

there was firing from the Pakistan border. Our people replied to that. On the 9th March, there was again firing. In between these two firings the plane flew over our territory possibly for reconnaissance work.

Shri Kamath: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the recentest reports in the press-yesterday's reports—about warlike preparations and bluster in Pakistan? Does the Prime Minister now think that there is any co-ordination between such warlike preparations and raids?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is a question of making a guess as to what the Government of Pakistan proposes to do. What I have said on the previous occasion is that we have no information about this. Whether it is so or not, we cannot say. We cannot deny it or accept it. The only thing we can say is, we have no information. It is anybody's guess what all this might mean.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that some Pakistani planes flew over the Indian territory Anjala Tehsil of Amritsar district on 22nd March in violation of Air Traffic Regulations? What was their object in flying over Indian territory? May I know whether any protest has been lodged with Pakistan Government?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: I am not sure if we have that information with us. I might mention that in that area, on the 15th of March, there was some firing.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that one of the clauses of this agreement is that nobody from Pakistan or India should dig trenches within 300 yards of the border, and if that is so, whether the Government of Pakistan is going to violate that clause also?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: There has been violation of the agreement arrived at between the two Commandants. We have drawn the attention of the Pakistan Government and very strongly protested against this.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan has concentrated a large army on the Punjab border in the last few days?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what border the hon. Member is referring to. Normally, the position of the Pakistan army is near the border. It is there. The only possible way of stopping these border conflicts is to demarcate the border because some at least are due to controversies about the border. We say that Pakistan has committed aggression. They say that Indian forces have committed aggression. Bold headlines in the Pakistan papers say that India has committed aggression. Because a little area, may be 200 yards or a quarter of a mile or half a mile, is not clearly demarcated, these rival claims go on being made about it.

Mr. Speaker: Question 1069.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I request that question No. 1080 may be replied along with this?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: Also 1078. They basically refer to the same thing.

Mr. Speaker: The three may be answered together.

BORDER RAIDS

***1069. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Police objected to Indian Police patrolling on the Indian border near Khemkaran Jhuggian Noor Mohammad and the Muthian village on the 14th March, 1956, near Amritsar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Police was patrolling on the Indian territory which belonged to India;

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Police opened fire on the Indian Police and the Indian Police returned the same;

(d) whether it is a fact that Indian Police authorities made efforts to avert the crises but failed;

(e) whether it is a fact that exchange of firing continued for a long period;

(f) the number of casualties; and

(g) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) The exchange of fire continued intermittently for about thirty-six hours.

(f) There were no casualties on the Indian side.

(g) A strong protest was lodged with the Government of Pakistan against the aggressive actions of the Pakistan Border Police, which resulted in the incidents.

FIRING NEAR MIANWALA AVTAR VILLAGE

***1078. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a five hour exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistan Police on the 8th March, 1956 near Mianwala Avtar Village situated in Mehdiपुरा Khemkaran sector, about 30 miles from Amritsar; and

(b) if so, what action the Government of India have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) On the 8th March 1956, a party of the Pakistan Border Police objected to normal patrolling of an area in Indian territory in the limits of the Punjab Armed Police Picket, Mianwala Uttar, in Amritsar District, by a PAP party and asked the latter to withdraw from the area. On the Indian party's refusal to comply with this unreasonable demand, the Pakistani party suddenly and without provocation opened fire on them. The Indian party returned the fire in self-defence.

The exchange of firing started at about 12.45 P.M. A cease fire was agreed to by the Commandants of the two border Police forces with effect from 8 P.M. While the Indian Police observed the cease fire after 8 P.M. the Pakistan border Police continued to fire till 9.30 P.M. Firing was again resumed by the Pakistan Police at 6.30 A.M. on the 9th March, 1956 and the Indian Police were left with no option but to return the fire. The two Commandants again agreed to order a cease fire with effect from 9.30 on the 9th March 1956.

(b) A strong protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan.

BORDER RAIDS

***1080. Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that firing was exchanged between the Pakistan and Indian Army along a 12 miles perimeter from Khemkaran to Muthianwala on the 14th March, 1956 or thereabout resulting in several deaths;

(b) whether the Indian Commander in Punjab hastened to the spot and took charge of the operations;

(c) whether the operations are over;

(d) whether there is any fear of its extending; and

(e) the reasons for this clash?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Exchange of fire took place between the Pakistan Border Police and the Punjab Armed Police on the 14th March 1956 along the border from Muthianwala to Khemkaran in the Amritsar district. There were no casualties on the Indian side.

(b) Yes.

(c) The exchange of firing ended at midnight of the 15th March 1956 in accordance with an agreement reached between the two Commandants.

(d) The situation is now under control as a result of the agreement reached between the two Commandants.