

various persons, and also ask this committee to expedite its work? That is what they want.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The Committee is not working.

Shri S. N. Mishra: This suggestion could be placed before the committee. But, what I want to submit is that the impression which has gone round that this committee has not done quite substantial work is not quite correct. I have already taken care to indicate in the main reply the number of studies that this committee has initiated.

Shri Nagi Reddy: How many times did the committee meet in the last one year?

Mr. Speaker: They have appointed study committees.

Shri Nagi Reddy: The point is, they have not met. Who is doing the preliminary work? No meeting has taken place.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members want to drown the hon. Minister's voice. The hon. Minister has said, four times they met. They appointed committees for study. They will supervise them. When once a committee is appointed, are we to go into every detail of it? Hon. Members may say that these are not competent to do the work. I have no objection to that. They are competent men according to the Government. They are taking their own time. They are studying. There is no meaning in these members staying while the study committees are going on. Next question.

River Feni in Tripura

+

*1116. { **Shri Bangshi Thakur:**
Shri Dasaratha Deb:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the P.W.D. staff of Tripura Administration when engaged in constructing embankment to save Sabroom town from the

erosion caused by the floods in river Feni, had to abandon the work because of strong protest from Pakistan Government; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government of India in this respect?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Pakistan police obstructed our workers on the plea that the whole of the Feni river belongs to Pakistan. It will be recalled that there is a dispute between the two countries about the Feni river.

Our latest information is that the Tripura Administration have succeeded in convincing the East Pakistan authorities about the absolute necessity of constructing a bamboo rampart wall on the Indian bank to save Sabroom town and the work was supposed to start from 20th August, 1961.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: In reply to my previous question it was stated that according to the Radcliffe Award, midstream of the river Feni is the line where the two countries, Pakistan and India, meet. If so, under what authority Pakistan has been disallowing the Tripura Government to take adequate measures to protect the Sabroom sub-divisional town from the erosion of the river Feni?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I will tell the House the position as it is today. The hon. Member is right in saying that the midstream of this river should be the boundary whereas they claim the entire river. The position at present is that the necessary material in support of Indian claim was furnished by the Tripura Administration to the East Pakistan Government in April, 1960. The East Pakistan Government replied with a note claiming the entire river. The documents regarding Pakistan's claim were then asked for, but furnished only in March, 1961. The Tripura Administration has since completed examination of those documents. They, however, wanted a representative of the Ministry of Exter-

nal Affairs to discuss the case with them before replying to East Pakistan and fixing a meeting with Pakistan. As I said, examination of the disputed area was not possible during the monsoon season. The concerned Deputy Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry will be meeting the Chief Secretary of Tripura next month, September, 1961, after which the future line of action to be taken with Pakistan will be fixed.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: When can we expect that the root of all causes of such disputes for which Tripura has been suffering from harassment by Pakistan Government will be extirpated?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The Ministry of External Affairs representative will discuss this matter with the Tripura Administration in September. We hope that there will be an early meeting between Pakistan's representative and ours.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that in quite a number of places in East Bengal and West Bengal border rivers are boundaries and all along the line midstream is the boundary according to the Radcliffe award, are we to take it now that our Tripura Administration has agreed to go for a discussion with the East Pakistan Government on this point, that *prima facie* there is a case for them to take over the entire river?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: No. We never accepted that claim that the entire river is theirs. We have always been adhering to our stand, and we have been discussing this matter and we have been making our position clear.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the point in having an on-the-spot study? What on-the-spot study can you do about the midstream?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: The river changes its course as the hon. Member knows. When the monsoon rains come, this river is swollen and it changes its course. Therefore, an

on-the-spot examination is necessary to define the mid-stream of this river.

Shri Tyagi: Is there any representative of the Central Government also there?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Yes, of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: May I know whether it is not a fact that before the merger of the Tripura State, the entire River Feni belonged to that State, and after the merger of the Tripura State in India, the entire River Feni should, therefore, have come to India?

Shri Bangshi Thakur: That is a fact.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): It is a fact that before the merger, the entire River Feni belonged to the Tripura Administration, but after the merger, Pakistan claimed it and prevented anybody from the Tripura Administration making use of the river.

Unfortunately, this question refers not to riverine boundary of the River Feni but about the protection needed for the Sabroom town which is likely to be washed away by the river. So, a meeting of the External Affairs Ministry, the Tripura Administration and the Pakistan Administration is proposed to be held in order to discuss the protection that is to be given to the Sabroom town which is exposed to erosion by the change in the course of the river and also in consequence of the spurs that have been erected by the Pakistan Administration on the other side of the river.

As far as the mid-stream is concerned, we have always held that whenever there is a riverine boundary, the mid-stream is the boundary and not the entire river for the one side or the other.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: It seems that our Government have succumbed to the Pakistani claim.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, we have not succumbed to their claim. We are only asserting our claim.

