

**Nehru's reply to the debate in Lok Sabha, 12 September 1959**  
**(Extract)**

In Premier Chou En-lai's last letter, he says:

"In Your Excellency's letter, you also referred to the boundary between China and Sikkim. Like the boundary between China and Bhutan, this question does not fall within the scope of our present discussion."

I beg to differ from Premier Chou En-lai. It does very much fall within the scope of our present or future discussion. If he thinks that he can deal with it as something apart from India, we are not agreeable to that. We have publicly, and rightly, undertaken certain responsibilities for the defence of Sikkim and Bhutan, if they are attacked. It is very necessary for us to understand that if something happens on their borders, then it is the same thing as an interference with the border of India.