

That is my first objection. This is such an issue where there are international ramifications. We have lost our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is not a place to smile away. We object to that.

The second is this. I am citing two precedents before you...*(interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (PANSKURA): Whether this House should function or not is for the hon. Speaker to decide.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: On Thursday, last on the Jain Commission issue, you have adjourned the House, a very recent decision of yours. On last Friday, on the same issue, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker adjourned the House. It is such a situation and the decision has been taken by you. Once it was done by you and on another occasion it was done by the Deputy-Speaker. Therefore, under these two precedents, on such similar issue, the House must be immediately adjourned.

We can make it clear that we stand by our Leader as a solid team in stating that the House cannot function.

On page 352 of Jain Commission Report Chapter II, Vol VI the names of Minister sitting here are mentioned....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are not discussing the report.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Not at all. It is not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is enough. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAT PATNAYAK (BALANGIR): Remove D.M.K and save the nation...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P.M. SIVA (PUDUKKOTTAI): They should not assume the powers of the Chair...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK (PHULBANI): Remove D.M.K. and save Tamil Nadu...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Firing Incidents on Indo-Pak Border

*61. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been unprovoked firings at Indo-Pak border during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and number of civilians and security forces killed/injured therein;

(c) the details of loss of property etc. due to these incidents in the border areas;

(d) whether the Pakistani intervention has helped further infiltration of terrorists in J&K State resulting into large civilian tracts of fertile lands remaining uncultivated;

(e) the compensation paid by the Government to the civilians and security forces personnel who were killed/injured or whose property was damaged in these firings; and

(f) steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir, Pakistan resorted to unprovoked firing along the border in J&K.

(b) Details of firing and resultant casualties during the last six months are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Due to unprovoked Pakistani firing in Kargil sector of Line of Control in September 1997, loss of property occurred at Kargil town where 8 shops, one hospital and one mosque were damaged. Damage was also caused to some Army bunkers etc.

(d) Pakistani firing is intended to help infiltration and at times such firing incidents also adversely affect cultivation specially in Jammu sector.

(e) There are adequate provisions in the Liberalised Pension Scheme for Armed Forces personnel to compensate for casualty suffered by them due to firing at the border. In order to alleviate the sufferings of civilian population in the Kargil sector due to Pakistani firing in September 1997, relief has been sanctioned from Prime Minister's Relief Fund in addition to the relief sanctioned by the State Government.

(f) A constant vigil is maintained all along the border. Our forces are prepared to meet any threat posed from across the border.

Statement

Details of Firing and Casualty at the Indo-Pak Border in J&K during May to October, 1997

Sector	No. of incidents	Army		BSF		Civilians	
		K	W	K	W	K	W
Siachen Glacier	171	2	21	-	-	-	-
LOC	1618	11	44	-	3	24	35
IB	147	-	11	-	4	8	15
Total	1936	13	76	-	7	32	50

K : Killed LOC : Line of Control
W : Wounded IB : International Border

*[Translation]***Out of Order Telephone Exchanges**

*62. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT:

DR. ARVIND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges installed in rural areas in the country have been out of order for the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise;

(c) whether it is causing a loss of crores of rupees;

(d) the details of schemes formulated for the proper maintenance of telephone exchanges before the installation of telephone connections and the reasons for not implementing them;

(e) whether many officials have been found guilty in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) No Sir. Most of the telephone exchanges installed in rural areas employ the latest digital switching technology. They are quite reliable and working satisfactorily. However, whenever specific instances of non-

functioning of rural exchanges are brought to the Government's notice, Government looks into the matter, and initiates remedial action whenever necessary.

(d) to (f) Detailed instructions have been issued for proper maintenance of telephone exchanges, particularly the ones working in rural areas. All exchanges are acceptance tested by a specialised organisations of the Department. Instructions for proper maintenance are followed by the field units. Appropriate action is taken if any official is found negligent.

Irrigation Capacity

*63. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of increase in irrigation capacity during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on the Narmada Sagar Dam under construction on the Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh during the said persist year-wise;

(c) by what time Madhya Pradesh will be able to utilise the water made available from Narmada river under the arbitration award for generating power and increasing the irrigation capability; and

(d) the details of action plan worked out for the purpose and target fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The State-wise details of increase in irrigation capacity during the last three years are as under: