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LOK SABHA

Monday, 20th December, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]
 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
 (See Part I)

12-02 P.M.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

VIOLATION OF INDIAN TERRITORY BY
 ARMED PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS

Mr. Speaker: The hon. the Prime Minister was to make a statement of facts regarding violation of Indian territory by armed Portuguese soldiers.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): On the 9th December, the hon. Member Dr. N. B. Khare, brought a motion before this House in regard to an incident on the Goa border near the village called Ain Naka in the Helgaum district. You, Sir, were pleased to ask for further information on the subject, and hence this statement.

On the 2nd December 1954, our Central Excise authorities went to Ain on receiving information that two buffaloes were to be smuggled into Goa. On arrival, they seized the cattle with the assistance of two Indian residents, of whom one was Shri Lusso Narayana Gavas. Shri Kashinath Naik, a resident of Goa on the other side of the border claimed that the

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cattle belonged to him. He was told that he could secure the return of the cattle provided he could prove ownership.

It appears that Shri Kashinath Naik returned with Portuguese Indian Police at about 7-15 P.M. that day. The Central Excise Range Officer at Air heard cries of women and children some distance from the post. He immediately rushed to the post with Excise sepoy and constables. On reaching the house of Shri Lusso Narayana Gavas, the wife of Shri Gavas as well as some neighbours stated that Shri Gavas had been dragged into Goa territory by three men, two of whom were dressed in khaki uniform and one was covered with balnket. Some time later, Shri Gavas returned from Goa territory bleeding from the mouth and with injuries on both the knees. It was also found that one of his upper teeth was missing. On being questioned, he stated that he had been squatting about 50 feet from the Goa border when two Portuguese Indian policemen ran towards him and dragged him into Goa territory after threatening him with revolvers. On shouting for help, his wife came out of the house and called out to the labourers who rushed for help and summoned the Indian authorities. Shri Gavas was subsequently removed to a local hospital for medical treatment.

That is in so far as that incident is concerned, but, with your permission, I might mention one or two other incidents that have happened.

Another incident took place on the Daman frontier on the 8th December 1954. A Portuguese European constable in uniform was seen inside Indian territory near the Customs Chowki No. 13. He was accosted and he sur-

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

rendered. He was in possession of some arms and was taken into police custody under the Indian Arms Act. He was taken to Bombay for further examination.

Then there was another incident. A ~~Report has~~ also been received that on the 30th November 1954, an Indian, Shri M. L. Naik, while proceeding to Dodamarg from Maneri on foot, was kidnapped by three persons and taken forcibly into Goan territory. Shri Naik was taken into custody by the Goa police, and detained for moving about in Goan territory near the border. In his interrogation by the Portuguese police, he was asked to furnish information regarding certain people on the Indian side of the frontier. He was told that, if he agreed to do this, he would be released. On acceptance by Shri Naik of this condition, he was released. Shri Naik lodged a complaint of kidnapping against the people concerned at Banda. The matter is under investigation.

Government are greatly concerned about these incidents and are taking steps to prevent further violations of Indian territory. Instructions have been issued that any armed person entering our territory from the Portuguese side should be arrested and held, and, where necessary, force should be used to prevent entry. Protests about these incidents have been lodged with the Portuguese authorities.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Khare is absent, and in view of the Prime Minister's statement, I do not give my consent to this adjournment motion.

STATEMENT RE HUNGER STRIKE BY POLICEMEN IN WEST BENGAL

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Kalyan): After I made my statement on the 17th instant on the situation in Calcutta, when I informed the House that about 500 of the strikers had been arrested, there was a rapid and marked improvement in the general situation. The West Bengal Gov-

ernment warned the strikers that if they did not report for duty immediately, strict disciplinary action would be taken against them, and, as a result, large numbers started giving up their fast and returned to duty. By the evening of the 18th instant, out of a total of some 3,000 constables on hunger strike in 9 affected districts, all except 85 had broken their fast. By yesterday all without exception had broken their fast. All the jail warders who had gone on hunger strike have also broken their fast and are performing their normal duties. The situation is peaceful throughout. The military have been completely withdrawn.

Shrimati Manu Chakravarty (Basirhat): On the 17th instant, the hon. Minister stated that there were no more troops and they had all been withdrawn. Mr. Tyagi also said that the troops had been withdrawn. Later on, it was ascertained that troops were still there. So, I think it is a wrong statement that was made on the floor of the House at that point of time.

Mr. Speaker: Well, it is a very irregular procedure of pointing out mistakes. As I have said, it is not a proper thing to make *ex parte* statements without giving the other side an opportunity of seeing what the mistake was and expecting from the other side a correction thereof. In fact, I was unwilling today to permit the hon. the Home Minister to make the statement which he made, for another reason. The relevancy of facts stated was only with reference to the admissibility of an adjournment motion. That having been decided, how the further course of events took place in the State of West Bengal was really no concern of this House. Of course, as citizens, we are certainly bound to feel some concern, but that is a matter to be pursued outside the House. The situation in West Bengal is a concern of the West Bengal Government. But as he wanted to make a statement, I thought he might better make it to complete the story. For that purpose the statement was allowed today.