

में आप के द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इन चीजों की तरफ ध्यान दें और उन को ठीक करने का प्रयत्न करें।

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I have taken note of the valuable points that have been made by the hon. Members. I would like to personally assure Shri Banerjee that the Government have already drafted a comprehensive amending Bill for amending the old Cantonments Bill Act. As the hon. Member knows, this is a small Bill for a small purpose related only to Uttar Pradesh, and therefore, I do not think there is much controversy over this particular Bill and I am sure that it will be approved unanimously by the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the repeal of the Uttar Pradesh Cantonments (Control of Rent and Eviction) Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.
Clause 1, the Enacting Formula
and the Title were added to
the Bill.*

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : I move :

"That the Bill be passed,"

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15:47 hrs.

**STATEMENT BY DEFENCE MINISTER
REVIEWING THE OUTCOME OF
RECENT ARMED CONFLICT ARISING
OUT OF THE PAKISTANI AGGRES-
SION ON INDIA**

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI
JAGJIVAN RAM) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I have been late by a few minutes in coming to the House. I am rushing from Kanpur.

On Friday, December 3rd, around 5:40 p.m., Pakistan had unleashed its total war on India, with pre-emptive strikes at our airfields and heavy attacks on our defensive positions all along the western frontier. We were able to commence our counter action on the western front only around midnight.

On the eastern frontier, we moved in the early hours of Saturday, December 4th, from different directions into what was then known as East Pakistan to act in concert with the Mukti Bahini and other elements of the National Liberation Forces of Bangla Desh. With the signing of the Instrument of Surrender by Lt.-Gen. Niazi, Martial Law Administrator of Zone B, at 16.31 hours on Thursday, December 16th, the people of Bangla Desh were finally freed from West Pakistani subjugation of a quarter of a century and from the brutal terror that had gripped them since March 25, 1971.

The successful completion of this campaign of liberation, within a period of 12 days, across a vast expanse of land, criss-crossed with rivers and rivulets, inhabited by nearly 75 million people and held down by 93,000 regular and para-military forces of West Pakistani origin will rank in the annals of military history as a remarkable feat.

The strategy of our forces to bypass main cities to avoid civilian casualties and to prevent damage to national assets surprised the enemy.

The speed of our flanking movements and the determination with which they were pressed rendered the long prepared positions of the enemy untenable.

The Mukti Bahini fought shoulder to shoulder with our forces. The Pakistan

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

Fighters provided invaluable assistance by harassing the enemy in the rear and by enabling our forces to overcome numerous riverine obstacles.

The Indian Air Force achieved mastery of the vast airspace within the first twenty-four hours by completely annihilating the PAF in Bangla Desh. The punishment inflicted from the air on military installations and positions caused tremendous havoc. The supply as well as escape routes by air were completely sealed.

Helicopters were extensively used to land our troops in the rear. A battalion of paratroopers was dropped at predetermined places north of Dacca. The link of these paratroopers with the ground forces of the Mukti Bahini and the Indian Army made it possible for us to reach the outskirts of Dacca on the eleventh day of the Campaign.

Our Navy played a significant role. The Eastern Naval Command deployed our Aircraft Carrier VIKRANT with supporting ships and submarines to immobilise the port facilities at Chittagong and in the Khuina-Chalna-Mongla complex and to damage airfields and military installations on the southern periphery. Amphibian landings were carried out at Cox's bazaar to seal off a possible escape route for the enemy to Burma.

It appears that the Martial Law Administrator had lost operational control over his Divisional Commanders at an early stage of the battle. The Pakistani troops, however, fought gallantly. Their Commanders did not pay heed to the messages addressed by General Manekshaw to save their lives. Major-General Rao Farman Ali's initiative was overruled by Findi. It was only in the evening of December 13th that the wisdom of a total further bloodshed dawned on the military rulers.....(Interruptions)

By then the tables had been turned on the aggressor on the Western front. Pakistan's massive offensive thrusts in the Poonch, Chakamb and Rajasthan sectors were effectively blunted. The fight to protect our sacred soil against Pakistan's furious onslaughts was fierce. Our Jawans stood their ground with dogged determination, and thrust the

enemy back into his territory. Repeated attempts on the part of the enemy to infiltrate behind our lines were frustrated. The Local Kashmiris helped to round up straggling infiltrators. To protect our vital land communications in Jammu and Kashmir, we carried the war into the enemy's territory. To keep the enemy away from Rajasthan and Gujarat, we made significant gains in the Barmer and Kutch sectors. We succeeded in drawing the enemy's reserves into open battle and in scattering his attacking forces.

The Indian Air Force struck, without interruption, by day and by night at aircraft on the ground, at airfield installations, runways and radar stations. Troop concentrations were broken up and armoured columns were scattered. Important installations of military value were severely damaged and the transportation system was disrupted. In addition, the IAF provided air cover to our ground forces and co-operated with them in destroying the enemy's tanks. Our air defence units took a heavy toll of enemy's intruding aircraft. In the concluding stages of the conflict, the enemy's air activity was reduced to a fraction of ours.

The task of the Western Naval Command was to contain the Pakistani fleet and prevent it from hitting at our shipping and our ports.

The House is aware of the two daring attacks mounted by our Western fleet which damaged part and shore installations at Karachi and substantially reduced the strength of the Pakistani fleet. In consequence, the enemy was unable to interfere with our maritime shipping. While our ports functioned normally, our Navy completely succeeded in cutting off the enemy's supplies by sea.

