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LOK SABHA

*Saturday, May 4, 1963/Vaisakha
1885 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT- TERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IM- PORTANCE

REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF SOME SAN-
THALS BY EAST PAKISTAN POLICE

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported kidnapping of twenty-one Santhals by the East Pakistan border police."

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (**Shri Dinesh Singh**): On the 3rd of April, at about 11.30 Hours, 21 Santhals from Dumka village in the Santhal Parganas went out hunting near the India-Pakistan border at Shasani under Police Station Kalia Chak in the district of Malda. While in search of game and in the hope of meeting their former Zamindar residing in Kansat, in Rajshahi district, they wound themselves on Pakistan territory where, being without travel documents, they were apprehended by the Head Constable of the Pakistan Ajmatpur Camp situated opposite Shasani Indian Border Outpost. These Santhals were arrested and taken to the Sahib Ganj Police Station in Rajshahi district.

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From this it would appear that the Santhals were not kidnapped by the East Pakistan Border Police as reported in the newspapers, but they are detained in Pakistan for unintentionally crossing the border without travel documents. The District Magistrate of Malda has requested the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi to release these Santhals as they had crossed into Pakistan territory, inadvertently.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I am happy that they will be released, but apart from these Santhals, nearly 87 Indians are in Pakistan custody, who were kidnapped, right from Lieutenant Colonel to fishermen. I want to know whether anyone of those who have been kidnapped has so far been released and if not, whether the Prime Minister is likely to take up this matter more seriously at the Ministerial level or make it an item of agenda for the Indo-Pakistan talks?

Mr. Speaker: That is quite a different thing altogether. What has all that to do with the present calling-attention-notice which relates to Santhals? The hon. Member is referring to some persons who had been kidnapped.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is an unfortunate fact that even today, we have not got a single Indian who was kidnapped who has been released.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member can put the question whether there are adequate measures adopted so that these things may not happen.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What steps have been taken by Government at the Ministerial level to have a talk

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

with Pakistan and see that the kidnapped people are released?

Shri Dinesh Singh: In this particular case, the district magistrate of Malda has discussed this matter with the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi several times. The hon. Member, however, mentioned about the release of the people kidnapped. From time to time, those who have been kidnapped are released. Regarding the question of taking up matters at higher levels, the hon. Member referred to the case of a Lieutenant Colonel. This was taken up at the highest level in Pakistan.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In view of the fact that Pakistan has of late intensified hostile activities against us, such as kidnapping of Indian personnel, violation of our air space and all that, may I know whether these hostile activities on the part of Pakistan are a calculated attempt to pressure us, that is, India, to accept a solution of the Kashmir problem according to Pakistan's wishes?

Mr. Speaker: He has travelled a very long distance. Can the hon. Deputy Minister also do the same?

Shri Hem Barua: He is very young. He can do it.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya (Raiganj): In that matter, Shri Hem Barua is unique in Parliament.

Shri Dinesh Singh: I am inclined to agree with that, but so far as this matter is concerned, it is obvious that Pakistan is using pressure not only now but from the very beginning in all the ways that they can find.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): Has Government any latest information as to whether these people who had been kidnapped or who crossed over unintentionally to the other side, Pakistan, will be hauled before the court? If so, what legal advice or legal assistance will be forthcoming to them from our side?

Shri Dinesh Singh: So far this matter has not been brought before the court.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : सरकार अपनी फंडली टर्म्स दिखलाने के लिए लापरवाह है या यह चीज सरकार के काबू के बाहर है कि इस तरह के वाक्यात होते रहते हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप खुद नतीजा निकाल लीजिये कि सरकार दोनों में से क्या है ।

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): May I know whether Government has so far applied its mind to the basic problem out of which all such incidents spring, namely, that of discovering a suitable technique of convincing our neighbours that togetherness is the best policy with India?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I do not think India's sincerity is in doubt. We have always tried to be on the friendliest terms with Pakistan. It is for them to reciprocate. These matters, as the hon. Member has rightly said, can be settled only if there is a desire on the part of both Governments. It is now for the Pakistan Government to take steps in their own territory accordingly.

श्री ह० च० सोय (सिंहभूम) : श्री मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा कि ये संचाल लोग इनएडरटेंटली वहां चले गये और हमारे तरफ के डिप्टी कमिश्नर ने लिखा है कि इन लोगों को रिलीज कर दिया जाए । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उन लोगों का प्रासीक्यूशन होगा, य. उनको सिम्पेटिकली ट्रीट करके लौटा दिया जाएगा ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह से किडनैपिंग की घटनाएँ न होती रहीं, क्या इसका कोई इन्तिजाम हो रहा है ?

