

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 20th February, 1953.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FISHER-WOMEN CARRIED AWAY BY
PAKISTAN POLICE

*200. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nineteen fisher-women were forcibly carried away by East Pakistan Police from across the West Bengal border in Nadia District on the 30th December, 1952?

(b) If so, have these women so far been recovered?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) On the 29th December 1952 nineteen women of the Buno community of village Nonaganj, Krishnaganj P.S., Nadia District, went to collect gram plants and fuel from a field within the same police station. On their return journey as they were nearing their homes Pakistani Police trespassed into Indian territory, arrested the women and carried them off to Pakistan. One woman managed to escape; while another two were released later.

(b) The arrested women are reported to have been released as a result of a protest by the District Magistrate Nadia to the District Magistrate, Kustia (East Bengal).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: After how many days they were released?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I have not got that information here.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will Government consider the advisability of inquiring as to how many days it took the Government of Pakistan to release them?

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Shri Anil K. Chanda: Certainly we can make that inquiry.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has the Pakistan Government given any excuse for arresting and taking them away?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have to presume that these women while returning after collecting fuel etc., might have trespassed into the Pakistan territory.

Sardar Hukam Singh: From the answer that was given, what I understood was that the Pakistani Police trespassed into our territory.

Shri Anil K. Chanda: It seems that the Pakistani Police had arrested these women in our territory. It also seems true that our women have trespassed into their territory.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if any official information has been received from the Pakistan Government? The hon. Minister said 'presumably'. It is presumption only or has any positive official statement come from the other side?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Our report says that they had gone to an area which is within the Pakistani territory.

Shri A. C. Guha: In cases of such wanton intrusion into our territory, do the Government consider the necessity of asking for some compensation to be paid to men who are arrested and taken away?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Hon. Members will see that according to the reports received by us, there was a possibility of their having gone to the Pakistan territory, of course not deliberately, because it is not marked, and it becomes difficult. Perhaps some kind of compensation can be claimed for illegal arrests. Here, there is no damage caused; presumably in this case they

have come into our territory. The two district magistrates met and got the matter settled and the women were released soon after. It is difficult to pursue these small matters much further.

Shri A. C. Guha: Quite a large number of women were taken away from our territory and they were detained in Pakistan territory for some time; for what period they were detained the Government is not in a position to say. As there must have been some financial loss also to the families, some compensation is called for.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is arguing.

Shri Gadgil: May I know whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to prevent such occurrences?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Steps will certainly be taken but how can, along a long border, any effective steps be taken to prevent these happenings, happenings on a border which is not marked, where people are on the quiet and alert. Something may have happened on either side before patrols go about. This is a kind of complaint which is made from time to time.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement is it open to the Pakistan authorities to arrest the ladies from Indian territory?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is just the point which is challenged on that border line where it has taken place. It is our report that the arrests took place on our side, although they had gone to the other side, but that fact is not absolutely believed. None of our men were present there and these were some village women collecting things, not knowing about the boundaries, who had gone mistakenly into their territory and got into trouble. None of our police were at all there.

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री : क्या इस मामले की जांच अभी जारी है कि यह हमारी टैरीटरी में अरेस्ट हुई या उन की टैरीटरी में, या यह मामला छोड़ दिया गया है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : यह छोटी मोटी बातें दुहराती होती रहती हैं। जब यह बातें होती हैं तो उन को न करने का यह तरीका होना है कि दोनों तरफ के डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट मिल कर उन का वहाँ फँसला कर देते

हैं और हम उन दोनों के फँसले को मंजूर कर लेते हैं जब तक कोई बड़ी बात न हो। इस मामले में दोनों डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट मिले, उन्होंने तै कर दिया और मामला खत्म हो गया।

Shri A. C. Guha: Since the introduction of the passport system may I know on how many occasions there have been such aggressions on the Indian territory or on Indian citizens by Pakistan Armed forces or Pakistanis?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: How can I answer that without any inquiry?

SURVEY OF WATER RESOURCES OF INDUS BASIN

*201. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the representatives of India, Pakistan and the World Bank recently made a joint survey of the water resources of the Indus basin?

(b) If so, what is the purpose of this joint survey?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Indus basin Working Party of Engineers designated by India and Pakistan met at Karachi on the 1st Dec. 1952 and held a series of meetings in pursuance of the decisions taken earlier by the Working Party at its initial meeting in Washington. Thereafter the Working Party proceeded on a visit to certain works and sites in the Indus Basin in India and Pakistan. Another meeting of the Party was held in Delhi on January 24-29, 1953. The engineers from the World Bank were present at the meetings and accompanied the Working Party on the field trip.

(b) The object of these meetings and visits to various sites in India and Pakistan is the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan for the maximum utilization of the waters of the Indus Basin in the interest of both the Countries.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any tentative agreement has been arrived at between India and Pakistan on a programme for the joint exploitation of the water resources of the Indus Basin under the auspices of the World Bank?