

Captain Kinnier

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 Shri A. M. Tariq:  
 Shri N. E. Munniamy:  
 Shrimati Mafta Ahmed  
 Shri Vajpayee:  
 Shri Sadhan Gupta:  
 Shri Raghunath Singh:  
 Shri Ram Krishan:  
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh  
 Shri Wodeyar:  
 Shri Mahanty:  
 Shri Muhammed Elias  
 Shri Hem Raj:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Captain K R M Kinnier, skipper of the Indian owned ship "Jalamani" was fined by the Military Court in Karachi for refusing to fly the Pakistan flag.

(b) what action the Government of India have taken in the matter, and

(c) whether it is an international rule that the flag of the country in which the ship enters should fly on the deck of the ship?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon)

(a) to (c) Capt K R M Kinnier Master of the Indian Ship ss "Jalamani", was sentenced on 28th December to a fine of Rs 1,000 by a Sub Divisional Magistrate of Karachi under Martial Law Regulation 20(a) which relates to acts prejudicial to law and order or public safety. It is usual in accordance with International Maritime Custom that the National Flag of the country in whose jurisdiction a ship may be, should be hoisted at the foremast of the ship. On the morning of December 25, 1958, the Master of the ship delayed the hoisting of the flag in order to attract the attention of the Karachi Harbour police to their failure to investigate a case of serious theft on board which had been reported to them earlier. The non-hoisting of the Pakistan Flag on the ship on December 25, 1958, was incorrect. This was admitted by the Master of the vessel to the police party that boarded the ship, and he offered to hoist the flag

with apologies. He was, however, not permitted to do so by the police authorities who placed him under arrest and removed him from the ship.

The Government of India have lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan Government against the high-handed action of the Pakistan authorities. It has been pointed out to that Government that there is nothing in the practice of civilized nations that would permit removal of the Master of a ship from his vessel in such circumstances, and treatment of him as a common criminal, and that any suggestion that non-hoisting of the flag might cause a riot is far removed from reality when it is considered that the wharf where the ship was berthed was a prohibited area. The Government of Pakistan have been asked to take suitable action against the authorities concerned so as to prevent similar treatment of Indian ships calling at Pakistan Ports in the course of normal commerce.

श्री ए० ए० तारिक में जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह हकीकत है कि इन शिप के कैप्टन की और उसके साथियों की बेइज्जती की गई, उनके मुँह पर तमाचे मारे गये? अगर यह हकीकत है तो इस सिलसिले में हकूमत हिन्दुस्तान ने कोई प्रोटेस्ट किया है?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा बंबे-सिक्-कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : इस सवाल का जवाब तो दिया गया है। यह तो हमें मालूम नहीं कि किसी को तमाचे मारे गये। लेकिन यह बयान हुआ है कि कुछ चीगामुस्ती उनके साथ हुई और वह जा कर मामूली कैदी की तरह एक रोज रत्ने गये। मैं एक यह बात भी बतला देना चाहता हूँ कि जो कैप्टन इस जहाज का है वह एक व० के० का नौसैनिक है।

Shri Muhammed Elias Ma) I know whether the Government of Pakistan has informed the Government of

India about this action and whether they have answered the protest which has been lodged against the action of the Pakistan authorities?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** What has the Government of Pakistan to inform the Government of India? This was a matter between the harbour authorities and the Scindia Steamship Co. The Captain was a Britisher—a U.K. national. The Government of Pakistan was informed by us of this incident; they would have been informed otherwise too. It was a bad incident; but it was a local incident between the harbour authorities and the steamship.

**Shri N. R. Munisamy:** May I know whether any attempts have been made to engage a Defence Counsel for Capt Kinnier; and may I also know whether in the prosecution any criminal intent on his part was proved?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** An attempt was made and a Defence Counsel was engaged.

**Shri N. R. Munisamy:** May I know whether the prosecution proved any criminal intent on the part of the captain?

**Shrimati Lakshmi Menon:** The Defence Counsel was engaged by the U.K. High Commission.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The Scindia Steamship Co, for reasons best known to themselves, thought that because the captain was a U.K. national, they should go to the U.K. High Commission for relief. They did not inform our High Commission to begin with. It was the U.K. High Commission that engaged some Counsel to defend him.

Some Hon. Members—rose

**Shri Vajpayee:** My name is there, Sir.

**Shri Nath Pai:** The Scindias have been apologetic when our Government protested.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must be able to decide whether the question has

been sufficiently answered or not. If hon. Members want sufficient discussion later on, let us see. I am sorry I cannot allow further questions.

#### Bhilai Steel Plant

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 { **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:**  
**Shri Radha Raman:**  
**Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:**  
**Shri Nagi Reddy:**  
**Shri Vasudevan Nair:**  
**Shri Vidya Charan Shankia:**  
**Shri Rajendra Singh:**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state

(a) whether any communication has been received by him from the Soviet Prime Minister regarding the Bhilai steel plant; and

(b) if so, nature of the communication?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan):** (a) and (b) A letter was received by the Prime Minister from Mr Khrushchev in December last. This referred to various aspects of the work being done in the Bhilai Steel Plant and made some suggestions to expedite that work. Even before Mr Khrushchev's letter was received, some of the matters he had referred to had been attended to and, in his reply, the Prime Minister informed Mr Khrushchev of the steps that had already been taken and that would be taken to speed up the execution of this important work so that it may be completed as near as possible according to schedule.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Soviet Prime Minister expressed concern that delays that could be avoided were taking place and that this was holding up the progress of work at Bhilai which should have been achieved earlier?

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** As a matter of fact, the work