

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?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): No, Sir, not in this connection except the agreement to explore and find a way to an agreement. There is an agreement thus far which we are exploring with the co-operation of the representatives of the World Bank. The present programme, I believe, is to meet sometime in September, when presumably the full picture will be there.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I ask whether the latest Pakistan allegation that India had been utilising increasing amounts of water resources which are meant for Pakistan, contains any amount of truth?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am glad the hon. Member has asked this question although it does not wholly relate to the other question.

I confess being very greatly surprised at the new and rather intensive agitation started in Pakistan recently on the basis of India having deprived them of canal water or proposing to deprive them of it. In fact some kind of a White Paper has been issued by the Pakistan Government which I have not seen yet, but I have seen reports in the newspapers. The fact of the matter is that we have been continuing to supply them with water but owing to the drought which has occurred in the Punjab, both East and West, in the last few months there was a reduction in the supply all over the place. So, it is true they got less, not because we wanted to deprive them of water, but because, in effect, there was less water to go. It is true, because of lack of water, irrigation has suffered. But, we have not deliberately deprived them of anything and we do not propose to do so under the assurances given by us, certainly so long as this enquiry lasts. But, as the hon. Member referred to an Agreement, there was an Agreement signed on 4th May 1948 between the two countries. It subsists so far as we are concerned.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether this allegation of Pakistan has in any way influenced the negotiations which are being carried on between India and Pakistan under the World Bank auspices?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not that I know of indirectly, of course, all these things influence. As a matter of fact, another curious factor of this is that the Pakistan Government has not officially protested about it to our Government. One would have presumed that if they had objection to anything happening, they would have protested

to us. They have been carrying on this agitation without any official protest to us. I have no doubt they may have brought these factors to the notice of the World Bank people. I believe they have. Our representative will deal with that.

Shri T. N. Singh: Does this joint survey involve any commitment regarding the utilisation and working of these water resources jointly by the two countries, or is India able to work its own way in regard to the work she is carrying on or is likely to carry on?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. We have felt that any joint working would be very difficult and would lead to trouble so far as we are concerned. But it is another thing to have a joint plan for mutual benefit to be worked separately in each country. At the present moment, the attempt is to try to have a joint plan.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Is it a fact that the British Paper 'Guardian' has been carrying on propaganda against India on this issue?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what other papers say.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know why the representative of the World Bank accompanied this Survey? What was the reason behind it?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The reason is, it is a longish story. This canal water story has been going on since the date 4th May 1948 that I mentioned, nearly five years ago. Ever since then we have been trying to get a joint technical survey made so that we should know at least the facts of the situation. Our case has been that there is enough water in the Indus Basin to supply both Pakistan and India fully; that is, taking the basin as a whole. It may involve possibly some construction here or there to utilise the waters which are running to waste. That joint survey never took place, according to us, because Pakistan did not co-operate in that matter. Then, about a year ago, perhaps some hon. Members might remember, Mr. Lillenthal, who was in the TVA and a distinguished authority, came to India. On his return to the United States, he wrote about this subject and then his suggestion was taken up by the World Bank. The World Bank President wrote to me and to the Prime Minister of Pakistan identical letters saying that his attention has been drawn by Mr. Lillenthal's article on this problem, and that if the World Bank could help in the matter, they would gladly do so. Of course, ultimately, where the World Bank helps, that is by advancing

money for some construction such as may be needed. I wrote that we welcome any help, not in the monetary sense, to consider this matter with their engineers. We had always been willing to discuss it with Pakistan and find out a plan. After some discussion, the President of the World Bank happened to come to India. Ultimately, a formula was evolved whereby Indian Engineers and Pakistani Engineers would meet the World Bank Engineers and discuss these matters. They met in New York, they met in Karachi, they met in Delhi and they have made some progress which they hope to complete by September. There is no commitment involved by any party in this except to try our best to find a way out which is beneficial to both the countries concerned.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Government be kind enough to issue a Press Note on this issue?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Of course. Government have issued several Press Notes. It is our intention to issue something slightly more than a Press Note on this issue.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to an editorial in the *New York Times* published on 16th February where it has been announced that Pakistan Government has made a complaint to the Secretary of the United Nations that India is diverting vital water from the course streams of the Indus River and they are pressing for a reference of the matter to the International Court of Justice? Has our Government got any information as to that, and if so, what steps are going to be taken?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have seen a summary of the article, not the full article. As for Pakistan Government having made any reference to the United Nations, we do not know. I believe the matter has been mentioned by them to the International Bank President.

May I say in this connection, if you, Sir, will permit me, because the subject is important and interesting, that in the course of the last year or two there have been various stages of argument. Apart from a joint technical survey, we had suggested that this matter be referred to a very high class tribunal consisting of two Judges from India and two from Pakistan, and let them decide finally. The objection was raised: what, if they differed? We said, if they differed in regard to any matter, we are prepared to refer that particular matter to any international

authority. We said, there is no good referring the whole thing, because it will take too long. We have no objection to an international authority deciding any matter of this kind. I might further mention that we made the same offer in regard to the evacuee property question too.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

QUESTIONNAIRE TO FOREIGN FIRMS

*203. **Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether replies to Government questionnaire have been received from all foreign firms in regard to the employment of Indians and foreigners; and

(b) what action Government have taken to stop the discrimination against Indian employees resorted to by foreign concerns in the matter of pay-scales, allowances, conditions of service as well as new recruitment?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a). More than three-fourths of the foreign-controlled firms and companies in India have sent returns in response to the Government of India's notification dated the 31st July, 1952.

In regard to (b). I am afraid that the question is so framed that any answer furnished cannot escape admitting the truth of the basis of the question for which I am not prepared. All that I can say is that is the declared policy of Government to encourage the employment of Indians in an increasing measure in such foreign concerns.

Shri K. K. Basu: May we know, in view of the unsatisfactory answer as is accepted by the Minister himself, what action Government propose to take on these matters?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not prepared to admit the truth of the statement that is sought to be put into my mouth. What I have said is that I have not got this information from all the concerns which, according to the list prepared by the Reserve Bank in 1948, amount to 1300. I can tell the House that returns are trickling in. From the beginning of January till now, I think we have got 43 returns. The question whether employment of Indians is on a satisfactory basis or not is one to be judged by Government from time to time. Government will certainly do all that is possible to use such influence as they possess to make these concerns employ more Indians.