

# SELECTED WORKS OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

*Series II*

*Volume 48*

*(April 1 - 30, 1959)*

## **In the Lok Sabha: Chinese Maps<sup>1</sup>**

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS Maps Published in China and Russia

Question:<sup>2</sup> Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the fact that maps recently published in China and Russia show large chunks of our territory as part of their territories; and
- (b) if so, the action taken by Government of India in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; Instances of maps, published in China and Russia, depicting certain parts of Indian territory as parts of China, have come to our notice. The attention of these two Governments has already been drawn to the discrepancies.

Shri Rajendra Singh: The hon. Minister has said that the attention of the concerned Governments has been drawn to this matter. May I know what results have so far been achieved in this connection?

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<sup>1</sup> Reply to questions, 22 April 1959. Lok Sabha Debates, Second Series, Vol. XXX, cols 12715-12721

<sup>2</sup> By PSP MP Rajendra Singh, Jan Sangh MP P.R. Assar, and Congress MPs D.C. Sharma, Iqbal Singh, P. C. Borooah, Nek Ram Negi.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): So far as the Russian maps are concerned, I think they had merely taken those maps or copied them from the Chinese maps without probably going into the matter, and when we addressed them they said they would enquire into this look into this.

So far as the Chinese maps are concerned, we are still in correspondence. As I have previously informed the House, their answer has been that "these are old maps and we are not sure of the exact border and we shall look into it and that the status quo should continue." That is not a very adequate answer, if I may say so, after so many years. We have pointed that out to them. I wrote to them again on the subject about a month or so ago, maybe a little more or a little less.<sup>3</sup> We have not had any further reply from them. Shri Assar: May I know whether any other Communist countries of eastern Europe have also published such a map?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have not got all the maps. I cannot answer. They have not come to our notice. The Russian map was not published separately. It was part of a big atlas map that came to our notice.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Is the Prime Minister aware that after he gave this House an explanation of the Chinese Government, recently new maps have been printed in about October, 1958, which contain the same encroachments as before?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not exactly know. I have not seen these new maps, but it may very well be so. As I said, I am in correspondence with the Chinese Government on the subject. If the hon. Member is referring to what might be called newspaper maps or magazine maps

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<sup>3</sup> See SWJN/SS/47/pp. 451-454

Shri Naushir Bharucha rose

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What I mean is this. Inside a magazine, a page is given broadly, or, it may be regular cartographical maps.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The news which I had got from Kalimpong and Gangtok when I was there was that fresh maps have been published after the explanation of the hon. Prime Minister.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I know that that has been going on. But what I was saying was that these are types of maps which appear in packs of magazines and others, not the regular atlas maps. But that would not make any difference.

I merely wanted to know what type of maps he was referring to.

Shri Dasappa:<sup>4</sup> May I know if during the Kuomintang regime it was found that the Chinese maps drawn up then had included any part of our territory which does not belong to China?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I suppose they did. I do not remember from personal knowledge, because the present Chinese Government's answer has always been that "we are reproducing the old maps".

Shri D.C. Sharma: May I know if there is any dispute about any border territory or any kind of territory between China and India and, if not, why is it that some parts of India which are obviously in India have been shown as parts of China?

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<sup>4</sup> H.C. Dassapa, Congress Lok Sabha MP from Bangalore, Mysore State

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is rather difficult for me to answer that question. We have discussed one or two minor frontier disputes which comprise tiny tracts of territory, maybe a mile this way or a mile that way, in the high mountains where nobody lives and those are pending. We have discussed them and for the present no settlement has been arrived at. So other question has been raised for discussion; except that one sees this map, no other question has been raised that way.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that these cartographical encroachment on our territory persist and these are periodically reproduced in the periodicals-People China, October, 1954 issue, and in China Pictorial, July 1958 issue-and every time the explanation that the Chinese Government is giving to us is that this is the handiwork of the Chiang Kai shek regime, may I know whether Government propose to demand a correction forthwith of these incorrect maps and the same time demand the withdrawal of incorrect maps from circulation?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is exactly what the Government has done and the reply has been that while these maps may be incorrect largely but exactly what should be correct is the thing we want to go into before we change them. Therefore, let the status quo continue as it is. We cannot correct an incorrect thing by another incorrect thing. I am putting the arguments that they have put forward.

Shri C.D. Pande:<sup>5</sup> Apart from the maps, because after all, the question of the maps is academic, may I know whether there are certain portions of land between India and Tibet where they are encroaching on the basis of these maps -- encroaching into our territory, -particularly in Taklakot which is near

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<sup>5</sup> Congress, Lok Sabha MP from Naini Tal, UP (now Uttarakhand).

the border of Almora? At Taklakot they have come six miles this way, according to their map. It is not a question of map alone. They have actually encroached on our territory; six miles in one pass.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I should like to give a precise answer to such questions. I would not like to venture to give an imprecise answer. Taklakot and another place – Hoti - have been places under argument<sup>6</sup> and sometimes, according to our reports we have received, some Chinese have advanced a mile or two, maybe, in high mountains. It is true. We have been enquiring into it. The difficulty is that in the winter months most of these places are almost inaccessible and more inaccessible from our side than from the other side.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Several Hon. Members rose

Shri Ranga:<sup>7</sup> This is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: Then shall I allow the whole of the Question Hour for this question? I would suggest that hon. Members may have authentic copies of these maps and others-whatever they are able to get-and if it is necessary to have further elucidation, the hon. Prime Minister is willing to have a half-an-hour discussion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. You will permit us to say, with all respect, that I am not willing.

