

(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.