

CONTROL OF FLOODS (BRAHMAPUTRA)

*2517. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 264 on the 25th February, 1955 and state whether the Pakistan Government have accepted the suggestion of the Government of India for joint measures for the control of floods in the Brahmaputra?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A reply is still awaited from the Government of Pakistan.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: In view of the fact that the Pakistan Government have not so far co-operated in the matter, what do the Government of India propose to do in controlling the Brahmaputra floods?

Shri Hathi: I do not think it would be correct to anticipate a negative reply.

Short Notice Question and Answer**SITUATION IN GOALPARA**

S. N. Q. No. 9. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam have sought military help to prevent any possible recurrence of trouble in Goalpara Distt.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the strength of the troops that have been detailed there in compliance with that request;

(d) whether it is a fact that by the 11th April, 1955, 3,000 people had crossed over into the State of West Bengal out of fear; and

(e) whether any relief has been given to the refugees.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I am giving a

full and comprehensive answer, and perhaps voluntarily giving information more than that sought by the questioner.

The District of Goalpara in the State of Assam has been the subject of conflicting claims before the States Re-organisation Commission. Certain people feel that this District should be merged in the State of West Bengal, while others are of the view that it should continue to remain with Assam. During the first week of April 1955 a number of processions and meetings were organised to oppose the claim for the merger of the District with West Bengal. There were a few incidents like pelting of stones, pulling down of sign-boards and attacks on persons and shops mostly by hooligans at the time of the dispersal of the processions and meetings. Certain groups of persons had been intimidating Bengalee refugees from East Bengal who had settled down in isolated places in the interior of the District to leave. Some migration of Bengalee refugees to places such as Dhubri and across the State boundry into Cooch-Bihar and Alipur Duar was noticed and according to estimates 2,500 persons had migrated between the 9th and 13th April. Since a large number of Policemen were on duty in connection with the Local Board elections on the 9th of April, the State Government felt that the available Police Force might be insufficient to deal with trouble-makers and decided to call upon the Army authorities to stand by in aid of civil power. On the 12th of April, a request was made by the State Government for military assistance from the military headquarters located at Darjeeling. An Army officer was despatched by the military authorities to Dhubri to establish close contact with the local civil authorities. Two companies of infantry were alerted at Siliguri on the 12th April and one of them was moved to Cooch-Bihar so as to be readily available, at Goalpara should military assistance be actually required.

2. The State Government have taken stern measures against rowdy elements and intensive Police operations have been started throughout the District of Goalpara. By the 11th April six platoons of Policemen had been despatched to the affected areas. The latest reports received from the State Government indicate that the situation has almost returned to normal. Except for one minor incident on the 12th no incidents have been reported from anywhere in the District of Goalpara after the 9th of April. No person has been killed or seriously injured. 306 miscreants have been arrested and more than 100 cases have been registered. Re-inforcements of Armed Police have arrived from other parts of the State and confidence has been restored. The exodus of refugees has been halted and a large number have returned to their homes. The State Government have organised relief measures and Rs. 40,000 have been sanctioned for rendering immediate relief to the victims of the disturbances. A sum of Rs. one lakh has been sanctioned by the State Government for the issue of Rehabilitation loans and another sum of Rs. one lakh has been sanctioned by the Relief and Rehabilitation Department. Arrangements have been made for the prompt distribution of this relief. In view of the continued improvement in the situation the State Govt. informed the military authorities on the 15th April that the help asked for will not be required. No troops were actually moved to Goalpara District as it was not found necessary to utilise them.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that the occurrence first began on the 1st April. May I know whether notices under section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code were promulgated? If so, when?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I imagine not; not on the 1st April.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister said that the condition has come to normal. May I invite his attention to the report that appeared

in various newspapers to the effect that the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee, who visited the place, stated on the 19th of this month that the situation had not come to normal?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I have received a report from the General Secretary and it does not seem to quite tally with what has appeared in the papers.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The Chair as well as the hon. Minister expressed deep concern over the matter. The Chief Minister of Assam and the Congress Head of Assam also expressed the same. May I know whether Government, due to those circumstances, is going to hold an impartial enquiry as the State Government and the Congress could not handle the matter?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I will read out, with the permission of the Chair, the latest telegram received by me personally from the Chief Minister, leaving out irrelevant extracts:

"Immediately on my arrival at Dhubri on 14th April, I consulted representatives of Bengalee community and other public men, and also Commissioner of Division and Inspector-General of Police who were there in the area moving under my direction. Minister of Supply and Rehabilitation and some other Ministers were also touring with me. I consulted local officers and Major Singh of Madras Regiment and Dutt Deputy Director Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau. It was the unanimous opinion that army should stand down as there was no necessity due to improvement in situation and arrival of sufficient reinforcement of armed police from outside district.

