

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVE'S LETTER TO  
SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri (Nabad-wip):** Under Rule 197, I beg to 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 letter of the Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the President of the Security Council making allegations against India."

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** According to reports in the Press, the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations has sent to the President of the Security Council a letter on the 11th April, 1958, making certain allegations against the Government of India. Government have not received the authorised text of the letter. But from the report in the press it appears that this letter is full of false and baseless allegations and is a part of the campaign of hatred and calumny which Pakistan pursues against India.

Except for the area of Jammu and Kashmir State which is illegally occupied by Pakistan by force, the State, as a part of the Federal Union of India, enjoys autonomy which is granted under the Constitution to the States. There is a Legislature elected by adult suffrage and a Government responsible to that Legislature. This Government has been formed by the National Conference Party of the Jammu and Kashmir State who have a considerable majority in the Legislature. The Opposition Parties have freedom to criticise and comment on the activities of Government. Indian and foreign newspapers have their correspondents there who have freedom to report.

For many months past, as is well-known, a deliberate campaign of sabotage in the State has been organised from Pakistan and a large number of

bomb outrages have taken place. Cases have been instituted in the law courts in connection with this campaign. There was also recently a deplorable incident at Hazratbal which involved the killing of one person and injuries to a large number as also the destruction of property. Seventy persons have been arrested in connection with this Hazratbal incident for murder, or rioting or other charges. These are in judicial custody as under-trials. It is totally untrue to say that the number of arrested persons amounts to thousands.

There are thirty-three persons in detention in Jammu and Kashmir State at present.

In view of the organised campaign of sabotage and rioting, the District Magistrates in three of the Districts have promulgated Rule 50 of the Defence Rules in order to prevent lawlessness and acts of violence and rioting. This rule requires permissions to be taken for meetings and processions. There is no bar on religious gatherings. Those committing a breach of this Rule are dealt with under the ordinary processes of the law.

The Army has nothing to do with any preventive measure or police duties. The allegation that the Army has been used against the civil population is wholly untrue. As is well known, its function is to defend the country against external aggression.

In spite of the subversive and sabotage activities, chiefly engineered by Pakistan, life in the Jammu and Kashmir State is normal. The tourist season has started and hundreds of visitors including a large number of foreigners are going to Kashmir daily. On Sunday last, 13th April, Baisakhi was celebrated with great enthusiasm and thousands of people of all communities as also some foreign tourists, visited the Mughal Gardens in Srinagar to celebrate the holiday.