

Border Incident

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 Shri B. S. Murthy:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Anirudh Sinha:
 Shri Mohan Swarup:
 Shri Shivananjappa:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Asrar:
 Shri Panigrahi:
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Razakars from Pakistan killed some of the Punjab Armed Police men on the 16th October, 1957 while on patrol duty;

(b) if so, details of the incident; and

(c) steps taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):
 (a) Yes, Sir, two policemen were killed.

(b) At 6-00 A.M. on the 17th October, 1957, three men of the Punjab (India) Armed Police picket at Mettle, which is about five miles north of Dera Baba Nanak in the Gurdaspur District, left for an observation post situated at some distance from the picket. While these men were going over a narrow path passing through thick 'sarkanda', a group of Pakistanis, who were later known to be Allama Mashriqi's followers, suddenly attacked them with daggers. Two of the policemen received injuries, which proved to be fatal. The third managed to ward off the blow aimed at him and escaped. The Razakars picked up the two rifles of the dying men and escaped into the reeds. A patrol of the P.A.P. immediately proceeded to the spot and combed the surrounding area for the miscreants. During the search, there was an exchange of firing between the Indian patrol and an unidentified party from the other side. A civilian accompanying the police patrol was hit and died. Eventually the Indian patrol caught,

one of the miscreants. The rest escaped back to Pakistan territory. Information was received from the Pakistan border police authorities that they had arrested four Razakars who had managed to get back across the river and that one rifle had been recovered from them. The other rifle was recovered by the Punjab Police.

(c) A protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan.

Safeguards against Radioactive Materials

*26. Shri Narasimhan: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has seen a report about the escape of radioactive materials from the Windscale Plutonium Plant in England; and

(b) the broad outline of the safety measures, adopted in our Atomic Energy establishments?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) Apsara is inherently safe, and no such accident in Apsara is possible.

The Canada-India Reactor has extremely elaborate safety devices to meet all possible contingencies, and the chances of an accident are small. Moreover, the entire reactor is contained in a hermetically contained steel shell which would prevent escape of any radioactive material, even in the extremely unlikely event of an accident to the Reactor.

The reactor, Zerlina, is a zero energy reactor, and there is no possibility of any danger.