

Assault on Indian Customs Official in Pakistan

*1264. { Shri Jadhav:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Warrior:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian Customs Liaison Officer at Seolamukh, in Pakistan territory Shri Devajit Saikiya was attacked by Pakistanis on the 22nd of February, 1959;

(b) whether Government have received any information about this incident from the Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca;

(c) whether any protest has been recorded with the East Pakistan Government; and

(d) what is the reaction of the East Pakistan Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes, Sir. On the night of 23rd February, 1959, Shri Devajit Saikiya, the Indian Customs Liaison Officer at Sheolamukh in Sylhet district was assaulted at his residence-cum-office by 12 Pakistani nationals including 2 members of East Pakistan Rifles and injured on the head and chest.

(b) The Acting Deputy High Commissioner for India in Dacca travelled to Seolamukh on 25th February, 1959 to verify the full facts of the incident, in the face of considerable difficulties placed in his path.

(c) and (d). A strong protest has been lodged with the Government of East Pakistan. The attention of Government of Pakistan has also been drawn to the failure of local officials to give protection to Shri Saikiya, their reluctance to arrange an identification parade to discover the culprits particularly of the Pakistan Armed forces and attempts made to prevent the Indian Acting Deputy High Commissioner from visiting Shri Saikiya.

Our High Commissioner has also raised the question with the Pakistan Foreign Minister and Pakistan's reply is awaited.

Indian Statistical Institute

*1265. { Shri Bimal Ghose:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri Khadilkar:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terms and conditions under which the Indian Statistical Institute has been carrying on work for Government are proposed to be changed with effect from the next financial year;

(b) if so, in what respects,

(c) whether the Institute has served notices of termination of service on all its employees on the ground of such change in terms and conditions for carrying on work for Government; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to assure workers of the Institute security and continuity of employment?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes. It is proposed to entrust to the Indian Statistical Institute the work relating to National Sample Survey on a contract basis with effect from the 1st April, 1959, instead of reimbursing the expenditure through grants-in-aid, as at present.

Details regarding the revised arrangements are being worked out.

(c) Yes

(d) This concerns the internal working of the Institute, with which Government of India is not directly concerned, as the Institute is a non-Governmental institution.