

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Thursday, the 13th April, 1961/Chaitra
23, 1883 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCE TO JALLIANWALA MARTYRS

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members may be aware that the 13th of April, is Jallianwala Bagh Day. The hon. the President has gone there to unveil the Martyrs' Memorial today.

As a mark of respect to the memory of those martyrs who shed their blood for winning our freedom, and on whose struggle the foundations of our freedom have been firmly laid, let us stand in silence for a minute.

The Members then stood in silence
for a minute.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Violation of Indian Air-Space

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*1482. { **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Agadi:
Shri Sugandhi:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of violation of India's air-space have taken place

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since the 15th December, 1960 by the Portuguese and Pakistani aircrafts respectively; and

(b) the efforts that were made to check these?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) and (b). There were 8 violations by Pakistani aircraft and none by Portuguese. Protests have been lodged with the Government of Pakistan in respect of four violations. In regard to the others, the matter has not been taken up as aircraft identification is not considered adequate for the purpose.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: May I know what was the farthest extent to which the aircraft penetrated into our territory and if any attempt was made to intercept them?

Shri Krishna Menon: The particulars here are rather detailed and if you will permit me...

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Let him give a single instance of the farthest limit of incursion into our air space.

Shri Krishna Menon: On the 6th January, 4 to 6 Pakistani aircraft violated Indian territory near Gajjewala (Jaisalmer State). On the 8th January, one Pakistani aircraft violated our air space near Chak (South-east of Raisinghnagar).

I was about to say that I would lay a statement on the Table, for the information of the House, after checking up on these.

Mr. Speaker: Is he in a position to say how far they penetrated?

Shri Krishna Menon: I have not got the exact mile distance here. Also I have to find out whether that place is anywhere near any place the name of which should not be disclosed. If you will give me a day or two, I will supply the information.

Mr. Speaker: He may take his own time, a week or ten days.

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes, Sir.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: In view of the futility of these protests, may I know if Government have under contemplation any other method of checking these air violations?

Shri Krishna Menon: I cannot agree that these protests are futile. It is one method of dealing with a foreign country. That is to say, if you talk to another nation with the weight of the status and the power, if you like, of this country, you must assume that it has got some result. Even if you take violent action, there is no guarantee that it will be successful. It may be successful.

Shri Ramanathan SChettiar: Knowing full well that only two countries had violated our air space, why have protests been made only to Pakistan and not to Portugal? What is the main reason for not protesting to Portugal?

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that there was no violation by Portuguese aircraft.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what are the precautions taken by Government against these air space violations and whether it has been found that these aircraft were on a spy flight or reconnaissance flight or some other kind of flight?

Shri Krishna Menon: According to present information and present understanding of facts, they do not appear to be aircraft that could have gathered much information. But whether they gathered information or not, it is our sovereign territory. If they wanted to fly over us and if they asked us in the ordinary way, we

would permit them. They are not expected to take this for granted. In other words, I have no material here which makes me think that these aircraft were of the type that could have taken any photographs. That was why I asked for a day or two to find out.

Shri A. M. Tariq: May I know what is the number of air violations which have taken place on the Jammu and Kashmir border, and whether any protests were made to the United Nations? If so, what action was taken by the United Nations observers?

Mr. Speaker: He will include that in the statement.

Shri Krishna Menon: No, Sir. This is a separate question. If he puts down a separate question, I will answer it.

Shri A. M. Tariq: I was referring to the air violations by Pakistan of the cease-fire line, of the border. How many times has it violated and what action has been taken?

Shri Krishna Menon: I do not recognise the cease-fire line as our border. The hon. Member may.

Shri Raghunath Singh: May I know why, when Pakistan shot down one of our aircraft for violation of their air space, we should not shoot down their aircraft when they have violated our air space eight times in four months?

An Hon. Member: Why was it not shot down at least once?

Shri Krishna Menon: I do not say we would shoot them or we would not shoot them. It is not a recognised international practice to shoot down aeroplanes which violate a country's air space until every other remedy has been exhausted. It is an act precedent to war. Therefore, we cannot speak about it in this light vein. Protests have been made. I have no doubt that the Pakistan Government will take notice of them.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Will the Defence Minister categorically assure the House that we are in a position to intercept any hostile aircraft?

Shri Krishna Menon: I will neither assure nor non-assure.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: While replying to a supplementary question asked by Shri Raghunath Singh, the Defence Minister has said that it is an act precedent to war. May I know why India did not declare war on Pakistan when our plane was shot down by them? May I also know in which area of our country these air violations had taken place and whether the frequency of air violations has recently increased?

Shri Krishna Menon: As regards the first part of the question, India did not declare war because we happen to be a responsible country. As regards the second, it is another question and if a separate question is table, I will answer.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has promised to give us a statement of all the air violations. From it, we can gather information as to what was the distance penetrated.

Let us see later on.

Shri Krishna Menon: Not about all air violations, but about the four mentioned here.

Mr. Speaker: Even with respect to them, the distance may also be indicated.

Shri Krishna Menon: Yes.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: This is a continuous affair. I will allow opportunity to hon. Members on another occasion.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I wanted to ask a different question.

Mr. Speaker: I will proceed to the next question.

Bank Accounts in Foreign Countries

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*1483. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 { Pandit D. N. Tiwari:
 { Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 268 on the 21st November, 1960 and state:

(a) whether investigations regarding the alleged accounts of Shri S. P. Jain with Banks in foreign countries have been finalised;

(b) if so, the result thereof; and

(c) the nature of action taken in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): (a) No sir, investigations regarding the alleged dollar accounts of Shri S. P. Jain in U.S.A. are still in progress.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: What is the attitude of the foreign banks? Are we getting full co-operation from them or are they creating any difficulty in this matter?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: Who are creating difficulty?

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: The foreign banks.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: They are under no obligation either to co-operate or to non-cooperate. We cannot compel them to do anything.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: What methods are being adopted to find out the accounts of Shri S. P. Jain from those foreign banks if we are not getting co-operation from them?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The hon. Member seems to be unaware of the operation of banks whether in this country or outside—much less in outside countries. We have no power to force them to do so.