श्री विनेश सिंह : जहां तक पहले सवाल का ताल्लुक है, हम तो इसी कोशिश में हैं

कि इनको वापस आने की इजाजत मिल जाए और इन पर कोई मुकदमा न चलाया जाए क्योंकि इन्होंने ऐसा कोई बड़ा जुर्म नहीं किया है, गलती से उधर चले गये थे। जो हमारी सरहद पाकिस्तान के साथ है वह ऐसी नहीं है कि फेंस आदि लगा कर उसे ऐसा कर दिया जाए आना जाना बन्द हो जाए। पिलर लगा कर डिनारकेट कर रहे हैं, लेकिन फिर भी ऐसी चीज होना मुमकिन रहेगा।

Shri Subodh Hansda (Jhargram): Since the Santhals went over to the other side without any intent at subversive activity and it has been known to the Pakistan Government and the District Magistrate of Malda has requested the Pakistan Government to release the Santhals, what is the reaction of the Pakistan Government?

Shri Dinesh Singh: There is obviously no reaction; otherwise, they would have been released.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What are the grounds stated by the Santhals themselves for crossing the border?

Mr. Speaker: Inadvertence.

Shri Dinesh Singh: We have not been able to contact these people who have been arrested, but this is what we have been able to gather.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): In reply to Shri Subodh Hansda's question, the Minister said that there was no reply from the Pakistan Government in regard to the request of the District Magistrate of Malda for the release of these people who had gone over there inadvertently. In view of this, will the matter be taken up at a higher level immediately or is it going to be kept pending for some time?

An Hon. Member: It should be taken up at the Bhutto-Swaran Singh talks.

Shri Dinesh Singh: If necessary, the matter will certainly be taken up at higher level.

11.09 hrs.

EXODUS OF HINDU FAMILIES FROM EAST PAKISTAN INTO TRIPURA

Shri P. R. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

A large number of Hindu families from East Pakistan having crossed the border into Tripura.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): On the 1st of April, thirty-three, and not thirty-eight, Pakistani Gent in the District of Noakhali, crossed the border into Tripura at the village of Sidhinagar under Police Station Puranrajbari in Belonia Sub-Division.

They stated that they had been compelled to leave their homes and crossed over into Tripura due to their homes being looted by some members of the majority community in a raid which appeared to have been organised in advance. These families are, at present, sheltering in the Sidhinagar area and steps are being considered to grant them relief.

The Tripura Administration, in bringing this incident to the notice of the Government of East Pakistan, has lodged a strong protest against the continued oppression of the minorities in East Pakistan. The latter has been requested to restore peaceful relations in the area by imposing deterrent punishment on those responsible for this incident.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: Has there been any response from the side of

[Shri P. R. Chakraverti]

Pakistan as to whether they are willing to take them back, in view of the circumstances which obtained earlier also because of the exodus of Hajangs into Assam?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I could not say that because I do not know whether these people themselves would be willing to go back.

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): May I seek a clarification about the answer he just now read out?

Mr. Speaker: He knows the procedure. We have passed over to something else.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Where is the Deputy Minister?

11.13 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

"PROGRESS OF THE THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN"

The Minister of Planning and Labour and Employment (Shri Nanda): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of "Progress of the Third Five Year Plan". [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1291/63].

COAL MINES (CONSERVATION AND SAFETY) (SECOND AMENDMENT) RULES

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri Thimmaiah): On behalf of Shri K. D. Malaviya, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) (Second Amendment) Rules, 1963 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 709 dated the 27th April, 1963, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1292/63].

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE CUSTOMS ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): On behalf of Shri B. R. Bhagat beg to lay on the Table of copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

(i) G.S.R. No. 649 dated the 20th April, 1963.

(ii) G.S.R. No. 682 dated the 21st April, 1963.

(iii) G.S.R. No. 683 dated the 21st April, 1963.

11.12 hrs.

RE: POINT TO BE RAISED BY SHRI
 DAJI AND SHRI S. M. BANERJEE

Mr. Speaker: Shri Daji and Shri Banerjee have written to me that they want to raise some point, but I will allow this when the Law Minister is also here. I will give them some time.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The Law Minister perhaps thinks there is Question Hour today.

Mr. Speaker: Let him come. I will send him word.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): The Law Minister is out of town.

Mr. Speaker: Then he might raise it.

Shri Hajarnavis: He is likely to come on the 7th.

Mr. Speaker: Would the hon. Minister be prepared to reply to the point to be raised?

Shri Hajarnavis: No, Sir. I have no instructions.

Mr. Speaker: Of course, the information might be taken by the Whip, so that some Minister might be here who might be able to answer it.

Shri Daji (Indore): Where is the Deputy Law Minister?