

19 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FIRING BY PAKISTANI FORCES ON EAST-
ERN BORDER

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of three adjournment motions from Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri, Shri Hem Barua, Shri S. M. Banerjee and Shri Mohammed Elias. One says

"the reported heavy firing resorted to by armed Pakistani troops across the West Bengal-East Pakistan border against three Indian villages in Murshidabad district on 11th March, 1950,

the reported use of American ammunition by the Pak troops and additional reinforcements on the Pakistan side,

the consequent threat to people's life and property in the regions affected by Pak firing"

The other two also refer to the same incident

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampore) I want to emphasize that this is a new outbreak in that one sector of the Indo-Pak frontier where the two Prime Ministers' agreement was said to have been implemented peacefully on the 15th January last, according to the terms of that agreement and the long-standing Bagge Award. The failure of the Government arises from the fact that they did not take notice of the surprising move on the part of the Pakistan Government just after the signing of the Prime Ministers' Agreement in having replaced their border police on their side of the frontier by a crack military regiment of Pakistan, of the East Pakistan Rifles. Even before this incident started, the passage of the river traffic on Ganga and Bhagirathi was forcibly stopped, our fishermen could not resort to fishing even in our own territorial waters. Then, after one month of implementation of the agreement, this firing has been started. On the 3rd of March, I drew the attention of the Prime

Minister to the threat held out by the placing of the East Pakistan Rifles on the other side of the border

Mr. Speaker: We are concerned with the latest one. How is it very serious? If it is connected with all that has been happening all along, what is the extraordinary thing that has occurred yesterday? The Prime Minister has been saying about all the steps that have been taken

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The military units belonging to the East Pakistan Rifles have violated our border and kidnapped our nationals. They have started heavy firing. The district magistrate of Murshidabad contacted his counterpart at Rajsahi over the phone and fixed up an appointment with the Pakistan magistrate, but he did not turn up. Our three villages have been evacuated, and we do not know if there would be an attack again.

Mr. Speaker: Is this the first time we are having firing on the border?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Yes, this is the first time on that border, on the Murshidabad-Rajsahi area where the two Prime Ministers' agreement was recently said to have been implemented peacefully and where interchange of territories on either side was agreed to.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): About this I will be very brief. This is the only sector on the Indo-Pakistan border where the Nehru-Neon Agreement has been implemented on the 15th of January by some territorial transfer in a way. Though we have sustained a loss so far as the territory is concerned and Pakistan has made a gain, before the formal transfer the agreement has been violated and they have resorted to firing again in that area. Now here is a shifting of the area of operation from the Assam-East Pakistan border to the West Bengal border of East Pakistan. They have shifted from the Assam border and have resorted to firing on the West Bengal side.

[Shri Hem Barua]

Then I find there is another thing, and that is they are using American ammunition. That is what they were using on the Assam border as well, and there was information that Pakistan military forces or troops were seen moving about in American armoured vehicles. This is rather a consolidated pattern of thing and these people have been violating all the agreements and nobody knows—possibly Allah alone knows—when this agreement is going to be violated again on the East Pakistan border. And we have found, as I have pointed out yesterday, that these people are creeping into our territories and, as our Prime Minister has said, they have looted the property of our people, they have raped our women, molested our women with the result they had to be sent to hospitals and they have killed our personnel in the East Pakistan-Assam border. Now they are shifting their operation to this place where there is transfer of territory according to the Nehru-Noon Agreement.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member need not repeat.

Shri Hem Barua: Then I will say one thing. I hope you will be pleased to allow this motion. When I look at your face, a usually smiling face, I find sorrow and sadness writ large on your face because of this. I am confident that because of these unhappy incidents you will allow this motion to be discussed in this House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I do not want to take more than two minutes. I have read a very interesting piece of news that came today. Whatever has been said by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri is enough. But it is not only this. They have dug trenches and they use boats and motor launches and the people are from the armed forces. I may be wrong but it is seen that just after this recent Pact, they are trying to intensify this attack on the Indians. So, what I feel is that this may be a

