

which was received from Mr. Gidwani. It reads thus:

"That this House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance arising out of the heavy firing by the Pakistani armed police on three Indian villages, Daoki, Rajtal and Bhauburjpatan in Punjab, backed by troops using mortars, grenades and automatic weapons on the night of 1st November 1952".

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is rather difficult, Sir, to find out the correct facts although I have tried to do so. The incident has been discussed a good deal by newspapers both in India and in Pakistan. So far as we can make out, the Pakistani accounts are very greatly in the wrong and even the accounts in the Indian Press are not accurate; naturally because the facts have not been ascertained properly. We have asked the Punjab Government to supply us with the facts. So, I submit that it is difficult to discuss the matter.

It is important in the sense that an affray took place in the frontier, a minor affray with no casualties, so far as we can find out, I speak subject to future correction. On the 22nd October, our Irrigation Department was carrying out a survey in some villages there. So the party had fixed some flags and were digging a channel, when the Pakistani Border Police objected to these flags saying that they were fixing them in the wrong place. There was some controversy about that and some conflict started on that day and there was some firing by the Pakistani people which was replied to. Then there was another occasion when there was firing over a certain area which was supposed to be in dispute and which we say is our area. That is all that we know about it. No casualties occurred and we are trying to get the facts.

Mr. Speaker: Then, perhaps, with the concurrence of the hon. Member who has tabled this motion and the Leader of the House, instead of taking a decision just today, we will out it off for sometime, say.....

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As you, Sir, direct, as soon as I get the facts I shall make a statement in the House about these facts.

Mr. Speaker: I may inform that there is also a short-notice question on this point. This also may be re-

plied to as early as possible. Till then I keep this pending.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Rt. Rev. John Richardson:

"I beg to state that it will not be possible for me to attend at the 2nd session of the House of Parliament which is due to begin on the 5th November, 1952.

While I was in New Delhi, last month of June, I took leave of absence from the House on the 24th of that month on receiving the news of my wife's serious illness. I caught the boat at Calcutta on the 12th July, which landed me on the 16th of the same month, at Port Blair. Here I was held up till the 17th August when a boat was available to convey me to Car Nicobar Island, my destination. By the same boat I have brought over my sick wife to Port Blair for operation. She is now in Hospital not yet free from danger.

Even if I have to go to New Delhi now there is no boat to convey me from Car Nicobar Island to the main land. Transport is a difficult problem here. Owing to that I have been forced to be away from the 1st of May till now i.e., nearly six months from the sphere of my work.

I hope the House will now understand my difficulty why it is not possible for me to attend at all the sessions in the year."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Rt. Rev. John Richardson for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during this Session?

The leave was granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table a statement showing the Bills which were passed by the Houses of Parliament during the First Session, 1952 and assented to by the President.

STATEMENT

- (1) The Saurashtra (Abolition of Local Sea Customs Duties and