

Purchase of Arms by India from U.S.A.

*330. **Shri Ragunath Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is any truth in the statement of the President of Pakistan that India had bought weapons including 300 tanks and 63 non-recoil-guns from the U.S.A. at cut rates?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No, Sir.

Jute Substitutes Manufacturing Machinery

*332. **Shri Khadilkar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the implications of the recent news that Manila is likely to instal West German machinery for manufacturing jute substitutes from banana plant fibres; and

(b) whether Government would establish such machinery in the existing banana plantations in India?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). According to the available information, experiments are being conducted in extracting a fibre from banana with the use of machinery produced in West Germany. Details about the type of machinery and about the quality of fibre extracted are not yet available. There is no proposal at present to introduce such machinery in India.

Firing by Pakistanis

*333. { **Shri N. R. Muniswamy:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. G. Deb:
Shri Arjun Singh
Bhadauria:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that U.N. observers and Indian army personnel who were proceeding towards the

cease-fire line for joint investigation in the Balkot area, were fired upon by Pakistani troops on the 9th July, 1961 while they were within 500 yards of the cease-fire line;

(b) whether any protest has been lodged with the Pakistan Government; and

(c) if so, the nature of reply received?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) On July 9, 1961, at 0900 hours eight Indian army personnel with one U.N. Observer were proceeding towards Mendhar for joint investigation when they were fired upon from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir side of the cease-fire line. There were no casualties.

(b) A cease-fire violation complaint has been lodged with the U.N. Chief Military Observer.

(c) Does not arise.

Censorship of Indian Telegrams in Pakistan

*334. { **Shri Arjun Singh**
Bhadauria:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
Shri P. G. Deb:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether press telegrams to India are subject to censorship in East Pakistan as alleged in the *Statesman* of 16th July, 1961; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The Press in Pakistan is controlled; and foreign correspondents in Dacca are subject to censorship restrictions. In India there is complete freedom of the press and no such restrictions are imposed. However, Government are carefully watching the situation arising from censorship in East Pakistan.