

attention notice.

माननीय सदस्य स्पीकर की बात ही नहीं सुनना चाहते हैं, वह प्रेज्यूम कर लेते हैं कि स्पीकर हमारे खिलाफ हैं।

12.1 Hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
 OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
 REPORTED BLOWING UP ON A WAGON
 CARRYING ARMY EXPLOSIVES NEAR
 FARIDKOT AND PIPLI IN PUNJAB

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA (Ludhiana) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

“The reported blowing up of a wagon carrying army explosives between Faridkot and Pipli in Punjab and damage caused to road links and Railway links in the North-East Frontier Railway in West Bengal, Assam and Tripura.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, On 15. 11. 1971 at 15.32 hours a fire broke out in a military truck (containing ammunition boxes) which had been loaded in an open wagon. The incident took place near Pipli Pakhi Kalan flag station near Faridkot. As a result, some of the ammunition caught fire and exploded. According to our present information the fire was accidental, and no sabotage is suspected.

There have been twelve incidents of sabotage to railway lines in the Eastern sector, particularly in the States of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura since 25th March, 1971. We have reasonable grounds to believe that these incidents have been the work of Pakistani saboteurs and agents. There have also been seven instances of damage being caused to road bridges/culverts in these States by Pak saboteurs.

Honourable Members might recollect the statement which the Defence Minister had made in this House on 15th November in which he had pointed out the serious situation which we face along our borders

due the machinisations of the Pakistani Military Rulers. These acts of sabotage are part of their well-designed scheme to disrupt our lines of communications in these sensitive areas, and also to create panic in our civil population. We have taken a number of steps to prevent such incidents to protect the lives of our population, and maintain our system of communication in this region. We are fully alive to these dangers on our eastern borders with Bangla Desh and that we are taking all possible steps to safeguard the lives and property of Indian citizens in this region.

SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a cause for satisfaction to know that the explosion near Pipli was not the result of a sabotage, but the satisfaction is marred in the knowledge that we transporting our high explosives in open wagons or in tarpaulin-covered trucks thus inviting disastrous accidents. May I know if the Defence Minister would devise scientific and safe methods to transport our ammunition so that we do not have it exploding in our own hands and also, in that process, disrupt our communication system ?

Secondly, 19 incidents of a sabotage in seven months, and that alone in the eastern region, are a very disturbing fact. It is a very good that we have taken steps to protect the people and maintain communication, as the Minister said just now, but in this hour of peril, efforts alone cannot be a sufficient measure of our competence. I think we will have to go by the results achieved and not merely by the efforts made.

May I, therefore, ask if the Defence Minister would give an assurance to the House that the hopes that in the days to come, the incidents of sabotage will be curbed if not completely overcome ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, there is a way and procedure to transport these dangerous stores like ammunition. Obviously, there was some fault in the transportation because of which this accident took place. The railways are constituting a court of enquiry and we hope that we will be able to precisely find out the reason why this incident took place.

[Shri Vidya Charan Shukla]

About the second part of the hon. Member's question, it is very difficult for anybody to say that such incidents would not take place in future. All we can say is that we will be very careful and comply with all the safety regulations and will intensify our security measures all along the sensitive areas. To rule out the possibility of such things taking place and to say that we can take any measure which will completely rule out such things would, I think, be overstating the matter.

SHRI PRIYA RANJA DAS MUNSI (Calcutta-South) : We should consider the date and time when there were the activities of the saboteurs. We shall find that after a month after the detention of Sheikh Mujibhur Rahman by Yahya Khan, the Mukti Fauj liberation army of Bangla Desh was trying its best to capture Bangla Desh. At that time evacuees were coming every day in thousands into our country. After a month of detention of Sheikh Mujibhur Rahman, one month after 25th March, that is from 25th April the sabotage activities began to take place in some parts of the eastern region. Personally I have no doubt and I have seen that our country's defence forces are very well equipped to protect the country from all dangers. I doubt if there is some kind of lack of co-operation between the Home or the State intelligence departments and the Army People.

I can quote one instance. In Kishanganj there was a serious explosion in the train. Within 48 hours of that explosion, another similar incident took place in a nearby place. It came in the newspaper in the first day. The Army was prepared ; the intelligence was ready ; yet they could not detect how it was done. I think the information coming from the State intelligence surces and the other intelligence are not co-ordinated, because of which we could not take suitable measures in proper time. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Defence Ministry is feeling that in some parts of the eastern region they are facing certain non-co-operation or certain other problem in regard to the correct information leading to the detection of the saboteurs. I have no doubt that the saboteurs are outsiders ; they are not Indian citizens, because on this point all the political parties are united. But we have

seen some days before in Calcutta that two or three politicians were arrested and detained as it was apprehended that some spying activity was being done.

