

LOK SABHA

Monday, November 23, 1964/Agrahayana 2, 1886 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-Pak. Home Ministers' Conference

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 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
 Dr. Ranen Sen:
 Dr. Saradish Roy:
 Shri J. B. S. Bist:
 Shri Y. S. Chaudhary:
 Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
 Shri Ravindra Varma:
 Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India-Pakistan Home Ministers' discussions are proposed to be resumed very soon;

(b) if so, whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statements made by Pakistani leaders to the effect that the main item of discussion on the agenda of the conference will be the repatriation of

illegal Pakistani infiltrators whom they call Indian nationals from Assam; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) A Conference of the Home Ministers of India and Pakistan was to have taken place at Rawalpindi from the 23rd to 25th November, 1964. It has, however, been postponed at the request of the Government of Pakistan. No fresh date has been suggested by them.

(b) The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to some press reports appearing in the Pakistani press to this effect. It was expected that the repatriation of illegal immigrants might come up as one of several subjects for discussion at the Conference.

(c) The Government of India's stand on the matter has already been made clear. No Indian national has been evicted nor is there any question of evicting an Indian national. Only those who are proved to be illegal infiltrants are asked to leave the country, according to the law in force in India.

Shri Hem Barua: The main purpose for which this Indo-Pakistan Home Ministers' Conference was to be summoned was to discuss the question of repatriation of illegal Pakistani infiltrants from our country and that has been achieved, for our Government have stopped the repatriation of illegal Pakistani infiltrants from the eastern States of our country. May I know whether Government have ascertained from the Pakistan authorities if they are really inter-

ested in this conference or not? Mr. Bhutto and President Ayub Khan have made statements to that effect....

Mr. Speaker: I think that the question is sufficiently clear. Now, the hon. Member should stop the question there.

Shri Swaran Singh: The conference has been postponed, and we are not happy about this postponement. But in spite of these difficulties, it will be a good thing if the two Home Ministers were to meet and discuss this as well as several other matters.

Shri Hem Barua: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether if they take up the attitude that only this issue is to be discussed, Government would even then carry on with these negotiations and hold a conference, or whether Government have contacted them as to whether other issues also can be discussed.

Shri Swaran Singh: Other issues also are to be discussed, if the Home Ministers' Conference takes place.

Mr. Speaker: When they say that this is the only issue that would be discussed?

Shri Swaran Singh: That does not mean that we shall be precluded from raising other issues. It is our intention to discuss several other issues also.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement made by President Ayub Khan of Pakistan to the effect that the proposed Indo-Pakistan Home Ministers' Conference would not yield results of much value, and if so, whether Government have ascertained from President Ayub Khan if he is really interested? If he thinks that it would not be of much value, then what is the use of summoning it and our people going to Rawalpindi for nothing?

Shri Swaran Singh: We have seen the press reports of the speech of the President of Pakistan to which the hon. Member has referred, and that statement was not very helpful because in a sense doubts were expressed about the successful outcome of the discussions that were to take place between the two Home Ministers at their conference. But in spite of all these difficulties, between two neighbours opportunities of discussion at ministers' level should not be abandoned.

Shri Hem Barua: He has not replied to my question. If the other party is not interested in the discussion—and that is what is evident from the statement of President Ayub—is it our Government's intention to seek discussion unilaterally?

Mr. Speaker: They have stated what their attitude is.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : प्रधान मन्त्री जी तटस्थ राष्ट्रों के सम्मेलन से लौटते हुए कराची रूके थे तो जनरल अयूब से मिलने के बाद उन्होंने यह घोषणा की थी कि दोनों देशों के गृह मन्त्री मिल कर आपसी समस्याओं पर बातचीत करेंगे । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या प्रधान मन्त्री जी ने जनरल अयूब के सामने इस बातचीत की भूमिका स्वरूप कुछ विषय उपस्थित किये थे, यदि हाँ तो उन विषयों पर उनकी प्रतिक्रिया क्या थी ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा अणुशक्ति मंत्री (श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री) यह सही है कि मैं उनसे मिला था और मेरी कई विषयों पर, कई बातों पर उनसे बातचीत हुई थी और उनकी भी राय थी उस समय कि होम मिनिस्टर्स की मीटिंग होना फायदेमन्द होगा । इसलिए हमने भी कहा था और हमने यहां से भी राय दी थी कि होम मिनिस्टर्स की मीटिंग होनी चाहिये । उसमें किसी एक अकेले

विषय पर बातचीत हो, जिस चीज पर वे चाहें उसी पर हम बात करें, यह सम्भव नहीं हो सकता है। जो जरूरी सवाल है, जिनको हम जरूरी समझते हैं और जिनको वे जरूरी समझते हैं उन सभी पर बात हो सकती है।

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री : मेरा अभिप्राय यह था कि किन किन विषयों की चर्चा आपके साथ आई थी, मोटे रूप में यह बता दिया जाए।

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : जी हां, कुछ चर्चा आई थी। अब उसको यहां कहने की जरूरत नहीं है।

Shri P. C. Borooah: Is it not a fact that the main issue to be discuss at the Home Ministers' conference was the question of cease-fire violations? When our Prime Minister met the Pakistan President at Karachi did the latter indicate his preparedness to discuss all issues? If so, what is the reaction of Government to the Pakistan Government's refusal to discuss the question of cease-fire violations and also...

