in this manner, we can also do it. We are also masters in it.

Faridul Haq Ansari: What about my question, Sir?

Chairman: It is over.

## **285. To Sundarlal: Invitation to Visit China<sup>16</sup>**

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<sup>15</sup> Independent.

<sup>16</sup> Letter to the President of the India-China Friendship Association; address: 40, Hanuman Lane, New Delhi. MEA, File No. 10(6)-EA/59, p.3/corr. Copied to Subimal Dutt. Also available in Pandit Sunder Lal Papers, NMML, File No. 35 and the JN Collection.

24th September, 1960

My dear Sundarlal,

We have received a letter addressed to you from the President of the China-India Friendship Association<sup>17</sup> in Peking inviting you to lead a ten-member delegation of the India-China Friendship Association to visit China in September, 1960, for a one month visit. This letter is being forwarded to you separately.

It seems rather odd that such an invitation should be sent at the very last moment. This was done last year too and we pointed this out to the Chinese authorities.

However, it is for you to decide whether you wish to go or not. If you so wish, you can go there. I have little doubt, however, that any such visit of a delegation from India at this stage would be very much criticised here.

Instead of doing any good in promoting friendship, it will have the reverse effect. I am putting this aspect before you. For the rest you can decide as you wish.

Yours sincerely,  
Jawaharlal Nehru

### **286. To Chou En lai: Greetings<sup>18</sup>**

On the auspicious occasion of the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, I convey to your Excellency the warmest congratulations of my colleagues in the Government of India, to which I add my own, together with our best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of

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<sup>17</sup> Chu Tunan. From <http://en.cpaffc.org.cn/content/details28-22276.html>. Accessed on 24 November 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Message to the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China, 1 October 1960.

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your people.