

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I cannot answer that question. This happened in the district of Ganganagar.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether any number of persons have been arrested in this connection by the Pakistan police? If so, what is that number and what further action has been taken?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Meetings are going on. In fact, so far three meetings have taken place. But the Pakistan side has not taken any decision. Now they are going to meet again—I mean the Deputy Inspectors-General on both sides—by the end of this month and take a decision.

Explosives

*688. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge quantities of explosives have been recovered from illegal possession of certain individuals in Kashmir, U.P. and border areas during the last 4 months; and

(b) what explains this increased activity and will a statement be laid on the Table indicating the quantity and kind of explosives recovered?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: If the hon. Minister is not in possession of complete information, could he at least mention certain major explosions which have come to his notice, particularly those which have also been discussed in the U.P. Assembly?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: This question refers to the border areas. This is really a matter for the States to deal with. It is a law and order problem.

We come into the picture only when a State Government refers to us a particular bomb or grenade case—the technical aspect of that. Therefore, we have not got the information with us. We have requested all the States concerned like West Bengal, Assam, Kashmir, U.P. and Rajasthan to give us information. We shall lay it on the Table of the House as soon as it is available.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: In this morning's paper there is a news item which says that a man who is impersonating as an army officer has been apprehended in Bareilly in the border area of U.P. It is stated that he is a Pakistani agent and he has been in touch with our army personnel. May I know whether the explosives which have been found in the U.P. area have anything to do with this whole espionage network which has been unearthed?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am afraid I cannot answer this question. Our Ministry deals only with the technical aspect, the manufacture and possession of explosives. As soon as some firm wants to manufacture or store explosives, it is given a particular licence. When a State Government unearths illegal possession of explosives, grenades and so forth, sometimes it refers the matter to us to examine the technical aspect of these things. That is only where we come into the picture.

Shri Nath Pai: The hon. Deputy Minister has referred to a very superficial and technical aspect of the question. This question touches vitality on the question of security of the country and some other Minister may oblige the House and answer it. The question answered earlier is also linked with this question. Will the Prime Minister or the Home Minister please say something about it?

Shri Vajpayee: I have given notice of an adjournment motion on this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: I have also tabled an adjournment motion on this.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It might be disallowed. So the question may be answered now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. What is the meaning of enlarging the scope of every question that comes before the House? The hon. Minister has said as regards the question of explosives that he is only in charge of the technical aspect of it. All the same, he has asked the various State Governments to send a list of all the explosions that have taken place. To that extent, he is prepared to oblige the House.

So far as the other matter is concerned, it is a new matter. I have got an adjournment motion before me. But all hon. Ministers cannot be expected to be here and then anticipate some questions, whatever might arise. That is impossible to do.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am here. But I cannot answer it. The question is precisely a technical question. There is the technical Ministry and it has given the answer. How can other Ministries answer it? (*Interruptions*).

Shri Nath Pai: We beg to differ.

An Hon. Member: What about the first part of the question?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The question refers to the recovery from illegal possession of these explosives from individuals in Kashmir, U.P. and other areas and asks what is the reason for this increased activity.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Hon. Members should know that the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry has absolutely nothing to do with that part of the question. Of course, it might have passed it on. As regards the question of explosives etc., it is a matter concerning the State Government. Nobody here will know unless we enquire through the State Ministry.

Shri Nath Pai: This is something definitely different.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order. This question was put down for reply today by the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry. It has been stated by the Deputy Minister of the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry that there is a technical aspect. From the question it appears that it pertains to the Home Ministry. At the same time the hon. Deputy Minister says he does not have the information. He has only written to the State Governments. If it is like that, why should this question have been allowed, because he does not have the information, though he has agreed to collect the information, and at the same it does not belong to his Ministry?

Mr. Speaker: Strange kinds of point of order are raised. Every one of the hon. Members is supplied with the subjects for which any particular Ministry is responsible. The hon. Member must choose the particular Ministry. If he addresses it to the Works, Housing and Supply Minister, that Minister can answer it only so far as it relates to his Ministry. It is for the hon. Member to see that it is addressed to the particular Ministry. If a question is addressed to a particular Minister I allow it. It is not for me to scan every question and then say this must be answered by this Minister and so on. Hon. Members think they have no duty to discharge either to their electorate or to the House; it is only the Speaker who has to scrutinise 12,000 questions. It is rather strange.

Shri Hem Barua: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must be more careful. I will not allow any other hon. Minister to answer hereafter. Hon. Members must themselves exercise a certain amount of care in addressing the question to the proper quarters. It is not the duty of the other Minister to find out. As a matter of fact the Works, Housing and Supply Minister may not know to whom he has to send it. He knows his own business.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This particular question, in so far as it relates possibly to Kashmir, I think we must have answered about half a dozen times, because it is a precise area with which we deal. If it refers to the whole of India, I do not know if the whole Government of India put together can answer it without a special enquiry.

Shri Hem Barua: When I raised the point of order, I did not mean you. My contention was that the Minister had accepted it, but he did not have the information. Therefore, I said he should not have accepted it when he did not have the information.

Shri Vajpayee: It is being collected.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I have been rising in my seat a number of times, and if you had permitted me to speak, I think there would have been no occasion for any point of order or the observations made by you. The fact is I had addressed this question to the Home Ministry. I do not know for what reason the Secretariat has transferred it to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. I have to make it perfectly clear.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I have said, it will require a special enquiry all over India lasting some considerable time before any Ministry can answer it.

Mr. Speaker: I will look into it. What happens is this. Hon. Members also may know the procedure. As soon as a question is tabled, three copies are made. One of the copies is sent to the Minister immediately for his reaction. If we get any information that it does not concern his Ministry, that it must be addressed to some other Ministry, the Secretariat sends it to the other Ministry. Or, the Ministry receiving it may themselves advise us that they have transferred it to the other Ministry to answer. I do not think the Secretariat by itself exercises this discretion, unless it is informed by the

Minister to whom it is addressed. I do not think we have done it in any case. If the Minister says it does not concern him and that it refers to some other Ministry, we will send it to the other Ministry. I shall look into the records and find out. So it stands. Let us go to the next question.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: One question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed a number of questions.

Overmen's Examination

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*689. { **Shri Kunhan:**
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 783 on the 13th March, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have reconsidered their decision about holding overmen's examination at Kothagudium, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the nature of decision arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri L. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The Board of Mining Examinations, which is a statutory body, has decided to hold an overmen's examination in the last week of this month in Dhanbad and Parasia, and is considering the question of holding the next examination in October, 1961 in Kothagudium also if a sufficient number of candidates are forthcoming.

Shri Kunhan: What is the minimum number of candidates required for the opening of a new centre?

Shri L. N. Mishra: There is no minimum fixed. There should be normally some 50 or 60 boys, but we are considering opening a centre at Kothagudium in next October.

Shri Tangamani: When is this going to be started at Kothagudium?