I do not want to name them ; they were political leaders. After that incident if we categorically specify the places, we shall find that these places were mostly under the control of the Naxalites. Naxalbari is very near Kishanganj and there Kanu Sanyal was arrested with a lot of explosives. The explosives seized from him and the explosives detected by the police after the explosion in Kishanganj and the explosives seized by the Police on November 9 in Alipurduar had all the same markings of the Indian Ordnance factories. We came to know from the D.S.P. Alipurduar that before the incident, there was a derailment of train which was carrying arms and ammunitions. This is a fact. Let the Minister answer in specific terms whether they feel that in some parts the Army itself is not feeling quite happy to move with materials in the open air in the trucks, in open wagons as Mr. Garcha says, because the common people including the evacuees cannot identify who is an Indian citizen, or who is evacuee and who is a saboteur. Everybody thinks that India is facing a crisis and that India is in favour of Bangla Desh. But the saboteurs take advantage. I believe, of the fact that the local intelligence and the State administration are not cooperating. In many cases, the samoteurs after conducting their sabotage activities leave the place by train or other transport and the police are not able to arrest them even within 50 miles in West Dinajpur and other places. In Durgapur, two buses were blown up within a 20 mile range. If the army people had surrounded the area, within 24 hours, they could have detected the culprits. But nothing happened. They simply told the village people not to get panic. But the next day, another bus was blown up within 8 miles. It only shows that our intelligence is not working properly. I do not say they are inefficient. I only say, they should be more efficient and there should be full cooperation.

Then, is the Minister aware that the saboteurs are being trained in Hajipur to disturb the Indian administration, our defence and also the minds of the people

in the liberation army in Bangla Desh? Has the Defence Ministry any information from any source that specific training is going on in West Pakistan as well as on the eastern side, more particularly Assam, West Bengal and Tripura?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : The hon. member has given a lot of information. But about the specific questions he asked, I will say, there is no lack of cooperation between the State intelligence apparatus and our operative forces there. We have good cooperation from them and there is good coordination. We are keeping the arrangements constantly under review. Whenever any area requires improvement, we do undertake that improvement. About the training camps, we have information that Pakistan authorities are running not one or two but several training camps for saboteurs inside their own territory. They are trained for two or three weeks in handling explosives, blowing up bridges, railway track, etc. After training, the induct them into various areas where according to them these activities have to be undertaken and they organise these activities. We know that the areas are sensitive and they require constant vigilance. After these incidents took place, we have reviewed the arrangements and effected certain improvements. I can assure the House that we are taking steps accordingly.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd) : These sabotage activities of Pak agents are a calculated method on the basis of defence strategy to cripple our life-line of communication and supply to our defence establishments, army build-ups and refugees in Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizo Hills and in North Bengal. No doubt there have been certain acts of sabotage in 24 Parganas and Nadia districts but their target is the Assam mail link, the national highway that carries our defence goods via Islampur sub-division of West Dinajpur, Kishanganj, Siliguri, Shillong and Gauhati line and the Karimganj-Silchar sector. Karimganj-Silchar sector has become the particular target of the Pak saboteurs because, Karimganj is strategically the gateway to Tripura from the rear as Chamb area holds the gateway to Kashmir. Karimganj sector is the lifeline of national

highway and railways and it is the key to the whole of the defence of Tripura. It is being sabotaged from the rear. Most of such activities have been in the Karimganj-Silchar area.

My young friend, who was zealous, was saying that the saboteurs are Pak nationals. It is a plain and simple fact that a large number of the saboteurs who have been caught and arrested are Indian nationals in the Silchar and Karimganj area. It is not my facts but facts as given by Shri Chowdhary, Chief Minister of Assam in the Assam Assembly. Out of the 64 persons arrested for subversive in the Karimganj-sector area 54 are Indian nationals. It is a Painful fact that out of 500 persons who have been arrested for sabotage activities 200 are Indian citizens. Recently I had been to Karimganj. People there are very much exercised over it because every time they are hearing shell firing. The information given by these people I have passed on to the Defence Minister. They say—I do not know how far they are true—that about 4,000 young Indian citizens have been recruited by Pakistan for undergoing training inside Bangladesh by Pakistani army for conducting subversive activities in India. Then, the people who have been arrested in the Karimganj area have confessed that the M.L.A. of Badarpur, Jalil Ahmed Chaudhari was mentioned by name as the person in whose house Conspiracies for subversive activities were going on. The local authority immediately reported this fact to the Assam Government and requested immediate arrest of this gentleman. But politics prevailed over our patriotic national interest. That gentleman is still free because higher authorities prevailed upon the officials not to arrest him.

AN HON. MEMBER : To which party does he belong?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : You can understand it even without my mentioning it.

