

will get more foreign exchange when we export better quality iron ore. I see no reason why our efforts should not be to export more and earn more foreign exchange and thereby increase our trade.

Visit of Military Personnel to Pakistan

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*930. { Shri P. G. Deb:
 { Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules regarding the visit of Military personnel to Pakistan have been relaxed; and

(b) if so, why and since when?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bomb Explosion near Harike, Amritsar

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*931. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
 { Shri Goray:
 { Shri Arjun Singh Bhadauria:
 { Shri P. G. Deb:
 { Shri S. A. Mehdi:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two boys were killed and one seriously injured in a bomb explosion in the village of Harike, near Amritsar, on the 26th February, 1960;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the boys who played with the bomb found it in a place which had been reserved for military firing practice;

(c) whether any inquiry has been instituted into the matter as to how the bomb was left there; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) Two boys were killed and one injured in an explosion

believed to have been caused by two mortar bombs, on the 25th February, 1960. The accident occurred approximately 900 yards south west of village Buh near Harike Field Firing Ranges.

(b) The mortar bombs are understood to have been picked up from inside the field firing area.

(c) and (d). A Court of Inquiry has been instituted and their findings are awaited.

Shri D. C. Sharma: By what time is the report of the Court of Inquiry expected?

Shri Krishna Menon: No time limit has been fixed. It was instituted on the 17th March, 1960. It usually takes about three or four weeks.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this is not the first incident of its kind of dropping of bombs and killing our people, may I know whether the Government propose to advise the Defence Services people to be more careful in the matter of leaving bombs like that?

Shri Krishna Menon: These bombs are picked up from field firing areas into which people trespass. There are regulations about it. All precautions are taken. But on account of the fact that it is valuable metal and it looks shiny people pick it up thinking it to be harmless. Then they explode. It is not possible to avoid, what are called, blinds being dropped. Every shell that is shot out does not necessarily explode. After an exercise the Army has a routine exercise to collect these blinds. But in large field firing areas some of them are not found and some of them get embedded in the ground which other people go and pick up.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that in this particular incident the bomb was left in an area where boys went to play and thinking that it is a shiny thing they caught hold of it?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have said that there is a Court of Inquiry insti-

tuted. I will place the report on the Table when it comes.

Shri Hem Raj: In such field firing areas after the practice is over these bombs have been found and have injured the people of that area. What action has been taken in those cases?

Mr. Speaker: Against whom?

Shri Hem Raj: After the field firing is complete.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has just now said that nobody has got a right to go into the area.

Shri Hem Raj: After the firing is over.....

Mr. Speaker: After the firing is over is it allowed?

Shri Hem Raj: Yes. They are allowed.

Shri Krishna Menon: No, Sir. There are proclamations regarding it that unless it is declared safe no one can go there. Even though they are restricted areas people go there and take that risk. We take every possible precaution. But if they go into military areas they undertake that risk.

Shri Hem Barua: What steps have the Government taken to preserve the sanctity of that restricted area so that people might not get in there? There should be personnel posted there. These are little boys who do not know and get into this area.

Shri Krishna Menon: The areas are notified for this purpose. In cases where we take over private people's property for exercise purposes, they are evacuated, compensation is paid, they are taken away for a number of days and brought back. I think all possible precautions are taken.

Shri Hem Barua: How long will this Court of Inquiry take to come to a conclusion?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have answered that question.

430 (Ai) L.S.—2

Development of Border Areas

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983. { **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have suggested to such of the States as lie on the India-China border to make suitable administrative adjustments required for strategic purposes;

(b) if so, the nature thereof;

(c) the cost involved in the implementation of such adjustments; and

(d) whether the Centre will bear the whole or part of the cost?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). The Government of India have discussed with the State Governments concerned the measures to be taken to secure more intensive administration and accelerated development of the border areas. To facilitate this, it is proposed that a number of new districts may be set up in these areas.

(c) and (d). The total cost involved has not been worked out. The manner in which the expenditure should be met is under consideration.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: As a result of this how many new districts will come up in U.P. and Himachal Pradesh?

Shri G. B. Pant: I think there will be perhaps three or four districts in U.P. and two or three in Himachal Pradesh. The districts really have already been notified.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether the people of Chini have represented to the Government that their area should be formed into a separate district?

Shri G. B. Pant: I am sorry I could not quite follow the question.