

Shri M. B. Masani: I had given two notices. Do I understand that both of them will stand over till tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: Both of them will stand over till tomorrow.

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

FOURTH REPORT

Shri Barman (Cooch-Bihar—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to present the Fourth Report of the Committee on Petitions.

12. hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.

LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN EAST PAKISTAN AND WEST BENGAL

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty (Basirhat): 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 exact definition of the line demarcating the border between the District of Khulna-Jessore in East Pakistan and P.S. Baduria-Swarupnagar along the river Ichhamati in the District of 24 Parganas in India.”

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): The boundary between East Pakistan and West Bengal in the region of Indian Police Stations Swarupnagar and Baduria, runs along the district boundary between Khulna in East Pakistan and 24 Parganas in West Bengal. The boundary along these two

Police Stations is a land boundary. The river Ichhamati does not form the boundary between India and Pakistan so far as Police Stations Swarupnagar and Baduria are concerned.

A misunderstanding appears to have arisen in regard to the settlement arrived at during the recent meeting of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan about some minor points of dispute on the West Bengal-East Pakistan border, along the 24 Parganas-Jessore and 24 Parganas-Khulna district boundaries. This settlement refers to a portion of the boundary along the Ichhamati river running on the east of the Police Station Gaighata. In regard to this portion of the boundary a dispute had arisen between the Survey authorities of India and Pakistan as to the basis of demarcation. The total area involved is about 550 acres. According to the agreement reached, the mean of the respective claims of India and Pakistan in this portion of the boundary would be adopted taking the river as a guide, as far as possible.

The misunderstanding with regard to this agreement appears to have arisen from a belief that the Ichhamati river throughout its stretch in the 24 Parganas has been made the Indo-Pakistan boundary. This interpretation is incorrect. The agreement in no way affects the boundaries of the Police Stations Swarupnagar and Baduria which will continue to remain within India in their entirety.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that under Rule 9(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I have appointed Shri Jaipal Singh as a Member of the Panel of Chairmen.