

File No.

2/200

Collection No.

19 47.- Decr.

[17]

III-2-SS-17

Pros.  
Serial Nos.

III-SS-17

h m  
Subject.

Re. H JMER — Protest of Mr Shankar Prasad  
against Mr. Jangar's visit to Agnier

Previous References.

Later References.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

SECRET & PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER.  
INDIA.

New Delhi.

29 December 1947.

*Sardar Vallabhbhai*

Thank you for your letter of the 29th about Ajmer. I am sorry Shankar Prasad has felt at all mystified or upset or imagined that there was any inquiry. The whole object of Iengar going there was to convey my personal regret at my inability to go and my personal interest to the various people concerned who were much agitated. Quite apart from the fact, it was clear that the Muslims of Ajmer were terrified and were leaving in large numbers. As I had told you I have received telegrams from Sind also, among them from Prof. Malkani, to visit Ajmer immediately in order to calm down the apprehensions of the Muslims there. Bapu had likewise asked me to do so.

Iengar did give me a report on his return. I have not got it with me, but I shall try to find it and send it to you.

I understand that about 10,000 out of 50,000 Muslims have been left in Ajmer and the exodus continues. I do not know how far these figures are correct. This indicates that while the situation is fully under control, there is fear among the Muslims of further attacks upon them. I do not know if this fear is justified. But we should try to remove it. The R.S.S. there and elsewhere is in aggressive mood and issues threats which frighten many people.

The Hon'ble  
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,  
1 Aurangzeb Road,  
New Delhi.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

17-56

## Acknowledgment

(To be returned to office of posting for delivery to sender.)

RECEIVED a registered \*

Cover

No.

addressed to (name)

Shankar Prasad, P.C.,  
Chief Commissioner, Ajmer.

Insured for Rs.

Weighting (in words)

Signature of addressee

Date of delivery

*Sd/-* <sup>When  
posted</sup>

PAZ CC

A/M.

31.XII.57

\* Write "letter," "postcard," "packet," or "parcel" as the case may be, under "insured" by the  
word "insured," in the letter to insured.

† To be paid up only in the case of insured articles that do not be insured with the same or  
other articles.

Mails Paid—270—28-2-58—27,19,000.



INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

V. Shankar Esq ICS,  
Private Secretary to  
Hon. Mr. Prime Minister,  
1, Aurangzeb Road,  
New Delhi.

Name of  
office of posting

I.S. SOUTH  
NEW DELHI

3  
Secret & Personal.

NEW DELHI,  
29th Decr. 1947.

Thank you for your letter No. PM 329 dated the  
29th December 1947.

I agree that the matter had better be discussed  
at a Cabinet meeting and find that one had already been  
convened.

About Ajmer, I enclose a copy of a letter which  
Shankar Prasad has written to Shankar and which was received  
by him today. You will notice that Iengar's visit has  
had adverse reactions locally and has considerably upset  
Shankar Prasad himself. I am glad you agree that Shankar  
Prasad is an able and competent officer. I should go a  
little further and say that officers of his calibre are  
rather rare. We can ill-afford to keep such officers dis-  
contented for no fault of theirs. I am also sending a copy  
of the letter which Shankar is sending to Shankar Prasad  
under my instructions, but I hope, if you visit Ajmer, you  
will succeed in removing the impression both from his mind  
as well as from that of the local people that there was  
any kind of inquisition at all, or that there was any lack  
of confidence on our part in Shankar Prasad's impartiality  
or efficient conduct of affairs.

I learn from Shankar Prasad's letter that Iengar  
visited certain places and saw some people in Ajmer. I do  
not know if Iengar has presented you with any report on  
his visit to Ajmer. If he has done so and if you have no  
objection, I should like to have a copy of the report for  
my information.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru  
Prime Minister of India,  
17 York Road, New Delhi.

V.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA



SECRET.

4  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi, 29.12.1947.

Thank you for your letter of the 22nd Decr. 1947, which I have placed before H.M.

He has asked me to say, on the authority of the Prime Minister, that Iengar's visit was in no way intended to be an enquiry, but was solely due to the Prime Minister's inability to visit Ajmer and to his desire that, even though he could not himself go there, he should maintain through Iengar personal touch with the local people in the disturbed conditions through which they had just passed. It was felt that such a visit would have a steadying influence on the local atmosphere. There was no suggestion whatsoever of testing the value of your statements or of any lack of confidence in your ability or efficiency. On that point, H.M. has asked me to say that you enjoy the full confidence of Government and that Government feel that you have managed a very difficult situation with tact, skill and impartiality.