The effect of my tour in the district and of other Ministers has been very good in restoring a peaceful atmosphere. Since return

from Shillong, I have also ordered immediate transfer of Superintendent of Police and a few subordinate officers to restore confidence among all sections of people, including minorities. They are being replaced by officers brought from other districts. Shri Menon being appointed Superintendent of Police. I am also posting another Superintendent of Police and other subordinate officers to speed up investigation cases. The Inspector-General of Police is in control. I am also putting an additional District Magistrate to try cases arising out of the disturbances. He will also hold judicial enquiry into one complaint against police handed over to me at Bangaigaon and similar complaints that may have been made."

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it true that a section of the prominent leaders of workers of the area and also part of the Administration there was involved in this action? If so, do the Government propose to have any further enquiry apart from the telegram read out by the hon. Home Minister just now?

Pandit G. B. Pant: I do not know whether the information volunteered by the questioner is correct. I have my doubts, but in view of the measures that possibly can be taken and that have already been launched by the Local Administration, it would hardly be fair to interfere with their work.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: What is the Government's information, if any, regarding the reports published in reputable newspapers that certain miscreants utilised the Muslim population of Goalpara against the East Bengal refugees and also that the police, quite for a period, remained indifferent to what was happening?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The matter concerns the State Government, and they have been issuing communiques from day to day. I believe every important

question has been referred to and commented upon in those communiques.

Shri Barman: May I ask....

Mr. Speaker: I think we must understand the limitation of this question. Law and order is entirely a matter for the State Government, that is, the Assam Government here, and the Central Government comes in because a grave situation had arisen and military aid was asked for. Naturally, the situation was a matter of concern for all, but that does not justify going to the details of the Assam Administration.

Shri K. K. Basu: In this particular case....

Mr. Speaker: It is no use carrying on comments like that. The hon. Member should hear what the Chair has to say and then try to make his submission. This running commentary is a bad habit and an interference with the work of the Chair. I was saying that no further question should be asked because this question, as the hon. Minister pointed out, is the concern of the Assam Administration and we have no right to interfere with the autonomy of that Government or even to cast aspersion on the efficiency of that Government.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I was trying to know with regard to the military aid....

Mr. Speaker: I do not propose to allow any question.

Shri Barman: On the 21st April it was reported by P.T.I. that the Gauhati Offices of *Hindustan Standard* and *Amrit Bazar Patrika* were attacked by thirty persons and that glass-panes and other things were broken and mischief done.

Mr. Speaker: I do not see how this is relevant. It may be that newspapers may print anything and they may print it on the strength of the reports of their correspondents, which

are not necessarily as authentic as the reports of the officials.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LAW COMMISSION

*2444. { **Shri S. N. Das:**
Shri Keshavaiengar:
Shri Ibrahim:
Shri Thimmalah:
Shri S.V.L. Narasimham:
Shri C. R. Chowdary

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the matter of the appointment and functioning of a Law Commission;

(b) the precise functions of this Commission; and

(c) the composition of the Commission and the immediate task that it will undertake?

The Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Pataskar): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration.

सेना में भर्ती

*२४४५. श्री भक्त वरदान : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५४-५५ में किन किन राज्यों से सब से अधिक संख्या में लोग सेना में भर्ती हुए ?

रक्षा उपमंत्री (सरदार मजीठिया): उन दस राज्यों के नाम, जिनमें से कि १ अप्रैल, १९५४ से २९ फरवरी, १९५५ तक सबसे अधिक संख्या में जवान सेना में (प्रादेशिक सेना सहित) भर्ती हुए, निम्नीलिखित हैं :-

राज्य

१. पंजाब
२. उत्तर प्रदेश
३. बम्बई
४. मद्रास

५. पश्चिमी बंगाल
६. बिहार
७. राजस्थान
८. जम्मू और काश्मीर
९. त्रावनकोर-कोचीन
१०. पंप्

पुस्तकालयों को आर्थिक सहायता

*२४४६. श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या शिक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पुस्तकालयों को आर्थिक सहायता देने के लिये कोई नियम हैं, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे नियम क्या हैं ?

शिक्षा तथा प्राकृतिक संसाधन और बैज्ञानिक गवेषणा मंत्री (मौलाना आजाद): (क) तथा (ख). माननीय सदस्य का ध्यान "पांच साला योजना के अन्तर्गत शिक्षा विकास की योजनाएँ" नाम की पत्रिका के पृष्ठ २२ की और दिलाया जाता है, जिस की प्रतियां संसद के पुस्तकालय में मौजूद हैं।

TERRITORIAL ARMY

*2447. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state the steps taken so far by Government to establish Territorial Army Units in Punjab?

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): Several Territorial Army units have already been raised in the Punjab.

MERGER OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*2448. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees working in the Jammu and Kashmir Government Departments, now merged with the Central Government, will get all the facilities provided to Central Government employees;

(b) whether their pay has been regularised under the Central rules and