

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

RAID BY PAKISTANI NATIONALS

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): Under Rule 197 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, 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:—

Raid by Pakistani Nationals on Indian territory of Char Pirojpur-Bajitpur.

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): On behalf of the Prime Minister, I beg to make the following statement

The Pirojpur-Bajitpur Char where this incident occurred was formed as a result of erosion of portions of Pirojpur-Bajitpur villages in 1952-53. The dispute regarding possession of this char was settled by the District Magistrates of Murshidabad and Rajshahi, at a meeting held on 27th January, 1955, and it was decided that the Char should be left as a sort of "No Man's land" till the area was surveyed by the Directors of Land Records and Surveys of West Bengal and East Pakistan in order to ascertain to which country it belonged. No police control of either side was to be exercised there.

A dispute regarding the land which had recently been added to the Char as a result of the action of the river arose in January, 1958. The District Magistrates of Murshidabad and Rajshahi met on the 8th January, 1958 at the spot to discuss the dispute. They decided that the agreement of January, 1955, should be honoured and that the new area of the Char should also be treated as disputed territory and that the Police patrols of both sides should be withdrawn from the area pending survey and demarcation. The District Magistrates also agreed that cultivators having lands in the new Char should

be allowed to cultivate them and to take away their crops without any interference from either side.

Following this agreement, Indian nationals having lands in the Char started cultivation early in February, 1958. They constructed small temporary huts to keep their bullocks and agricultural implements. About mid-day on the 17th February when Indian cultivators were sowing paddy seeds, some 150 Pakistani nationals of Jaharpur in Rajshahi District, armed with deadly weapons and two guns, attacked the Indian cultivators in the Char. The Indian cultivators fled leaving their bullocks and belongings behind. The Pakistani raiders burnt the huts of the Indian cultivators and took away 8 pairs of bullocks and ploughs and ten maunds of paddy seeds and some utensils.

A strong protest has been lodged by the West Bengal Government with the East Pakistan Government. The West Bengal Government has been requested to send further details about the incident and also to furnish information about further developments since their protest with the East Pakistan Government and the arrangements made for grant of relief to the victims of this incident.

The Pirojpur-Bajitpur Char lies in the reverine area along the river Ganga between Murshidabad District in West Bengal and Rajshahi District in East Pakistan. The boundary in this sector was in dispute but the dispute was settled by the award of the Bagge Tribunal. Demarcation of the boundary in this sector has been carried out and Government of West Bengal are taking steps carried out in consultation with the Government of East Pakistan for exchange of areas shown, as a result of the demarcation, to be in wrongful possession of either side.

The reverine areas of the boundary, however, present one difficulty. The Charlands in the area do not after submergence, reappear in their original positions. When the flood water recedes and Chars reappear, it

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is not always clear whether they fall in Indian territory or Pakistan territory. The Governments of West Bengal and East Pakistan have agreed to a scheme of joint seasonal demarcation of the revenue areas where Chars arise from changes in the river channels. This will prevent future border incidents of this type.

This agreement regarding seasonal demarcation will be put into force after the exchange of areas in wrongful possession of either side has been effected.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): With your permission, I beg to announce the business for this House for the week commencing 10th March, 1958. The order of business will be as under:—

- (1) Further discussion and voting of Demands for Grants for 1958-59 in respect of Railways;
- (2) Introduction, consideration and passing of Appropriation Bills in respect of Railways and vote on account in respect of the General Budget;
- (3) Consideration and passing of—(a) the Control of Shipping (Continuance) Bill; (b) The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha;
- (4) General discussion of the General Budget;

(5) It is also proposed that a discussion on the Seventh Report of the Union Public Service Commission for the year 1956-57 and the Government's Memorandum thereon, on a motion to be moved by Sarvashri H. C. Mathur and N.R.M. Swamy be held on Thursday, March 13, at 15.00 hours.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) BILL

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1957-58 for the purpose of Railways, be taken into consideration"

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1957-58 for the purpose of Railways, be taken into consideration"

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper, be granted to the President, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1959, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos 1 to 137"

The motion was adopted

[The motions for Demands for Grants, on account, which were adopted by Lok Sabha are reproduced below—Ed.]