

**VIOLATION OF CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ON ASSAM-PAKISTAN BORDER**

**Mr. Speaker:** There is another set of adjournment motions tabled by some hon. Members regarding firing along the Assam-Pakistan border. *Prima facie*, they are out of order inasmuch, as this is a continuing one. From time to time, they are making raids here. The hon. Prime Minister has explained it by saying that very often they come in not for any purpose of establishing a right to the border. Anyhow, one single case has been mentioned here, 'the incident of Mahisaadun-Madanpur area in Assam on the 26th March, 1958, in violation of the cease-fire agreement of 21st March.

Is the hon. Minister in a position to make any statement?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):** Sir, this is in continuation of the firings which started on the 11th March on the border between East Pakistan and Assam. There have been constant firings since then and a cease-fire agreement between the two authorities had taken place on the 21st. And, this is in violation of that cease fire agreement. There have been no casualties. This has been almost an annual feature because it happens in a disputed area over which there is a boundary dispute between Pakistan and India. The river is regarded as the boundary between the two areas; but Pakistan claims the midstream as the boundary. Therefore, whenever *char* lands appear and cultivation begins, at the time of harvest the Pakistani civilians helped by the military personnel and police forces come and raid our territory.

A question has already been admitted for the 31st and the Prime Minister will make a detailed statement on the 31st of this month.

**Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati):** This incident, is not the first of its kind. I submit, Sir, this is a very serious matter because it disturbs the peace of the border there. I would just draw the attention of the hon. Minis-

ter to the fact that during the latter half of 1957, there were as many as 27 incidents of Pakistan vandalism on the Assam border. From now, from the 11th March, there had been frequent reports of shooting into Indian territory and it continued to, the 21st March. On the 21st March, we entered into a cease-fire agreement with the East Pakistan Government. But, then, no sooner the ink was dry on this agreement, they reported to firing once again on the 26 March.

The usual answer is given by Government—and we are accustomed to it—that we are lodging protests with the Pakistan Government. We have lodged protests with the Pakistan Government; but, if there is insecurity like this, insecurity to life and property, we should do something positive. We have no patrol corps whereas the Pakistan people have theirs using automatic weapons including eight machine guns as well in order to shoot into the Indian territory. We do not protect our border. We do not have our Army here. We do not shoot. We open our frontiers to them. The demarcation of the border line—609 miles which is the Assam-Pakistan border—has to be done out of which, during all these years, only 180 miles have been demarcated. The huge boundary line has not yet been demarcated. Why is it so? We have failed and we have proved our impotency against East Pakistan vandalism.

**Mr. Speaker:** As the question will come up on the 31st, further supplementary questions may be asked on that question. It is not a matter of recent occurrence. It is unfortunate; it has been continuing for a long time. Of course, the hon. Member has said that better and more sufficient precautions ought to be taken. If anything more has to be said, there will be opportunities during other debates to take up this matter more seriously. Therefore, I do not think I am called upon to give my consent to this adjournment motion.