

capability to defend our territories particularly on the coast?

MR. SPEAKER: It is in the hands of Indians. This is what he said.

SHRI HEM BARUA: What is his idea of reality?

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question. Mr. Shri Chand Goyal.

Vatican Status for Nankana Sahib

+

*1536, SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL:
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:
SHRI D. C. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Sikh Brotherhood has submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding vatican status for the Shrine of Nankana Sahib in Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The International Sikh Brotherhood has been informed that the Government do not consider it advisable to take up the matter with the Government of Pakistan.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: The Shrine of Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikh religion, is one of the most sacred places for us and there is no doubt that all Indians should be allowed free access to that city. But unfortunately those Sikhs who want to visit that sacred place are put to lot of restrictions and harassment from year to year. The Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact, which contemplated that all religious places would be honourably protected and there would be free access, is not being implemented in full, and I feel that this demand for a vatican status for Nankana Sahib has arisen from

the circumstances—because the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact has not been implemented in letter and in spirit. I want to know what steps are Government taking to see that there is full implementation, in letter and in spirit, of the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact, so that these demands or similar demands do not crop up.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): I appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. I can assure him that the Government are active in asking Pakistan to implement the agreement made for the preservation of the religious shrines in Pakistan, as also free access to devotees from India. And on every possible occasion we have taken up the matter. As the House is aware, in 1953, the Prime Ministers came to an agreement. Thereafter the Ministers met, and subsequently the Home Ministers met. The first meeting of the Joint Committee was also held in 1958, and since then we have been trying to persuade Pakistan to hold another meeting. But it has not been possible to get Pakistan's agreement to this meeting. We are constantly endeavouring to persuade Pakistan to start normalisation of relations which will then enable us to press this further, but, as the House is aware, there has been little response from Pakistan. But may I say that this is not necessarily the answer—creation of a State like that. That has grown out of different historical background. But we are anxious and most anxious to see that these shrines are protected and devotees have free access to them.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: Vatican is a full-fledged State. It has its own Foreign Minister and ambassadors.

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody knows the status of Vatican.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: The question is whether just as the Pope has demanded that Jerusalem be declared an international city, the Government is prepared to consider such a status for Nankana Sahib, to have it declared as an international city.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: A reply has already been given in the body of the main answer.

श्री हरदयाल बेबनूज : श्रीमन्, मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया है कि कुछ समझते हुए परन्तु पाकिस्तान उन समझौतों पर अमल नहीं कर सका और इन पवित्र स्थानों की पवित्रता को कायम नहीं रख सका। इस संदर्भ में ही मिल सम्प्रदाय ने यह मांग की है कि इतना थोड़ा-सा क्षेत्र जो उनके संस्थापक के जन्म-स्थान से सम्बन्धित है उसको पाकिस्तान के अधिकार से अलग कर दिया जाय। वह कोई बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र नहीं मांगते। केवल उतना क्षेत्र मांगते हैं जिसमें वह पूर्ण स्वतन्त्रता से जा-आ सकें। यह उनकी मांग है। क्या सरकार इस मांग को उचित समझती है या नहीं और उचित समझती है तो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में इस मांग को उठाने की कोशिश करेगी कि जितने धार्मिक सम्प्रदायों के संस्थापकों के जन्मस्थान हैं वे राजनैतिक नियंत्रण से अलग रहें ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : माननीय सदस्य ने एक बड़ा सवाल उठाया कि जितने साम्प्रदायिक तीर्थस्थान जहाँ भी हैं वह सब आजाद कर दिये जायं, ऐसी सरकार की कोई नीति नहीं है।

SHRI G. S. DHILLON: The hon. Minister may be aware that the Sikh pilgrims who went to Pakistan this year did not return in a very happy mood. (*Interruptions*) But mention was made about Vatican status and a representation has been submitted by some organization known as International Sikh Brotherhood. But sir, the real representative body of the Sikh religion is the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee where all the various Sikh parties and all sections are represented. There is no system of Pope in our community. Have these people who have submitted the representation given any substitute for Pope and also any proposal for exercise of that status for sending ambassadorial representatives to other countries? I really wonder whereas the real representative of the Sikh community, the SGPC, are silent this International Sikh Brotherhood is so much worried.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Perhaps the hon. Members who have sponsored this question would be in a position to answer why they did it.

गोलकुण्डा सैनिक प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र से चुराये गये हाथ-गोलों की बरामदगी

*1537. **श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :** क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गोलकुण्डा तोपखाना प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र से चुराये गये कुछ हथ-गोले दिसम्बर, 1968 में भीलवाड़ा में एक व्यक्ति के पास से बरामद किये गये थे;

(ख) कितने हथ-गोले चोरी हुए थे और कितने हथ-गोले इस बीच बरामद हुए हैं; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में कितने व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किये गये हैं और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) to (c). 12 hand-grenades were stolen from the Artillery Centre, Hyderabad on the 5th November 1968. A recruit who had subsequently deserted was apprehended by the Bhilwara Police on the 27th November 1968 and 5 hand-grenades were recovered from him. 7 persons in all have been arrested in this connection. A Court of Inquiry has been held and disciplinary action is in progress.

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो चोरी हुई वहाँ अटिलरी में उसको पकड़ने में कितना समय लगा ? यह मिलिटरी की चोरी थी, इसको कितने समय में यह पकड़ पाये, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI SWARAN SINGH: Sir, this theft took place on 5th November 1968. Subsequently the recruit named Ram Gopal Sharma involved in this had deserted. He was apprehended on 27th November 1968 by Bhilwara Rajasthan Police station staff.