

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

that we should send one of our ships, presumably a war ship, towards Christmas Island, hoping that our sending it will prevent the atomic tests. I am a great admirer, as I have said often, of Lord Russell and, specially, his crusading zeal in regard to stoppage of atomic tests and in favour of disarmament. But I confess that I have not quite understood this proposal of our sending one of our war ships to Christmas Island and what the consequences of this will be.

Shri Hem Barua: He has made this appeal to several other nations also.

Mr. Speaker: Does he want to say something about his letter?

Shri Hem Barua: Yes, Sir. The hon. Prime Minister has given a gist of my letter but that does not explain the whole matter. I have written specifically in my letter that yesterday, on the question of this capture of IAF men by Naga hostiles, the Defence Minister said: . . .

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister has said that there was some difference.

Shri Hem Barua: The Defence Minister told us yesterday:

" . . . we received a signal from the Military Attache in Rangoon which informed us that our Embassy had received an unconfirmed report that these Naga hostiles have released our IAF officers in Burmese territory"

During the question hour in the Rajya Sabha the Minister of External Affairs, Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, stated:

"The airmen are, however, still in the custody of the Naga hostiles."

Mr. Speaker: The first objection is that he cannot refer to anything that happened in the Rajya Sabha during the current session.

Shri Hem Barua: I have referred to it in order to pin-point the discrepancy here. The whole country is agitated over this question and wants to know where those people are, whether they have been released in the Burmese territory or they are still in the custody of the Naga hostiles.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I hope the hon. Member would listen as much to what others say in the same way as he wants others to listen to him. He would no doubt understand that the position is not clear. It is said, presumably by some Naga hostiles, that these airmen are in Burmese territory, surrounded by Burmese forces. Some people say that they are released, but they are not confirmed; we do not know. In fact, we are doubtful as to the fact whether the have been released yet; may be, in future they may be released.

Mr. Speaker: We will take up the next subject.

12-22 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
DISTURBANCES IN BORDER AREAS OF
MALDAH DISTRICT

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The continuing disturbances in the border areas of Maldah district in West Bengal".

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): This matter concerns the West Bengal Government. We have asked for a full report from them which we expect to receive in a day or two. The information that I have in my possession is that the incidents took place in

Maldah district in West Bengal for the first time during the Holi festival and on the Holiday because of the sprinkling of coloured water. The situation was brought under control and nothing happened for about two or three weeks. Afterwards, there was some further trouble on the 18th of April and there were attacks on both the communities, by both sides. The West Bengal Government took necessary action and a large number of arrests were made (about 76 or so) and the situation is, as far as we know, now under control. The Police Minister of West Bengal visited Maldah and has issued a statement saying that the situation there is now normal. The one allegation made was that there was some migration of Muslims from Maldah district into East Pakistan. I might say that these allegations are reported to be entirely without any foundation. As you know, Sir, this matter relates to the State Government. I know that they are doing the needful and taking necessary action in this regard.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur): May I ask a question? Open allegations have been made in the press that after the incidents took place.....

Mr. Speaker: There is only one thing that I would like to say. I could allow only one of those who have given notice to put a question or two. This cannot be made into a regular discussion. So, if Shrimati Renu Chakravartty or one or two others want to put a question, I would allow them to do that now.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I would not ask a direct question. Shri Murmu will ask a question in Bengali which I will translate.

Mr. Speaker: Then why should she not ask the question herself?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: This question relates to the tribal area.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): The hon. Member belongs

to Santhal Tribe and in this particular case the question of national integration is involved.

Shri Sarkar Murmu (Balurghat) then asked a question in Bengali

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The English translation of my non-friend's question is.

"The continuance of communal disturbances and lack of police vigilance has led to a feeling of insecurity among all sections of the people in the area. Will the Government of India pay attention to this and send help to the provincial Government to end this feeling of fear and insecurity which now permeates all sections of the community—the Hindus, Muslims and the Adivasis?"

Mr. Speaker: Unless the State Government asks for help, would the Central Government be justified in offering it?

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Now their attention has been drawn to it.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Minister want to say anything on that?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I think the West Bengal Government has taken firm action. They are quite vigilant. They have not asked for any help from us.

12.26 hrs.

RE: SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION OF PROCEEDINGS

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): Sir, there is one matter which arises out of the procedural difficulty which we just now experienced. Here was an hon. Member who spoke in a language other than English and Hindi. I remember the former Speaker having remarked in this House that with the expansion of democratic opportunities there would be coming to this House hon. Mem-