calculated attack on the part of Pakistan on the initiative of America after this Pact. So, I want a reply to that from the hon Prime Minister. I may be wrong, but this is my own feeling, and it is a serious matter.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta-Central): I beg of you to admit this motion because of some special circumstances which have recently supervened, and the latest report—I am quoting from the Calcutta Statesman—is to the effect that police headquarters in Calcutta have received reports about use by the Pakistani armed forces of American ammunition in their heavy firing on three border Indian villages in Murshidabad district. We do not wish to embarrass the Government. On the contrary, we all want to have a united decision and determination in regard to this matter. The border on the eastern side of our country is being so frequently harried and now the use of American ammunition is being given ostensibly from official sources and, therefore, I feel that there is a qualitative change in the situation, and so it is absolutely necessary that we adjourn our business for a short while to express our sense of importance of this kind of things which are supposed to have happened. It may be that the Prime Minister's Government have other material at their command, but these reports appeared—and these reports ostensibly are from official sources—and are appearing in all the national newspapers, and that being so, and when those who are representing the constituencies on the border are getting repeated information about the perturbation of the people, it is only proper that Parliament takes a very serious view of the situation and adjourns its business for a short while. I know that it might be pointed out that we are going to have opportunities for discussing all kinds of things during the budget discussion and the Demands for Grants, but this is a matter of such special significance, and this is a matter which seems to

violate certain assurances allegedly given by the American Government to our country, this is a matter of such international importance as well as deleterious to the interests of the country, that we should have a very serious discussion as soon as possible and that is why I beg of you to give your mind to this matter very seriously and permit a discussion of this motion by way of adjournment

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad)
May I say only one word about the Pakistan ammunition? As a matter of fact, that may change our foreign policy. So I request you to please admit this motion.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura)
May I say a word?

Mr Speaker. I am not going to allow a general discussion.

Raja Mahendra Pratap. I have only one point.

Mr Speaker: No. The hon Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru). Sir, in the course of the discussion on the motion for adjournment, hon Members have gone into a number of facts and allegations.

I need not say how exceedingly distressing and frustrating this experience is, of this kind of frontier forays to go on. As I pointed out the other day in terms of damage it may not be much.

Shri Hem Barua: It is much.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Sir, if you will permit me to say so, but something much more than physical damage is the extreme annoyance and insecurity which is caused in those areas.

I said then, and I repeat it again today, that it is not a question of our border being aggressed upon, aggression taking place. We are adequately prepared to meet any such thing, but it is a little difficult to deal with a

situation where across the border firings take place. Normally it is across the border. It is very seldom that actual physical aggression takes place.

In the present case, as far as I have been able to gather, and as hon Members have pointed out, it is a little patch of territory which was exchanged in Murshidabad on the 15th of January, and an argument arose about the harvesting in the field of linseed and that led to it, but the main point that has been stressed is that apparently American arms were used.

Now, I should like to make that clear in so far as our information goes, and I should like these two things to be kept quite apart—that is the question arising from the signing of this treaty recently between the United States and Pakistan, the military aid treaty, and the border raids. I do not think there is any connection between these.

The hon Member opposite read out something from the *Statesman*. I have no information on that point, and I can say nothing, how far that is true or not. Also, it should be remembered that if any American equipment is found, it cannot be said that that has not been bought in the normal course of business, or it is a part of the aid given. When previously once I mentioned that some American equipment had been found, that was so on the cease-fire line in Kashmir State,—some equipment, fuses and other things which could not otherwise be obtained. Therefore, we could say with some assurance that it might have come not through the normal processes, although even there all these are small arms, and small arms can easily be bought in the market, and it is impossible for us to say whether they were normally purchased or had come in the way of military aid.

Anyhow, much information as we possessed was that these fuses and some other equipment of that type which we found in the cease-fire line was of American manufacture. That

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is definite. How it came there, whether by purchase or aid, I do not know. We have received no information yet which we may call definite, that any American equipment has been found on the eastern border. There are press reports. I cannot say anything about them, because I have no information on that subject.

Therefore, I would beg that this question of American mutual aid treaty with Pakistan should be kept apart, because I do not think it has any basic connection, except, of course, that any military aid that comes to Pakistan tends to make Pakistan more aggressive. That is almost a natural consequence of that aid.

