

[Shri C. M. Stephen]

is not even a scrap depot there; the scrap has to be sold out. This will have to be attended to.

I am saying so only because there is heavy traffic in that area; it is acknowledged. Therefrom it follows that the other requirements will have to be attended to. Taking into consideration the way in which the local needs and local demands were being responded to, I rest with the confidence that the Railway Administration will take note of these consequential demands and will certainly attend to them. With this feeling of satisfaction and hope I support the demands with full compliments to the Railway Administration.

श्री राजावतार शास्त्री (पटना) : इन अनुपूरक भागों के द्वारा नई रेलवे लाइनों के निर्माण के लिए राशि मांगी जा रही है। इस खिलसिले में मेरा निवेदन है कि बिहार में दो छोटी लाइनें हैं। एक का जिक्र शर्मा जी ने किया है। एक फतुहा से इस्लामपुर है और दूसरी धारा से सहस्रराम तक है। जैसा कि आपने सुना दोनों रेलवे लाइनें मुनाफे पर चल रही हैं लेकिन फिर भी इनको बन्द करने की सलाह की जा रही है। एक तरफ तो आप नई लाइनें बिछाना चाहते हैं और दूसरी तरफ पुरानी लाइनों को बन्द करना चाहते हैं। ये दोनों बातें साथ-साथ नहीं चल सकती हैं। नई लाइनें आप बनायें लेकिन पुरानी लाइनें आप तोड़ें नहीं, उनको भी चालू रखें। अगर उनके मालिक उनको चलाने के लिए तैयार न हों तो उनको आप अपने हाथ में ले लें ताकि रेल मजदूर बेकार न हों, उनके हजारों आश्रितों के सामने मुसमरी का सवाल न पैदा हो और इस इलाके के विकास में किसी प्रकार की रुकावट न आए।

पटना से गया 56 मील है और पूर्वी रेलवे में गया से पटना तक की लाइन को

बन्द करने की बात बहुत दिनों से चल रही है। उस लाइन पर यात्री बहुत चलते हैं। एक लाइन के रूकने से जो बड़ी तेज चलने वाली गाड़ियां हैं वे बहुत लेट हो जाती हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि उसे बन्द किया जाए ताकि रेलवे का आवागमन बन्द न हो और उस इलाके के लोगों को सुविधा हो। खास तौर से जो सरकारी कर्मचारी दफ्तरों में जाते हैं, वे इस कारण से लेट हो जाते हैं और सरकार उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करती है।

बरोनी, गरहरा, धनबाद, कुसुन्डा, टाटानगर, गोरखपुर, इंटेंग्रल कोच फैक्ट्री, मद्रास गुन्तकल आदि जगहों में रेल मजदूरों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की गई है, उन्हें सस्पेंड किया गया है। सात हजार से ज्यादा लोगों का ब्रेक इन सर्विस हो गया है। बहुत से लोगो पर मुकद्दमे चल रहे हैं। अभी पचास से ज्यादा पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बरों ने, जिनमें दोनों तरफ के एम० पी० हैं, रेल मंत्री को एक पत्र लिखा है जिसमें मांग की है कि इन तमाम कार्यवाहियों को खत्म किया जाए ताकि रेल मजदूर जोश के साथ देश की सुरक्षा के कामों में हाथ बटा सकें, पाकिस्तानी हमलावरों के दाँत खट्टे कर सकें। मेरा निवेदन है कि इन तमाम विक्रियमाइजेशन के केषिड को खत्म किया जाए और रेल मंत्री रेल कर्मचारियों को एक नया उत्साह प्रदान करें।

13.9 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. LATEST POSITION ABOUT PAKISTAN AGGRESSION ON INDIA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): The Hon'ble Members will recall the statement I made in this House in the afternoon on December 4th. I had then said that the Pakistani objective of inflicting substantial damage on us

through a pre-meditated pre-emptive attack has been frustrated. The Pak forces have been making repeated and determined efforts to inflict damage on us and probe for possible weak spots in our defences. We have been endeavouring to blunt Pakistan's aggressive military machine.