The enemy has paid dearly for aggression. Pakistani losses in equipment are computed at 94 aircraft, 246 tanks, two warships two sub. marines, two minesweepers and 16 gunboats, both in the Eastern and Western sectors. Vital installations of military significance have been severely damaged. Pakistani casualties are known to have been very heavy. Obviously, it is impossible to have the exact figures. A full tally of prisoners is not yet available. In Dacca alone as many as 24,000 have surrendered.

The cease-fire on the Western front became effective yesterday at 8 p.m. At that hour,

we were in occupation of numerous pockets of Pakistani territory. In Kargil, Gurais and Uri sector, our troops have occupied nearly 50 posts. In the Tithwal sector, a substantial portion of the Lipa valley is in our hands. Some commanding heights across the cease-fire line have been taken by us in the Poonch-Rajauri-Naushera sector. The whole of the Akhnur Dagger salient and a number of border posts in the Jammu sector are with us. We have crossed the Basantar River and the greatest part of the Shankargarh-Zafarwal salient is in our possession. The Dera Baba Nanak Enclave south of Ravi has been occupied by us. Several border posts in the Dera Baba Nanak-Ajnala-Amritsar-Khem Karan-Ferozepur-Mamdot and Fazilka sectors have been taken. In the Bikaner sector, Rukanpur, Ranhal and Bijanot have been captured. In the Jaisalmer-Islamgarh-Bhatkhanwala Khu area, we are 4 to 8 miles inside Pak territory. Apart from a number of border posts on the border of Sind, including Chhad Bet, we have occupied the whole of Nagarparker Bulge and captured Chachro and Virawah. We have effective control right up to Naya Chor and Umarmot in the Pakistani Province of Sind. The posts and the pockets in our possession ensure the security of our Western borders and provide full protection to our vital road links.

Our losses have been comparatively smaller. We lost 45 aircraft, 73 tanks and one frigate. All our installations are in full operational order.

For the liberation of Bangla Desh, 1,047 of our brave officers and men laid down their lives, 3,047 were wounded and 89 are missing.

On the Western front, 1,426 were killed, 3,611 were wounded and 2,149 are missing.

The area west of Munnawar Tawi was, at the time of cease-fire, in Pakistan's possession; so is the enclave west of Sutlej at Husainiwala. There is a very small lodgement in Pakistan's possession in the area in the west of Fazilka around village Pakka.

Pakistan's military adventure has recoiled on its military leaders. The experience of 14 days of fighting, the loss of territory and of manpower, together with the severe damage inflicted on equipment and installations would,

as soon as the facts become known to them, convince the people of Pakistan of the disastrous consequences of unprovoked armed aggression.

16.00 hours.

On the evening of the December 16th, the Prime Minister announced a unilateral cease-fire. This would convince not only the people of Pakistan but the world at large in regard to our intentions. In our view, there is no dispute between our two countries which cannot be settled by friendly negotiation between ourselves.

We have no territorial ambitions. Our jawans who have fought so bravely and who have sacrificed their lives at the call of duty will, however, need to be assured that their sacrifices will yield results of lasting value to the peoples of India and Pakistan. They already have the satisfaction that they have contributed to the liberation of Bangla Desh and to the emergence of a Secular Democratic State on our Eastern Borders. It will now be our endeavour to forge, through bilateral negotiations, a new relationship with Pakistan, based not on conflict but on co-operation, guaranteeing to us the security of our borders and our vital road communications, and assuring to the peoples of the two countries freedom from fear of recurring wars and an opportunity to devote their full attention to economic and social progress.

We have to redeem the pledges we made to our people when we were elected to power. I am sure the people of Pakistan and Bangla Desh also ardently desire to devote their attention to similar tasks. Let us hope that the experience of fourteen days of armed conflict with Pakistan will help to usher an era of peace and prosperity for the sub-continent.

The House owes its gratitude to the vast number of men and women whose exertions and sacrifices have contributed to the success of our arms. We owe a special duty to the next of kin of those who have laid down their lives and to those who have been disabled by the conflict. We have also to make good the equipment we have lost. The tax-payer will, no doubt, do his part. The nation may, however, wish to give expression to its sentiments by organising a massive voluntary effort to provide relief to those who have

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

suffered and to provide to the armed forces the equipment they have lost.

We could not have achieved this success but for the enthusiastic exertions of our farmers and our industrial workers. A special word of thanks is due to the railwaymen and truck drivers who kept supplies moving and to the personnel who manned our telecommunication network. The men in charge of our merchant shipping succeeded in keeping up a steady stream of supplies. I am also full of admiration for the courage and fortitude of the common man who carried on his normal tasks in the face of enemy gun-fire along our borders and around the airfields.

The nation can be proud of the devotion, the dedication, the determination, the skill and the efficiency of those of our citizens who fought, with all their right, on land, at sea, and in the air, the dark forces of aggression.

Our military leadership rose to the occasion. The co-operation, understanding and cohesiveness achieved by the three services in planning and executing the joint operations have been gratifying. The Defence Forces of India are now a well-knit team, capable of guaranteeing the security of our motherland against external aggression. Their success on the battlefield should give us confidence in our war on poverty and want.

On behalf of the Defence Services and the Ministry of Defence, may I tender their grateful thanks for the generous appreciation by this august House, and indeed by the entire nation, of the efforts made by them to perform their national tasks to the best of their ability.

16.05 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Monday, December 20, 1971/Agrahayana 29, 1893 (Saka).