MR. SPEAKER : I am waiting for the question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I am giving facts. In Islampur, Kishanganj, Silchar and Badarpur area where the pre-partition Muslim League had their

[Shri Samar Guha]

influence a large section of the people are still swayed by the pro-Pakistan outlook. A number of missions, dozens of missions have been sent abroad to educate the people outside, to make the people aware of the situation in Bangladesh. But, unfortunately, our government have failed to impress a section of the Indian citizens as to what is involved in Bangladesh issue and how it is inextricably linked with India. Since that has not been done, the Pakistani nationals and saboteurs have been harboured there and they are getting all kinds of help and assistance from some Indian citizens. It is a shameful fact that many Indian citizens are being involved in this and they are being arrested. I find that Shri Siddhartha Shankar Ray is not here. He is very much in favour of having an alliance with the Muslim League even though they are the people involved in sabotage activities. Naxalites have nothing to do with it.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Kozhikode) : I protest against this. The Indian Muslim league has nothing to do with it. I categorically deny this allegation. Muslims are also equally patriotic people... (Interruptions) The India Muslim league is with the Government of the country. Minorities are more interested in the welfare of the country... (Interruption). Nationalism is not the monopoly of anybody..... (Interruption)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : There is no question of a minority or a majority. They are criminals and anti-nationals.. (Interruption)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : I cannot tolerate anybody calling us anti-nationals..... (Interruption)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Those people who are saboteurs are criminals. There is no question of a minority or a majority ... (Interruption)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Nobody has got the monopoly of nationalism in this country. We are equally national..... (Interruption). I challenge.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Let them identify those persons, Let them see

what all are happening..... (Interruption)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : I cannot tolerate. I say, you cannot blame the muslim league as a whole.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I do not blame the Muslim League..... (Interruption). I have said, the pro-Pakistan mentality is still there.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : We are equally national. Nationalism is not the monopoly of anybody..... (Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on? Will you please sit down or not ?

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : You know very well that charges are being levied.

MR. SPEAKER : After all, this is a House and not a fish market. Please sit down. Shri Guha should please finish in one minute.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I will take two minutes.

I should say, the security measures are not adequate. I want to know from Government how many Pak saboteurs and Indian collaborators of Pak saboteurs have been arrested in West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. Secondly, I want to know whether Government has adopted or will adopt the following measures, namely, have mobile security squads to guard railway lines as well as national highways in the area; set up special intelligence cells in those sub-divisions of Kisan-ganj, Islampur, Silchar, Karimganj and Mizo Hills area so as to detect the Indian collaborators in advance so that they may be caught redhanded before the commitment of sabotage; organise village squads in all these areas to guard national highways and railways in all sectors; whether reward would be declared for that arrest of Pak saboteurs and their Indian collaborators; whether citizens' council, as formed in West Bengal, would be immediately constituted in these strategic sectors so that people's

participation can be brought about for safeguarding our lifelines; whether intensification of the publicity and propaganda campaign would be done in these areas so that the simple Indian people are not misled by a few anti-national elements; and whether the MLAs and MPs of this area would be given special responsibility to organise the people to fight all anti-national activities,

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT :
 Sir, I want to make a submission most humbly. You know, I do not disturb the House; I have never done it. I will obey you but I want to have one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : If you speak without my permission, nothing will go on record.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :
 We have taken several security measures to protect the vital installations, communication links etc. I am sure, the House will not wish me to go into the details of how these measures are taken but I can assure the House that we have taken all these difficulties into account and have taken adequate measures to protect these places.

Then, Shri Samar Guha has raised the matter of public cooperation.

I can tell him that we have very good public cooperation from these areas. There are certain small sections of trained saboteurs who are acting as saboteurs from Pakistan. But it would be a completely wrong reading of the situation if any particular community is blamed for this kind of activity... (*Inter-ruption*) I do not say, he blamed it. No community has the monopoly of patriotism in this country. Every community is equally patriotic. Therefore, even by implication no such allegation or insinuation should be made...

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Samar Guha, you are interrupting him frequently. It will not go on record.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA :
 The last point made by the hon. Member was about the number of persons arrested. I do not have the figures with me. But these arrests have been effected by the State administration.

12:26 hrs.

QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

**RE : POLICE MISBEHAVIOUR
 TOWARDS DR SARADISH
 ROY AND SHRI B.S. BHAURA.**

MR. SPEAKER : This is about a privilege motion. We will follow the procedure that we have been following in this House earlier. He can explain it in brief.

DR SARADISH ROY (Bolpur) : Sir, under Rules 222, 224 and 225 of the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha, I raise the question of privilege as follows :

On 9th November, 1971, I went to Kashipur village within Ilambazar P.S., in Birbhum District, West Bengal, within my constituency in exercise of my right as an M.P. to visit any place in India, not to speak of a place within my constituency.

I went there on getting information that the police and C.R.P. had raided the village and driven out all the residents numbering 23 families from that village after looting and burning the huts.

When I went there, and was talking with the womenfolk, a group of armed policemen—I later found out that they belonged to Gujarat S.R.P.—abused me and compelled me to proceed to the police camp at Sultanpur, telling us that they would not allow me to visit the village. At Sultanpur camp, the then officer-in-charge of the S.R.P. told me not to go to Kashipur village and when we again came back to Kashipur village, another batch of police personnel presumably sent by that officer-in-charge approached us menacingly. Being understood so, I had to leave the village.

My privilege as a Member of Parliament has been infringed by the Gujarat S.R.P. as well as its then officer-in-charge at Sultanpur (a) by abusing me, (b) by interfering with my movement and causing me to proceed to Sultanpur camp virtually under arrest and (c) by illegally forbidding me to go to Kashipur village.