

[Shri Dinan Bhattacharyya]

but most of the naxalites were utilised by the ruling party, that is, the Congress, and these naxalites created terror in some areas to the extent that the people dared not come out. Now, these same naxalites have either joined the Congress ruling party or most of them have been put in jails. Independently, if you go into the country throughout West Bengal, you cannot find so many naxalites everywhere. But for the trouble that is still there, the Congress ruling party is mainly responsible. The police is working in a partisan way as if they are paid volunteers of the Congress ruling party. That is the behaviour of a big section of the police and the administration. We have brought this matter to the notice of the Governor, to the notice of the other officers, but to no avail.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: If you will permit me, I will continue on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: We are finishing it today.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA: There are so many Members waiting to speak. You can take it up again on Monday. (*Interruption*)

17.39 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. TIMINGS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

Before the Defence Minister starts speaking, I have to say that I have received this intimation that at the meeting which the Prime Minister had with the leaders of the opposition today at 4.30 p.m. it was decided that the Lok Sabha should sit from 10 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. from Monday, the 6th December.

I . . . and there shall be no Question Hour or Calling Attention from that day, to which I have agreed. (*Interruption*) I have already agreed. This is just for your information.

17.40 hrs.

STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION RE. ATTACK BY PAKISTAN ON INDIA

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): You are aware that Pakistan has thrust a war upon us.

The Pakistani Air Force launched pre-emptive air strikes on our airfields from 5.45 p.m. yesterday. Pakistani aircraft have attacked 12 of our airfields, namely Amritsar, Patnaikot, Srinagar, Faridkot, Halwara, Ambala, Agra, Uttarlai, Jodhpur, Jannagar, Sarsa and Sarsawa. The railway junction of Godra Road, Jammu and Barmer were also attacked. Four of the attacking aircraft have been shot down. Some of our runways were slightly damaged; no aircraft on the ground was affected; in one area the installation was slightly damaged. All our airfields are fully operational. The Pakistani objective of inflicting substantial damage through a pre-meditated pre-emptive attack has been frustrated.

The Indian Air Force responded with retaliatory attacks on Pakistani airfields, the first strike materialising last night at 11.50 p.m. Chanderi, Sherkot, Sargodha, Murid, Mianwali, Musroor (near Karachi), Risalwala (near Rawalpindi) and Changa Manga (near Lahore) have been attacked. The crew have reported to have achieved good results. They hit a number of Pak aircraft on the ground and petrol tanks were set on fire. Sargodha airfield has been damaged. The radar station in Badin (Kutch) has also been damaged. All our aircraft except one Hunter one HF-24 and one Sukoi have returned to the base.

Since 6 p.m. yesterday, the Pak Army has been shelling our positions in Poonch, Chhamb Jaurian, Amritsar, Fazilka and Pathankot. The ground attacks by Pakistani forces have been repelled in all sectors. Some of our B.S. forces in Ajnala who were across the river Ravi have however been withdrawn. Pakistan has effected similar withdrawal of their forces on our side of the river. In Poonch, we have taken 5 prisoners belonging to o. 26 PDK Battalion. At Chhamb Jaurian the Pak troops while retreating have left one dead and one wounded soldier, both belonging to No. 43 Battalion of the Punjab Regiment.

In the early hours of December 4th, our troops captured a Pak picquet 5 miles south east of Tithwal. A hill feature between Uri and Hajipur has been captured. Our troops also captured 13 prisoners including one JCO.

Pak troops in great strength supported by armour and artillery are engaged in severe fighting 30 miles west of Akhnur. We have already inflicted heavy casualties including 6 enemy tanks which were seen burning.

In Ferozepore sector, approximately one brigade of Pak troops supported by air, armour and artillery are attacking our troops in area of Hussainiwala and Ferozepore. Our troops have repulsed all attacks inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. We have also had casualties and lost some ground. The Hussainiwala bridge has been damaged.

The Indian Forces have moved into Bangla Desh at several points and are acting in concert with Mukti Bahini. Our troops in concert with the liberation forces have

taken Shamshernagar including the airfield in the Tripura and Cachar sector. Fierce fighting is still going on in the area around Akhaura. Our troops captured Saigon and Majlisipur in the Comilla sector. Thakurgaon, Darsana and Gazipur are now under our control. 42 prisoners including one JCO and one Havildar-Major belonging to 26 Frontier Force Rifles Battalion have been captured in Phulbari.

The Indian Air Force has carried out air strikes on the airfields controlled by the Pakistani Air Force in Bangla Desh. So far, 8 Pakistani Sabre jets have been shot down, four near Dacca and 3 near Jessore. We lost 2 Hunters.

The Western and Eastern Fleets of the Indian Navy are now out on their mission to seek and destroy enemy warships and to cut the maritime line of communication between West Pakistan and Bangla Desh and to deny to West Pakistani forces of occupation support from the sea. A Pakistani merchant ship was captured by one of our destroyers this morning. A party ofaval personnel has boarded the ship which has been ordered to proceed to the nearest harbour.

Units of the Eastern Fleet have also struck at Cox's Bazaar. The attack resulted in the destruction of the installations at the airfield.

The Indian Navy has instituted contraband control in respect of supplies intended for Pakistani ports. The ports in occupation of Pakistan in Bangla Desh have been blocked.

17.47 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten of the Clock on Monday, December 6, 1971, Agrahayana 15, 1893 (Saha)