

Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru

Series II, Volume 51

1-31 August 1959

In the Lok Sabha: Indian Trade Agency Buildings in Gyantse¹

Shri Dinesh Singh:² Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Trade Agency buildings in Igantse (Tibet) washed away by floods, have been rebuilt; and
- (b) If not, the reasons for the delay?

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

(a) Not yet, Sir.

(b) A variety of difficulties have been experienced locally which have prevented the commencement of the construction of the Agency buildings. The present Trade Agency building was washed away in floods in 1954. Our engineers were of the view that for the future safety of the Trade Agency buildings it would be necessary to construct protective works along the embankment of the adjoining river. Plans of protective works were drawn up and submitted to the Chinese for concurrence. After protracted negotiations on 2nd June, 1959, the Chinese authorities informed our Trade Agent³ that we could start construction of the buildings and also of protective works provided these were within our boundary and not likely to damage their highway or bridge further down-stream.

¹ 6 August 1959. Lok Sabha Debates, Vol. XXXII, col. 924

² Congress, Lok Sabha MP from Banda, Uttar Pradesh

³ R.S. Kapoor.

Accordingly preliminary construction of protective works and the Agency site was recently started but the Chinese authorities have since ordered to stop the construction.

We have assured the Chinese authorities that our plans would not cause any damage and we have suggested, if necessary, senior engineers from both sides should meet on the spot and approve agreed plans to prevent further scouring of our property. We are awaiting Chinese concurrence to this suggestion.