

territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh by reorganisation of the existing State of Assam and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

SHRI SHIVNATH SINGH (Jhunjunu) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of the States of Manipur and Tripura and to provide for the formation of the State of Meghalaya and of the Union Territories of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh by reorganisation of the existing State of Assam and for matters connected therewith, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 9 members, namely :

- (1) Shri Bashweshwar Nath Bhargava
- (2) Shri Chhuttan Lal
- (3) Shri M. C. Daga
- (4) Shri Hiralal Doda
- (5) Shri Nathuram Mirdha
- (6) Shri Krishna Chandra Pant
- (7) Shri N. K. Sanghi
- (8) Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma ; and
- (9) Dr. H. P. Sharma

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next session." (1)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This will be continued tomorrow.

13 15 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. LATEST POSITION WITH REGARD TO PAKISTANI AGGRESSION ON INDIA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the eleventh day of

the war forced on us by Pakistan. The enemy has failed almost completely to achieve the aim of his pre-emptive attack. In the process, Pakistani forces have suffered grievous losses which can be made good only by large scale inductions from foreign sources.

I shall attempt to give you a broad picture of the fighting on various fronts.

In the Kargil and Tithwal sector, a number of posts have been captured. As a result, it has been possible to ensure that the enemy does not dominate our road communications in this area.

In the Uri, Poonch, Rajauri and Nausheera sectors, attempts on the part of the enemy to infiltrate behind our lines or to break through our defences have been frustrated and the pressure from the Pakistani forces across the ceasefire line has dwindled. A number of raids were carried out on enemy posts, some of which were captured. Our tactical position is now much better and superior.

The House is aware of the development in the Chhamb sector. The enemy at one stage pushed forward to the eastern bank of Munnawar Tawi. The enemy was forced out of the eastern bank. The enemy is, however, still present on the west of Munnawar Tawi. His repeated attempts to penetrate our defences on the east bank have been foiled. Our forces are now well entrenched on the east bank of the river and are able to mount patrols on its west bank. In the Samba-Pathankot sector, our probing movements have substantially improved our tactical position and our vital road communications in the rear are now more secure.

In the Punjab sector, the enemy made repeated attempts to secure lodgements on our territory. In the result, each side has occupied the other side's enclaves on either

side of the Ravi. Our defensive position is consequently much stronger. For the last few days, there has, however, been a lull in this sector.

The hon. members are aware of the determined attack that had been made by the enemy to penetrate the Ramgarh area of the Jaisalmer sector in strength. This attempt has been finally frustrated, with heavy losses to the enemy. The enemy has been forced out of our territory and we have now advanced a few miles into his territory. Further south in the Barmer sector, the battle for Naya Chor is now raging. The enemy has reinforced his positions and is giving a stiff fight. I can inform the House that the immediate threat to the Rajasthan border has been eliminated.

In the Kutch sector, our forces have captured the important town of Virawah and are in occupation of the Nagarparkar area. Our forces now command nearly a thousand square kilometres of the province of Sind. Arrangements have been made to take care of civil affairs in the occupied area.

Now, I come to the eastern front. The hon. members are aware that our forces in concert with the Mukti Bahini have succeeded in liberating large areas of Bangla Desh. The major towns of Noakhali, Laksham, Chandpur, Feni, Comilla, Gaihandra, Sylhet, Mymensing, Jamalpur, Kushtia, Jessore and Hilli have fallen before the combined attack of the two forces. Some of the Pakistani garrisons are now preferring to surrender.

In its hasty retreat, the enemy is trying to delay our advance by destroying bridges and damaging riverside installations. The Mukti Bahini and the freedom fighters have been helping our forces to ford rivers and to ferry our troops across. We have used helicopters to land our troops behind

enemy lines. Airborne paratroopers have already been dropped in the area north of Dacca and they have linked up with the Mutki Bahini and our ground forces.

Our forces are now closing in around Dacca from different directions. Parts of Dacca are within the range of our artillery. Since the two messages previously sent by our Chief of the Army Staff to Pakistani forces elicited no response, he addressed a third message yesterday to General Rao Farman Ali or any other officer who may be commanding the Dacca Garrison. He has referred in it to "the duty of all concerned to prevent the useless shedding of innocent blood". He has appealed to the Commander of the occupying forces to co operate with him in ensuring that this humane responsibility is fully discharged by all concerned. He has urged that in case the Dacca Garrison decides to continue to offer resistance, all civilians and foreign nationals should be removed to a safe distance from the area of conflict. I do trust that at least at this late stage General Manekshaw's advice will be heeded and wiser counsels will prevail in Dacca.

We have been deeply aware of our responsibility to the civilian population in the area of conflict. It has been agreed with the Government of Bangla Desh that protection should be provided against mob violence or any kind of maltreatment to the entire civilian population, including those who hail from outside Bangla Desh.