Shri Hem Barua: Naturally, they cannot allow the American arms and ammunitions that they are getting to rot and rust, they must make use of them.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: This is a curious argument, and that argument would lead us far, in every country which possesses arms we do not allow them to rot and rust, and therefore we must go about using them on our neighbours. But, as a matter of fact, the kind of equipment, the normal small arms that are used in such forays are, most of them I might presume, manufactured locally. We do not use big guns in these little forays. They are presumably of Pakistan manufacture, some bought from abroad. The necessity for aid to other countries arises not for small arms, but for large bigger things, for aircraft, for armour and all that. That is where aid comes in, that is important, for expensive things which are not made in the country. Small arms and ammunition are usually manufactured, maybe some of them are obtained from abroad. Anyhow, I wish to make it clear also, because I had referred to this matter previously, that the only definite information we have about some American equipment being used

was in the cease-fire line in respect of which we cannot say whether it was purchased in the ordinary course, or formed part of the military aid programme.

In regard to the eastern border, about this firing, I have got here reports with me from the District Magistrate, Murshidabad, etc.

Mr. Speaker: Is this the first time that this border is affected?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. This is the first time, in the sense of the last few days, four or five or six days.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There had been kidnapping.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: On the 6th, that is so. It is on the same pattern with the other things. I will gladly read out all the telegrams if the House so wishes, the protest made and all that, the normal things being done. I might add, of course, that when there is firing from the Pakistan side, there is firing in reply from our side.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: I would only like to know from the Prime Minister what steps we are taking. I do not mean going to war, but our side of the border is guarded merely by the border police of the West Bengal Government, and if my information is correct, the District Magistrate of Murshidabad contacted the West Bengal Government, and the latter sent some reinforcements which they have in Barrackpore, which is about 100 miles from my district. So, what about guarding of our borders? Why don't you put an army unit, or whatever it is, any effective unit which may stand up, and at least put some morale into the local population.

And mind you, this is a Muslim majority area. About 5 per cent of the people are Muslims. It is the Muslims there who are suffering. The policy of Pakistan is to break down their morale.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member has just said that according to his information reinforcements have been sent. That is true, of course, that forces have been sent. It would not be proper for me to give details as to where what has been sent.

There is one aspect of this matter which I should like to place before the House. According to our thinking, the military situation is not dangerous, from the larger point of view. That does not mean, of course, that inconvenience is not caused or harassment or some damage or some insecurity. Now, it appears to be the policy of the Pakistan Government just to play about with this border, to force us to send forces here and there, in the sense that they fire there, let us suppose, and we send some force there, and they fire elsewhere. If there was a kind of conflict, of course, one meets, and one cannot keep large armies standing hand in hand in the border.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): Why not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Because that is neither military tactics nor other tactics. It does not help much.

Shri Vajpayee: When border violations are going on, and Pakistan is bent upon creating trouble on the border, in spite of the Nehru-Noon Agreement, why can't we post our army on the border?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our army is on the border. Armies are not spread out in that manner, armies are kept on the border, whether on the west or on the east. They do not stand shoulder to shoulder on the border looking across. That is the best way.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: If the Prime Minister will permit me

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have heard sufficiently.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: One minute. I will only ask for some information.

I do not mean that army should be placed on the border, a standing army, now, but how do you prevent the recurrence of these things? The other day we heard from the hon. Deputy Minister of External Affairs that the Pakistani Army intruded on our border and kidnapped 21 Indian nationals, then took them away, convicted them in their military courts and sent them to jail. We have not been able to get them released. Now again they intrude on our border, kidnap some other people and we stand helpless. Do something about it, for God's sake.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: There was the sad story of the fishermen who were mercilessly beaten.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I think the hon. Member is referring to some fishermen being kidnapped.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: No, no, not fishermen. It was a jute-laden boat with 21 Indian nationals going to Nawadwip via Ganga. They were kidnapped and taken. Our Government says that they trespassed into our territory, kidnapped our nationals and took them to Pakistan, convicted them and put them in jail. A nice state of affairs!

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I said, the territory in this case consisted of the bed of the river. And the Pakistanis arrested them because they said they were on their side of the river which admittedly is their side. Now, of course, it is an extraordinary state of affairs when people

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: But the hon. Prime Minister forgets that it was his statement or rather his Deputy Minister's statement that they trespassed into our territory, we did not trespass into their territory.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I venture to repeat that the territory concerned is the river, and the boundary is the middle of the river. It is our case that these people were on this side of the centre of the current of the river, it is their case that they came

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over. I do not think any human being can be hundred per cent positive as to how to demarcate the middle of a river

Shri Hem Barua: It is difficult to stick to that

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It may be so, what I am submitting is that it seems to me absurd for people not to have free traffic in a river, whichever side the half may be. The difficulty comes in where people fish, then certain rights are involved, whether you fish in the waters of another country or not