Mr. Speaker: He should not join so many issues in one question.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What is Government's reaction to the refusal of Pakistan to discuss the cease-fire violations question?

Mr. Speaker: When there are many questions mixed up in one supplementary, I will be satisfied if the Minister answers only one.

Shri Swaran Singh: The question of the violations of the cease-fire line and also about the incidents at the international border, particularly in the East Pakistan region, are matters which have been causing grave concern to Government, and these were intended to be discussed between the delegations of the two Governments. Actually, a date had been settled for

the discussion of this matter also, but unfortunately that also had to be cancelled on the request of the Pakistan Government.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Both the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister said just now that besides the question of repatriation of illegal infiltrants, there would be other subjects to be discussed. What are the other subjects proposed by the Government to the Pakistan Government for discussion?

Shri Swaran Singh: I mentioned one just moment ago.

Mr. Speaker: Has any agenda been prepared?

Shri Swaran Singh: No.

Shri Ranga: In view of the exigencies of their elections and all that is happening there including the death of a large number of people during their clashes and so on, would it not be in the interest of both Governments to see that there should not be too much of pressure for an early meeting, and we should wait until the elections are over and the door should not be shut for these talks between the two Governments?

Mr. Speaker: Nobody has said that.

Shri Swaran Singh: I am not saying that the door should be closed for any talks; it is not my suggestion at all.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order. The External Affairs Minister has just now said that besides this question of repatriation of illegal Pakistani infiltrants from Assam, other things will also be discussed. Now he says he does not have any agenda to discuss. How can this be—two things in the same breath?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that those things that we want to be discussed would be brought there, and those things that they want to be discussed would also be included.

There is, therefore, nothing that is contradictory.

Shri Hem Barua: But there is no agenda.

Shri Kapur Singh: Are Government aware that it is the rock of Kashmir over which every ship of Indo-Pakistan negotiations eventually founders, and if so, when do they propose to have a final, clear and irrevocable stand on this question?

Shri Swaran Singh: I cannot repeat the very elaborate and fine language which has been used by the hon. Member, but it is a fact that Kashmir has been a problem which has come in the way of satisfactory progress being made towards a mutually acceptable solution of many other differences. It is no doubt correct, but on this question also, if it is a question of stand only, our stand is quite clear. In spite of the stand, we hope that some method may be found to resolve the differences and that this irritant which always comes in the way will be out of the way.

Shri Jaipal Singh: With regard to (b), may we know whether they have given us any figures as to the number of infiltrators who are alleged to have gone from our side to the other side?

Shri Swaran Singh: Figures have been given by the Pakistan Government, though not in any consolidated form; from time to time, they have given figures which, according to our information, were highly exaggerated.

Shri Jaipal Singh: What is the present total?

Mr. Speaker: That is not very material. We are only discussing the subjects that are to be taken up.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: In view of the delay that is likely to be caused over the Home Ministers' meeting, may I know whether it will not be feasible for our Foreign Minister to meet the Foreign Minister of

Pakistan to thrash out certain petty matters, and also . . .

Mr. Speaker: We have agreed to have a meeting of the Home Ministers. Let that first take place.

Shri J. B. S. Bist: Will Government take up the issue of compensation for the property left behind by East Pakistan refugees?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is a suggestion for action. It is our intention to take up this question also.

U.N. Observers in Kashmir

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*138. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri R. S. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U. N. has acceded to India's demand to increase the strength of the U. N. Observers along the cease-fire line in Jammu and Kashmir sectors;

(b) if so, to what extent the strength of the U.N. Observers has been raised up to now; and

(c) how far that measure has been successful in reducing the number of incidents of cease-fire line violations by Pakistani troops?

The Minister of External Affairs (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) The United Nations Secretariat has agreed in principle to increase the number of U.N. Observers by 5. This increase is in addition to the increase of U.N. Observers by 5 persons made in December, 1963—January, 1964.

(b) No increase has been made since January last, since usual formalities and selection of personnel are expected to take time.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I know if these UN observers ever succeeded in actually stopping or forestalling any of these Pakistani incursions on the border, or their main function is merely to register comp-