Yours sincerely,

(V. Shankar)  
Private Secretary to H.M.

Shankar Prasad Esq., ICS,  
Chief Commissioner,  
A J M E R.

V.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

5  
C O P Y.

Chief Commissioner's Office,  
Ajmer, December 22, 1947.

My dear Vidya Shankar,

Now that the disturbances are over, I take the liberty of referring to the hang over.

2. Iyengar rang me up on my return from Jaipur to say that he would be in Ajmer on Saturday December 20 to look into events here. As I was not clear about the nature of his brief, I rang you up. When Iyengar arrived here, he told me that he would inspect the damage, and also meet the members of the Advisory Council, especially Messrs. Mukar Bihari Lal and Kaul, who had apparently provided the impulse for the inquisition. We visited the city accompanied with representative non-officials invited by me and finally landed in the Durgah. At the Durgah, Khadims, and Muslims requested Iyengar to receive a deputation. He consulted me and I said that he may receive them. The following morning, he received successively in deputation the Muslims, the Khadims, the members of the Advisory Council, the Mahasabha, the Arya Samaj, and the Press. After a discussion with me, he left Sunday noon.

3. I am rather mystified at these proceedings. The object of the inquiry was clearly to test the value of my statements through an independent observer. As I did not wish to impede the inquiry, I did not stand in the way of any of the numerous deputations. Apparently, it has not been considered advisable to communicate to me what grounds there are for an open enquiry, nor what has been the result of further researches. As the inquiry was held after the issue of the Govt. communique, the impression created inevitably in all quarters is that I had not only not succeeded in clearing the situation, but had possibly misled Government into accepting facts and conclusions, which, though announced, were gravely open to doubt. Such an anomalous position discredits both myself and the official pronouncement. I do not know whether in the light of further inquiries Govt. intend to reaffirm or modify the original pronouncement. These unusual proceedings have weakened my position, bred public distrust and aroused bitter partisan comment. As a public servant, I know that I have no right to question the decision of Govt. and would not appear to be doing so. My personal credit and position, though of concern to me, can of course be of no consequence to Govt. in the issue. However, I feel that I am at least entitled to know what I have done to deserve such open lack of confidence that a public inquisition by a super-official should have been considered necessary.

4. In conclusion, I would request you to bring my submission to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- Shankar Prasad.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

December 22, '47

My dear Vedula Shankar,

Now that the disturbances are over, I take the liberty of referring to the 'hang over'.

2. Iyengar rang me up on my return from Jaipur to say that he would be in AJMER on Saturday December 20 to look into events here. As I was not clear about the nature of his brief, I rang you up. When Iyengar arrived here, he told me that he would inspect the damage and also meet the members of the Advisory Council, especially Messrs. Mukhat Bibi Lal and Kaul, who had apparently provided the 'impulse' for the inquisition. We visited the City accompanied with representative non-officials invited by me and finally landed in the Durgah. At the Durgah, Khadims, and Maulanas requested Iyengar to receive a deputation. He consulted me and I said that he may receive them. The forenoon of

7  
morning, he received successively in deputations the members of the Madras the members of the Advisory Council the Mahasabha the Arya Samaj and the Press. After a discussion with me, he left Sunday noon.

3. I am rather disappointed at these proceedings. The object of the inquiry was clearly to test the value of my statements through an independent observer. As I did not wish to impede the inquiry, I did not stand in the way of any of the numerous deputations. Apparently, it has not been considered advisable to communicate to me what grounds there are for an open inquiry what has been the result of further researches. As the inquiry was held after the issue of the first Communiqué, the impression created inevitably in all quarters is that I had not only not succeeded in clearing the situation, but had possibly misled Government into accepting facts and conclusions which, though annulled are gravely open to doubt. Such an anomalous position discredits both myself and the official pronouncement. I do not know whether in the light of further inquiries

Gort intend to reaffirm in writing the original pronouncement. These unusual proceedings have weakened my position, bred public distrust and aroused bitter partisan comment. As a public servant, I know that I have no right to question the decision of Gort and would not appear to be doing so. My personal credit and position, though of concern to me, can of course be of no consequence to Gort in the issue. However, I feel that I am at least entitled to know what I have done to deserve such open lack of <sup>confidence</sup> ~~confidence~~ that a public inquiry by a Super-official should have been considered necessary.

4. In conclusion, I would request you to bring my submission to the notice of the Warlike Minister.

Yours Sincerely  
 Shankar Prasad