

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know the factors that have weighed with the Government of India in accepting the verdict of Pakistan regarding the shooting of this Canberra, and stopping all further correspondence on this matter?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We have not accepted the stand of Pakistan in this matter. But then, we do not see any purpose in carrying on an indefinite correspondence making allegations and counter-allegations, we defining our stand again and again, and they saying 'nothing more' or that there is nothing more to be added to what they have stated already.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: We shall have to go to war with Pakistan?

Shri Vajpayee: We are afraid of war.

Mr. Speaker: **Next question.

Prohibition of Calcutta Dailies in Pakistan

*100. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Calcutta Dailies had been prohibited from circulation in Pakistan for a long time; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) The following daily newspapers published in Calcutta have been banned in Pakistan since 1951:—

Hindustan Standard (English),

Jugantar (Bengali),

Anand Bazar Patrika (Bengali),
and

Swadhinta (Bengali).

(b) The decision to ban these newspapers was taken in the face of recommendations of the Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee that impediments in the way of free flow of news between the two countries should be removed. The Government of India can only express the hope that the Government of Pakistan will adopt a more liberal approach in this matter.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether the Government of India have also taken steps against those Pakistan newspapers whose policy is anti-Indian?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: We do not take any retaliatory action in India, because it is contrary to our declared policy. The only newspaper that has been banned in India is the paper called *Hamara Kashmir* published in the Pakistan-occupied territory of the Jammu and Kashmir State.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any reasons were advanced by Pakistan for banning these newspapers?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: They were thought to be prejudicial to the Government of Pakistan.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: In view of the growing friendly relations with Pakistan, may I know whether the Government of India propose to take up this matter with the Pakistan authorities so that these newspapers can go into Pakistan?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Indo-Pakistan Information Consultative Committee is likely to be revived, and a meeting is expected to be held towards the end of this month, when we hope these matters will be discussed.

Export of Handloom Goods

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*101. { **Shri Subbiah Ambalam:**
Shri Madhusudan Rao:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the

**Expunged as ordered by the Speaker.