Shri Goray: May I know whether it is a fact that while these negotiations are going on, Pakistan, so far as the embankment on its part of the river is concerned, has built embankments, but we are not doing it, and that is why this town is being endangered?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: They have got spurs which have affected our boundary.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: We were trying to protect our bank also, but then, the Pakistanis have not been very helpful or co-operative. They resort to firing on our workers there, and that is why the whole trouble has arisen, and hence the negotiation and the assertion of claims by both the parties.

Shri Goray: The Deputy Minister has just now stated that we cannot put up our embankments, because they are firing on our workers. I would like to know where the question of mid-stream arises, if we build embankments on our side.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Probably, the hon. Member has not listened to my answer. After the merger, Pakistan has been claiming the entire river as its, and, therefore, they are not allowing us to build embankments.

Shri Goray: But you claim that the mid-stream is the boundary. This is your claim as against their claim. So, why can you not build your own embankments?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: That is the dispute. The dispute is that Pakistan, against all international conventions, is claiming the entire river as its own and preventing our people from putting up embankments to prevent erosion on the Sabroom town.

Shri Goray: Can you not fire back? If you say that the mid-stream is the boundary.....

Mr. Speaker: I have never said anything.

Shri Goray: I mean that the Deputy Minister said so.

Mr. Speaker: That is all right. It is no good crossing swords like this.

Shri Goray: Please understand that the claim, as she said, was....

Mr. Speaker: I am only anxious that there should be no firing here.

Shri Goray: Please understand this that the whole position has been made clear by the Deputy Minister as follows.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members may put all relevant questions through me and not directly to the Minister. If they begin to cross swords like this, that is not proper.

Shri Goray: What I was saying was that the claim as represented by India is.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is making a suggestion that our side also may use the revolver.

Shri Goray: Why do we not protect our rights according to our own claims or rights?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: I may add that in the month of August, the Tripura Administration informed the East Pakistan Government that work on our side would continue, and the work is continuing. The East Pakistan Government replied that only the inner rampart wall might be constructed, and we agreed to this, and this is being done.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The point which has been raised is not about that. It is not about the inner rampart wall or the outer rampart wall. The point is that on our part of our territory, we should proceed according to our needs regarding embankments. What is the obstruction in that? Since it is our own territory, it has nothing to do, as far as we are concerned, with the opinion of the Pakistan Government.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The obstruction is this. We have to take mud and sand from the river in order to put up the embankments. But they said, 'No, you cannot touch the river, because the river belongs to us'; and that has to be settled; they have not agreed to the fact that the mid-stream is the boundary. All these negotiations are taking place in order to convince them that the mid-stream is the boundary and, therefore, we have a right to take whatever we want from our side of the river and put up embankments.

Allotment of Bungalows to Members of Parliament

*1117. **Shri A. M. Tariq:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of Estates is allotting bungalows to the Members of Parliament directly in their individual capacity;

(b) whether the House Committee of both the Houses is being consulted before allotment, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of bungalows which have been allotted directly by the Director of Estates to M.P.s?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). No bungalow belonging to M.P.s' Pool is allotted to a Member of Parliament by the Director of Estates without the approval of the House Committee concerned.

(c) Nine bungalows have been allotted to Members of Parliament directly. These bungalows do not belong to M.P.s' Pool but to General Pool.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that all the allotments which are made to Members of Parliament are the responsibility of the House Committee of both the Houses, and if so, may I know under what authority the Director of Estates has allotted these houses directly to the

Members of Parliament? May I also know who that Member of Parliament is who has recently been allotted a bungalow, and under what condition he has been allotted this bungalow?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: The first part of the hon. Member's question is based upon incorrect information. These nine bungalows which are referred to, which are not really speaking in the M.P.s' pool are given to leaders of political parties or people who have held very high and important positions in State; and these allotments have been made generally with the approval of the hon. Prime Minister, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. I might mention the names of these nine people; they are: Shri S. A. Dange, Acharya Kripalani, Shri Jaipal Singh, Dr. Tara Chand, ex-Ambassador, Shri Jairamdas Daulatram, ex-Governor and ex-Minister, Shri A. P. Jain, ex-Minister, Dr. Syed Mahmud, ex-Minister, Shri Mohanlal Saksena, ex-Minister, and Shri N. G. Ranga, ex-Minister. (Laughter) I am sorry. Shri Ranga has not been a Minister yet; therefore, he is not an ex-Minister.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Are we to take it that the house allotted to Shri S. A. Dange is not in the M.P.s' pool? It has been an M.P.'s residence even long before Shri S. A. Dange became a Member of this House?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have made the position very clear. May I elaborate my answer? Generally speaking, there are three types of accommodation which are available to Members of Parliament. There are the old type bungalows round about Feroze Shah Road; then, there are the new flats built on South Avenue and North Avenue then and there are, a number of rooms and suites in the Constitution House and Western Court; and recently, during the life of this Parliament, some more flats have been made available on the