The hon Member knows that we have cases of dacoity. Now, how do we deal with the dacoits, when they run away? Here in Rajasthan, kidnapping takes place. It is unfortunate that the broad policies of Pakistan or at any rate, the local people, seem to resemble those that we see in some parts of dacoity-infested areas in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: But it was the Army which did that

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That is not the Army. The Army protects, but no Army in the world protects or does police work in each home, it cannot. No Army can protect you from dacoits. You deal with the dacoits and crush them in the area or do what you can

I do submit that two things must be kept clear in our minds, that is, the security of the border generally and that of the people there. I think that the security of the border from the point of view of any aggression is sufficiently guarded by our Armed Forces, and it is just because the Pakistanis want that security not to be so guarded as it is, that they create diversions, petty diversions, all over, so that the people may get excited and run about from place to place and thereby somewhat lessen the arrangements made for the security of the border. Naturally, as every Member

of this House is anxious, first of all, about the security of the border, and secondly about the security of the people at the border and all that, we are all anxious, and we are very much concerned over this kind of thing happening. And to the best of our ability, our Army is in charge; our Army Commander does not require any orders from me, the Army Commander is in charge of the border, he can go where he thinks it is best for him to go. We have to leave the choice to him, we cannot order him from here, go here and go there. The responsibility is his. The primary responsibility is of the local police who are there, the border police, but the overall responsibility is of the Army Commander for that area. They are in constant touch with each other, and it will not be a good thing for us to interfere with their judgment, and the responsibility is theirs

Shri A. C. Guha (Baraset): May I ask one question? What happens to the people

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any more questions now

Shrimati Manjula Devi (Goalpara): May I make one suggestion?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: May I say a word?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow any more questions. I understand that so far as the raids on this particular border are concerned, they are a new thing, and a number of people are agitated, so far as this matter is concerned. Everything is, no doubt, being done

✓ I do not treat every adjournment motion as a censure on Government. The hon Prime Minister has said that he has got a number of letters from the District Collector and so on

✓ So far as this matter is concerned, as it has constantly been coming up, and apart from that, a new turn has taken place, I wish this House should discuss this matter. It is not a matter

of adjournment in the sense that there is any censure, but I would like that this matter should be discussed specially, and I shall allow this matter to be discussed this afternoon, at five o'clock, after the general discussion of the Budget is over, and the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill is also passed. Let us discuss for an hour or an hour and a half.

Those in favour of giving leave may kindly rise in their seats.

(More than fifty Members rose)

We shall take it up at five o'clock, since leave is granted.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): Today?

Mr. Speaker. Yes, today.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What is the time allotted?

Mr. Speaker: An hour or an hour and a half.

Shri S. M. Banerjee. Let it be two hours.

Mr. Speaker. No, no.

12.26 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORTS OF EASTERN SHIPPING CORPORATION AND WESTERN SHIPPING CORPORATION FOR 1957-58

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 639 of the Companies Act 1956, a copy of each of the following reports —

(i) Annual Report of the Eastern Shipping Corporation Limited for the year 1957-58; (Placed in Library, See No LT-1274/59)

(ii) Annual Report of the Western Shipping Corporation (Private Limited for the year 1957-58 (Placed in Library, See No LT-1273/59)

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of each of the following notifications.—

(i) GSR No 248 dated the 28th February, 1959, containing the Madras Paddy (Export Control) Order, 1959,

(ii) GSR No 249 dated the 28th February, 1959, containing the Madras Paddy (Transport Restriction) Order, 1959,

(iii) GSR NO 285 dated the 4th March, 1959, and

(iv) GSR No 288 dated the 6th March, 1959, making certain further amendments to the Uttar Pradesh Paddy (Restriction on Movement) Order, 1958 (Placed in Library, See No LT-1275/59)

12.27 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume general discussion on the Budget. The time allotted is 20 hours excluding the time needed for Government's reply. The time taken is 16 hours and 42 minutes, the balance of time at our disposal is 3 hours and 18 minutes. How long does the Minister expect to take?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I shall take something more than an hour, about an hour and a quarter or something like that.

Mr. Speaker: We shall assume that he would take an hour and a half. So, we shall be able to finish by five o'clock.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): Shri Yadav was to be called last evening. He belongs to my party, and he was to be called last evening, but