We have gone out of our way to make it possible for stranded foreign nationals to be evacuated from Karachi, Islamabad and Dacca. Our Air Force has refrained, during periods notified in advance, from striking at the air-fields near these towns to facilitate such evacuation. Similarly, the Indian Navy was able to re-arrange its operations so as to allow time for neutral ships to leave the Pakistani and Pak-occupied harbours. The United Nations

and a number of foreign governments have expressed their appreciation for the exceptional efforts made by our Defence Services in this direction. The enemy is, however, known to have abused the temporary suspension of our air and naval operations to land on his airfields war materials from abroad and to mine the waters around his harbours.

The Pakistan Air Force mounted pre-emptive attacks on our airfields in an attempt to destroy aircraft on the ground and render our installations and runways unserviceable. The House will be gratified to hear that they succeeded in destroying only one aircraft on the ground and all our airfields have, with the exception of short periods, remained operational throughout. On the other hand, our retaliatory attacks have inflicted substantial damage on Pakistani signal units, runways and other installations. In consequence, daylight attacks by the enemy are now few and far between. At night, however, enemy activity continues, though at a diminished level. The Pak Air Force has been providing valuable support to Pakistani ground operations in some areas. The Indian Air Force has been concentrating on disrupting the logistics of the Pakistani forces and breaking up their armoured formations and troop concentrations.

The operations of our Air Force have been of very material help to our land forces in effecting a rapid advance in Bangla Desh and in frustrating Pakistani designs on our Western borders.

Recently Pakistani bombing has become more haphazard and less accurate. It is possible that they are now deliberately attacking some civilian targets. Three days ago some villages near Jullundur were bombed with the result that civilian population suffered as many as 100 casualties. A civil hospital in Jaurian was also attacked. Some civilian areas in Srinagar

received Pakistan Air Force attention. Our Air Force has, however, continued to hit only on military targets and avoid civil areas. The House is by now aware of the truth in regard to the attack by a Pakistani aircraft on the orphanage at Dacca and blaming us for the destruction of that orphanage.

The House is aware of the daring operations mounted by the Indian Navy which succeeded in penetrating the defences of Karachi harbour and bombarding the Pakistani Naval installations from Gwadar to Karachi. In consequence, a part of the Pakistani fleet has been destroyed, the maritime connection between West Pakistan and Bangla Desh has been severed, and supplies by sea to Karachi and to Pak-occupied ports in Bangla Desh have been prevented. In addition, the Navy has been able to enforce the contraband control with discretion and flexibility. A number of Pakistani ships and a fair amount of Pakistani cargo have been impounded. The difficulties initially experienced by some neutral shipping lines with our contraband control have been resolved to their satisfaction. Neutral ships have been provided with adequate opportunity to move away from the area of conflict.

The Pakistani Navy has failed to interfere with our merchant ships. Our ports are in full working order. In all these naval operations, we have lost only one small frigate.

The House is naturally anxious to have full details of the casualties suffered by us in the severe fighting which has taken place over the last ten days. I have had all the information available till 6 P. M. yesterday tabulated. The Indian Army suffered the following casualties :—

Killed	...	1,978
Wounded	...	5,025
Missing	...	1,662

The Pakistani casualties are much higher. I do not, obviously, have accurate figures. I know, however, that so far 4,102 officers and men from Pakistani regular forces and 4,066 officers and men from their para military forces are under our custody.

We have accounted for as many as 175 Pakistani tanks so far. This includes 18 numbers captured by us in running order. Our total losses in tanks amount to only 61.

Nine Pilots and 3 Navigators of the Indian Air Force are known to have lost their lives. 36 Pilots and 3 Navigators are missing. We have lost 41 planes, including one naval aircraft.

We do not have figures of the losses of Pakistani pilots and navigators. The Pakistan Air Force is, however, known to have lost as many as 83 aircraft.

The Pak Navy has suffered grievous losses which include 2 Destroyers, 2 Minesweepers, 2 Submarines, 16 Gun Boats and 12 miscellaneous craft. The number of officers and men lost by the Pak Navy is not known to us.

The House knows that we lost only one frigate in our extensive Naval operations. 18 officers and 173 sailors are still missing from INS KHUKRI. 6 officers and 91 sailors have been rescued.

The House will, I am sure, wish me to convey its deepest sympathies to the next of kin of the gallant officers and men who have lost their lives in defending our motherland.

The House will also wish to join me in expressing our gratitude to the Defence Services for their magnificent performance in ensuring that the major part of fighting takes place on the enemy soil, that he is kept at a safe distance from our western borders and that a very substantial damage is inflicted in the process on his forces and sophisticated equipment.

A special word of praise is due to the Mukti Bahini of the Government of Bangla Desh. Their regular forces are fighting shoulder to shoulder with our Army. The dedication, keenness, energy and initiative of freedom fighters have been largely responsible for creating conditions which have compelled the occupying forces to vacate the areas occupied by them. It is our hope that through the joint operation of Bangla Desh and the Indian Forces the process of liberating Bangla Desh will soon be completed.

MR DEPUTY-SPLAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 10 A.M.

13 32 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Wednesday, December 15, 1971 | Agrahayan: 24, 1893 (Saka)