

(c) the decisions arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) On the 5th February, 1958.

(b) and (c). A statement mentioning important decisions taken by the Board is attached. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 69.]

Displaced Persons Colonies

1855. { Shri B. K. Galkwad:
Shri D. A. Katti:

Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 604 on the 10th August, 1955 and state the break up of the figures of 3844 houses and the amount of Rs. 2,93,73,746 showing separately for each colony at Delhi such as West Patel Nagar, East Patel Nagar, South Patel Nagar, and Malkaganj etc., the houses sold to displaced persons (i) on full payment; (ii) on instalment basis; and (iii) by public auction?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri P. S. Naskar): A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 70].

13 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF HEAVY ELECTRICALS PRIVATE LIMITED

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (1) of Section 639 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the Annual Report of the Heavy Electricals Private Limited, along with the audit report for the year 1956-57. [Placed in Library. See, No. LT-630/58]

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORKING AND ADMINISTRATION OF COMPANIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under Section 638 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the General Annual Report on the working and administration of Companies Act, 1956, for the year ending the 31st March, 1957. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-631/58]

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

FIFTH REPORT

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): Sir, on behalf of the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, I beg to present the Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research on the subject, 'Cultural and International Activities'.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRING BY PAKISTAN TROOPS

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Janjgir): Sir, under the Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and to request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Firing by Pakistani troops across Sylhet-Cachar border".

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): Sir, a number of Calling Attention notices and Short Notice Questions have been tabled in the last few days in connection with the Indo-Pakistan border incident along the Surma river between Cachar district of Assam and Sylhet district of East Pakistan. There was also a motion for adjournment in regard to this incident on

27th, to which you, Sir, after some discussion, declined to give your consent. I fully appreciate the concern felt by the House and I am glad to have this opportunity to make a statement on the nature of the border problem involved, the recent firing and the action taken by the Indian authorities.

The Indo-Pakistan boundary, according to the Radcliffe Award, runs along the left high bank of the river Surma for a length of about 13 miles between Cachher district of Assam and Sylhet district of East Pakistan. The entire breadth of the river in this region has been under our control since partition. It was in January 1950 that the Government of Pakistan, while dealing with the request from the Government of India to give necessary facilities to the Assam survey and settlement staff to go across to the left bank of the river in connection with settlement operations in the Cachher district, raised the question that the mid-stream of the river should be the Indo-Pakistan boundary. There have been exchanges of notes in this connection and there has been no reply from the Government of Pakistan to our last note dated 3rd March, 1956, which established beyond doubt that, under the Radcliffe Award, the Indo-Pakistan boundary in this region runs along the left high bank of the river Surma.

Throughout the last few years, Pakistani citizens, encouraged and, in some cases, assisted by Pakistani local authorities in the area, have been attempting to contest Government of India's sovereignty over the entire breadth of the river upto the last bank, particularly by attempting cultivation of Char lands alongside the left bank of the river. Indian authorities have in each case protested against these attempted violations of Indian territory and, when necessary, fired in self-defence. Incidents similar to the recent one occurred in November-December 1954, February 1956, November 1956 and October 1957. In all these incidents, Indian

authorities acted promptly to protect our sovereign rights in the area. Pakistani cultivators encouraged or supported by local Pakistani authorities take advantage of the continuous land connection with Pakistani territory and attempt to raise crops on the char lands in the river bed. Our local authorities, therefore, have to take necessary remedial action by protests and, when necessary, by firing in self-defence to contain these attempted violations of our territory.

The recent incident started on the 11th March when Pakistani nationals supported by Pakistani armed forces personnel attempted to harvest crops planted illegally by them in the Char lands in the Surma river. When the Indian Police patrol protested, they were fired upon and had to return the fire in self-defence. The unprovoked firing later spread from the Rangpur-Leverputa area to Harinagar, Bhanga, Mahisasan, Barpunji, Latu and Madanpur areas between 11th and 27th March despite a cease-fire agreement arrived at on 21st March. Throughout this period, the District Magistrate of Cachher who had kept in constant touch with his Pakistani counterpart, the District Magistrate of Sylhet, sent several protests against the firing and gave strict instructions to our police personnel not to fire except strictly in self-defence. The Assam Government also sent five protests to the East Pakistan Government at Dacca on 12th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 26th March. Our latest information is that a second cease-fire has been arrived at on the 27th and firing has completely stopped in this region since the afternoon of 27th March.

Demarcation of the Indo-East Pakistan boundary of 2,480 miles has been going on since 1950. 1,017 miles out of a total 1,350 miles of the West Bengal-East Pakistan border have been demarcated. 200 miles out of a total of 609 miles of the boundary between Assam and East Pakistan have been demarcated. Little progress has been made on the demarcation of the boundary between East Pakistan and

[Shrimati Lakshmi Menon]

Tripura. The House will appreciate that demarcation of land boundaries is a complex and laborious process involving agreement on each yard of the boundary, which is determined from revenue records, maps and ground surveys. This process is difficult even in normal disputes between villages regarding their land boundaries. It is more difficult when inter-state boundaries even within Indian territory are involved. It is still more complicated by the nature of the terrain between Assam and East Pakistan, particularly when it is realised that this is a joint operation between the two sovereign Governments of India and Pakistan, relations between whom, for various reasons, have, throughout the last 11 years, been extremely difficult. We are going ahead with the demarcation of the boundary as best as we can but the pace of demarcation is not a matter entirely within our control.

Incidents of this type are unavoidable while the frontier remains undemarcated. We have always been anxious to settle all differences, including differences regarding boundary between India and Pakistan, by negotiation but we cannot surrender rightful territorial claims merely because the other side makes a show of force. At the same time, we are averse to taking any hasty or ill-considered action which would unnecessarily worsen Indo-Pakistan relations further and give rise to graver problems. Our local authorities have acted with firmness and circumspection and there has been no loss of life despite repeated firing between the 11th and 27th of March.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY—*contd.*

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion on the

Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply. Out of 4 hours allotted for these demands, 3 hours 40 minutes now remain.

The list of selected cut motions relating to these Demands has already been circulated to the hon. Members on the 28th March, 1958. These cut motions may be moved subject to their being otherwise admissible. The number are as follows:

Demand Nos.	Nos. of Cut Motions
94	796
96	1007 to 1018, 1022 to 1034, 1049 to 1076, 1143
97	505

Failure to implement the subsidised industrial housing scheme

Shri Ghosal (Uluberia): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct quarters for work-charged staff of C.P.W.D. working in airfields in Assam.

Shri Easwara Iyer (Trivandrum): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Need to construct quarters for work-charged staff of C.P.W.D. working in various airfields

Shri Easwara Iyer: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Other Civil Works' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.