

Shri Braj Raj Singh: What is the estimated rent of the portion which has been occupied by this organisation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: So far as my information goes, no rent is being charged.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: That is not the question. What is the estimated rent of the space which has been occupied by this organisation?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Actually we first came to know of it after this question had been tabled. We have gathered these things from the Ministry of Agriculture. As far as our information goes, only a small portion of that room with one or two tables is being used by the society. But if it is your desire, I can make the calculation and give the information.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister could have easily said "I do not know". That is easy. After all, it does not belong to his department. He was not responsible for having let it out; it is part of the room meant for personal staff of the Agriculture Minister. When the question is put as to what is the estimated rent, he could easily have said, "I do not know".

Kidnapping of Indian Fishermen by Pakistanis

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*1847. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shri M. B. Thakore:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Assar:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six Indian fishermen were kidnapped by Pakistani armed policemen from the Indian side of the river Padma in Jalangi P. S. in Murshidabad District on the 16th April, 1961; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi N. Menon): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Six Indian fishermen, while fishing on the Indian side of river Padam opposite Khasmahal Border Out-Post under Jalangi Police Station, District Murshidabad, were kidnapped by Pakistani Policemen and taken to Pakistan along with their boat and fishing tackle worth rupees eight hundred. A protest has been lodged with the Government of East Pakistan demanding the immediate release of the fishermen and their equipment.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know whether they have been released or they are still in Pakistan?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am sorry, I cannot give a positive answer just at present. Obviously, they were not released when this answer was drafted; but since this answer was drafted a week or ten days ago, possibly some changes might have taken place. As a matter of fact, I have just tried to enquire about it, but the reply has not yet come, the question came too soon.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that a Pakistani survey team with survey instruments were in collusion with the police in kidnapping these Indian fishermen; if so, whether this fact has come to the notice of the Government or not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer that question about collusion.

Mr. Speaker: In collusion with our police?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; with the survey team.

Mr. Speaker: Where is the collusion then?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There does not appear to be any motive for the survey team to kidnap some fishermen. I do not know how they profit by it.

Shri Hem Barua: My information is that there was a Pakistani survey team with survey instruments in their possession, and they aided actively the policemen in capturing these fishermen.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This question is something entirely different. He is thinking of some other question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Previous to this, Sir, there were other instances in the past when fishermen were arrested by armed Pakistani police. I want to know whether those fishermen who were arrested about two years back have been released.

Mr. Speaker: This question relates to fishermen arrested on 16th April.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know how many fishermen are in the custody of Pakistan authorities at present?

Mr. Speaker: I do not know.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We require a separate notice for that.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: May I know what steps are being taken to prevent frequent recurrence of this kind of raids and kidnapping of fishermen by the Pakistanis?

Mr. Speaker: These are questions of a general nature.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: These are questions of a general nature involving difficulties about rivers as to whether the border comes in the middle, on this side or the other side. Although most of our border disputes have been settled, some of these are still unsettled and there is confusion—at least there are two views as to where the international boundary is, on what part of the river. There is another question put down for today about the Feni

river. That question has been deliberately put aside for future settlement. According to us the boundary is on the middle of the river, and according to Pakistan it is on the edge of the river on our side.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether the Government have policed the vulnerable points in these border lines?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Vulnerable point is the moving current here; it is no point at all.

Shri Hem Barua: There are vulnerable points in the moving current also.

Shri M. B. Thakore: May I know whether we have any check-posts just near the border?

Mr. Speaker: Are there checkpoints in the place from where these people were kidnapped?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This happened on the river.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether there are check-posts on the banks of the river.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If there is a check-post it is on our side. Obviously, they were on the river when they were caught. Their boat might have gone a little that side or the other side.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Many other things are happening. Let us go to the next question.

Airlifting of Indian Troops to Congo

*1848. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a contingent of Indian troops to Congo is lying at Dara-el-Salam due to the refusal of the U.N. officials to airlift them to Leopoldville; and