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<sup>6</sup> For Barahoti question, see also SWJN/SS/41/p. 673

<sup>7</sup> Congress, Lok Sabha MP from Tenali, Andhra Pradesh

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Several Hon. Members rose.

Mr. Speaker: There are 20 hon. Members getting up.

Shri Ranga: If the hon. Prime Minister is not going to have a half-an-hour discussion, let us have at least two or three minutes more in order to put some more questions on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in several papers alleging that the Chinese have claimed some 30,000 sq. m. of our territory and they have also disputed the MacMahon line?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; I would suggest to hon. Members not to pay much attention to news items emanating sometimes from Hong Kong and sometimes from other odd places. We have had no such claim directly or indirectly made on us.

Shri Ranga: What is the usual procedure in regard to these matters in order to come to some kind of settlement between the two Governments. It has been stated that the Chinese Government was pleading an excuse that these were all old maps. Have they got the latest maps? If they have got the latest maps at all, may I know whether have our diplomatic representative in China made any representations and also had any discussions in order to see that there would be some understanding between them and us in regard

to this particular matter? There must be a periodical revision of their own maps. If they are going to take umbrage behind the Chiang Kai-shek's maps, what is the present position in regard to our understanding with that Government about our boundaries?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just ventured to say something which is more or less a reply to Mr. Ranga's question. I think the attitude taken up by the Chinese Government in this matter is not at all an adequate answer. I cannot reply on their behalf. I am merely pointing out, it is not a question of our Ambassador raising the matter. I have raised it in personal letters myself continually, apart from the Embassy raising it.

[Translation begins:

Shri Vajpayee: The Prime Minister has said just now that the Chinese Government claims that the map was published in respect of Chiang Kaishek. Does our Government accept this argument and if it does not, has a formal protest been sent to the Chinese Government?

Translation ends.]

Mr. Speaker: That is what he has answered.

Shri Vajpayee: I want to know whether a formal protest has been launched.

[Translation begins:

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, the matter has been raised in as formal a manner as it could be raised and the process still continues.

Translation ends.]

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The Prime, Minister told us not to attach much importance to the news items appearing in the papers. May I know whether his attention has been drawn to a reference made by Mr. Chou En-lai in the

Chinese National Assembly to the effect that boundaries between China and other countries are to be settled again peacefully? Does it mean and has it been enquired by our Ambassador that they do not accept the Macmahon line as the border line between India and China?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I did see something, some kind of a report to that effect. What exactly it means, I cannot interpret that. We are actually corresponding on this issue with the Chinese Government. I would like to wait for their answer before I interpret their meanings.

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### **In the Lok Sabha: Restrictions on Consul-General in Lhasa<sup>8</sup>**

#### Indian Consul-General in Lhasa

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

(a) whether it is a fact that our Consul-General in Lhasa was subjected to restrictions regarding his movements since the current unrest in Tibet; (b) if so, nature of these restrictions; and (c) whether these restrictions are still in operation?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) to (c). For some days after fighting broke out in Lhasa on the 20th March it was impossible for the Consul-General and his staff to go out of the premises of the Consulate General. The Vice-Director of the Foreign Bureau told the Consul-General that in their own interest, except for very essential work the

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<sup>8</sup> Reply to questions, 22 April 1959. Lok Sabha Debates, Second Series, Vol. XXX, cols 12759-12760.

<sup>9</sup> By Congress MP SA Mehdi and PSP MP Bapu Nath Pai.

personnel of the Consulate General should not leave their premises. Chinese troops who were posted just outside the premises did not allow any person to go out of the premises or come in. When the Consul-General wished to go out on the 20th March to see the Indian nationals and send some members of his staff to the market, the Chinese guards informed him that they had to take up the matter with the Foreign Bureau. The Consul General found it difficult even to send a letter to the Foreign Bureau. Two or three days later, he was told by the guard that persons who were in possession of identity cards with photographs endorsed by the Foreign Bureau would be allowed to leave the premises. On or about the 8th April the Chinese Foreign Bureau returned the identity cards sent to them for endorsement and thereafter difficulties about the movement of the staff disappeared. The Consul-General was informed by the Foreign Bureau on April 11 that only cars with special permits of the Military Control Commission could be used. He would be provided with a car by the Control Commission whenever he required one. On the 17th the Foreign Bureau informed the Consul-General that he could use the Consulate car without any special permit and that the staff of the Consulate-General also could leave the premises without showing their identity cards or passes of the guards. Since then all restrictions appear to have been removed.

Shri S.A. Mehdi: Is it a fact that even wireless connection was cut off for some time after that?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir.

Shri Vajpayee: Are we to understand that our Mission in Lhasa was virtually under house arrest in those days?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):  
No, Sir, that would not be correct. The facts indicate that conditions were such in Lhasa, if I may say so, that for some time it was not completely under the control of the Chinese authorities. As soon as they came more or less under their control, they permitted the staff of the Consulate to go out; but, not during the period when presumably the conditions were not wholly under their control.