The Pakistani Air Force has been visiting our airfields, but the damage they have been able to inflict has been negligible. We have been able to repair the damage inflicted and our airfields continue to be operational. There has been a gradual decline in the sorties mounted by the Pakistani Air Force. This may be the result of the damage inflicted by our Air Force on their air installations and airfields. So far, we have destroyed 52 of Pakistani combat aircraft and 4 more probably damaged. 3 Pakistani pilots are in our custody.

Our Air Force has been concentrating for the last two days on air defence of our forward positions and providing close support to ground operations. We have also successfully attempted to dislocate Pakistani lines of communication, supply dumps and oil installations. We have lost 22 aircraft in all.

Pakistan's repeated attacks on Poonch have been beaten back with heavy losses. There has been intense pressure in the Chhamb Sector. We have withdrawn our troops to prepared positions on the river Monavar Tavi. In the fighting that preceded this planned withdrawal, Pakistanis lost 25 tanks and they suffered heavy casualties. We are exercising counter pressure in the area Akhnour and Shakargarh.

The Pakistani forces have been pushed out of the Dera Baba Nanak Enclave. The bridge across the Ravi is in our possession. The attempts on the part of Pak forces to infiltrate behind our lines have been frustrated.

In the Amritsar Sector, a few Pakistani border posts are now in our occupation. In the Ferozepore area, the Pakistani

forces have been ejected from the Sejra Enclave.

In the Rajasthan Sector, a Pakistani armoured column made a bid for the area around Ramgarh. This column was held at Longanavala and has been practically decimated. Twenty tanks were definitely destroyed and seven more damaged. We have succeeded in effecting entry into Sind from two directions. Our troops have advanced around various points and our leading elements are about 10 miles short of Naya Chor. We have also captured Islamgarh. Our forces have been able to destroy 96 of Pakistani tanks so far.

In the Eastern Sector, our troops are acting in concert with Mukti Bahini. Under our pressure, the Pakistani occupying troops are falling back. The Jessore airfield was captured by us this morning. All areas west of Kaliganj have been completely cleared of Pak troops. The important highway from Meherpur *via* Jhenaida to Goalandoghat ferry has been cut. In Hilli/Dinajpur area our troops are advancing towards the Rangpur-Bogra highway. Lalmunirghat, with its airfield has been captured. The area north of Kurigram, Rangpur, Dinajpur is now free of occupying forces.

The hon'ble Members are aware of the capture of Akhaura two days ago. The strategic centres of Maulvi Bazar and Brahmanbaria are now surrounded. Feni was vacated by Pak troops yesterday; the forward elements of our troops are now racing towards the Chandpur Ferry.

In Bangla Desh, the Pak Air Force has been virtually wiped out; our air supremacy in that area is complete. From the sea, installations of military value have been pounded around Chittagong, Chalna, Mangla and Khulna. All maritime connection between the occupying forces and West Pakistan has been completely severed.

The hon'ble Members are aware of the daring operation carried out by the Indian Navy on the night of 4/5th Decem-

ber. Two Pakistani warships have been sunk and one is believed to have been seriously damaged. Our Naval Force penetrated to within 15 miles of the Karachi harbour. Their bombardment has inflicted severe damage on the harbour installations and oil storage tanks. In the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Navy was able to sink one Pakistani submarine. The Eastern fleet is now operating off the Pak occupied coast in Bangla Desh.

The three Services are working on a highly integrated joint plan of operations. The efficiency with which these plans have been executed and the mutual support which one arm has provided to the other have been gratifying.

About the U.N., I have to inform the House that a safe conduct was given to a U.N. Aircraft C-130 from 8 A.M. to 10 A.M. on December 6th. This could not be utilized by the U.N. At the request of the U.N. Representative in New Delhi, a safe conduct for U.N. air-

craft was given for December 7th effective from 7 A.M. to 11 A.M. (IST). There have been no operations over the Dacca area since 10 P.M. last night.

It has been reported from Dacca that a U.N. aircraft has been damaged over the Dacca airfield. The Air Headquarters have confirmed that no Indian aircraft have been operating in that area up to this time. The U.N. have been advised to investigate in Dacca with regard to the damage reported to have been inflicted on that aircraft.

I would like, on behalf of the Members to communicate to the Armed Forces the appreciation of the House for the valiant way in which they are defending the country and defeating the enemy.

13.20 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Ten of the Clock on Wednesday,
December 8, 1971 | Agrahayana 17,
1893 (Saka).*