

Firing in UP POW's and other Camps

2561 SHRI P M MEHTA
SHRI P GANGADEB

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether during the month of January, 1973 there were some firings in the POW camps in Uttar Pradesh and also in other Camps,

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and

(c) whether any court of enquiry was ordered in all the cases, if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) (a) to (c) There have been two incidents of firing in January 1973 these occurred in two different POW Camps in Uttar Pradesh. In one case about 800 to 900 POWs were involved in an attempt to effect mass escape from the camp by indulging in riotous conduct which was pre-planned. The guards had to use force in order to prevent the situation from deteriorating. The court of Enquiry have confirmed these findings.

In the other case 3 POWs in a bid to escape crossed the inner perimeter. They were detected by the guards, who warned them repeatedly. The POWs ignored the warnings. One of them grappled with the sentry to snatch his rifle and injured him. Firing was therefore, resorted to resulting in the death of one POW and injuries to another. Proceedings of the Court of Inquiry regarding this incident are still awaited.

Performance of INS "Nilgiri"

2562 SHRI P M MEHTA
SHRI P GANGADFB

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the newly built Indian Frigate INS Nilgiri has been

taking part in the Naval exercises in the Arabian Sea, and

(b) if so, the performance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The performance has been according to the expectations

Pak Propaganda in Violation of Simla Agreement

2563 SHRI P M MEHTA
SHRI K LAKKAPPA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press Report in the *Times of India* dated the 6th January 1973 regarding one more instance of Pak propaganda against India thereby violating the Simla Agreement, and

(b) whether any note in this regard has been sent to Pakistan and if so the reaction of Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Government have categorically repudiated Pakistan's false propaganda and have formally communicated their concern in the matter to the Government of Pakistan.

Pakistan has intimated that the visits of foreign envoys to the areas vacated by Indian troops were not organized for any propaganda purposes but for assessing requirements for relief and rehabilitation.