

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 109].

(c) The recommendations will be considered by Government and communicated to the authorities concerned for appropriate action.

12 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ATTACK ON THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION IN KARACHI

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of a number of adjournment motions—as many as eight—and also calling attention notices on the same subject. The purpose is this. I will read only the first one: assault on the office of the Indian High Commission in Pakistan. This is the substance of the calling attention notices also. News has appeared in the newspapers.

Shri Muhammed Elias (Howrah): May I submit.....

Mr. Speaker: What is the submission? Let us know the position.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Sir, I can well understand the feeling among the hon. Members in regard to these occurrences in Pakistan, more especially the attack on our Chancery there. I shall state the facts as have reached us.

On the 24th February, at 3.30 P.M., there was a small demonstration in front of the Chancery in Karachi protesting against the Jabalpur disturbances. This procession consisted of about 25 street urchins carrying single banner in one black flag. That is on the 24th. They shouted objectionable slogans against the Prime Minister and otherwise also rather provocative slogans. A large contingent of police on duty which had warned the High Commission in advance of the demonstration dispersed them after half an hour of ineffective slogan shouting.

Then, the next day there were two demonstrations—on the 25th February. The first was led by a procession of about 400 school children and a few college boys. They shouted slogans in front of the Chancery for about half an hour from 12.30 to 1 P.M. and then dispersed.

The second procession consisting of about 600 persons, composed principally of goondas, came later to the Chancery at 3.30 P.M. and after a few minutes of passive slogan shouting against India and the Prime Minister started throwing stones and brickbats at the Chancery, practically breaking all the windows and seriously damaging the cars of the High Commission and our officers, parked outside in the compound of the Chancery. A funeral pyre was lit in front of the Chancery and burning sticks and rags thrown into the building. Although the compound gates were closed and the mob was not allowed to go into the Chancery premises by the police, some of our personnel were hurt by stones thrown into the Chancery and by glass splinter. The High Commissioner reports that the injuries were superficial. He himself had received a minor scar on the nose from a flying glass splinter.

What is most objectionable about the incident is that all this was done with some sort of an obvious police complicity. The police had advance information and they had indeed warned the High Commission of the possibility of demonstration. The demonstrations lasted full thirty minutes with merely a hundred policemen present and looking on. About forty policemen had come to the spot in advance and others arrived apparently after the demonstration started. The police allowed a truck and one or more donkey cart, filled with stones to be brought into the locality and unloaded in front of the Chancery while all other traffic was diverted from the area. The demonstrators helped themselves to these stones

with which they pelted the Chancery premises while the police looked on. The High Commission's telegram to us says that finally at 4.40 P.M. the police blew their whistle and the crowd melted away leaving our compound littered with thousands of stones, broken glass and burning rags. That is, in so far as these incidents are concerned.

The acting High Commissioner called on the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan immediately after the incident and protested strongly against all these happenings. He also handed over to the Pakistan foreign office an *aide-memoire* requesting the Foreign Secretary to enquire into these incidents and ensure that full protection was given to the Indian High Commission and its officers. He had also added that the Government of Pakistan would no doubt offer appropriate restitution and adequate compensation for the damage suffered.

The Foreign Secretary, Shri Ikramulla, told the Acting High Commissioner that he was sorry to hear of the incident and he was surprised at what had happened and he would make enquiries into the matter and promised to speak to the Foreign Minister in Rawalpindi on the telephone. He is reported to have added that whatever be the rights and wrongs, there should have been no violence and the Indian High Commission was entitled to protection. That is in so far as Karachi is concerned.

Next day, after this report came in, our Acting High Commissioner again saw the Pakistan Foreign Secretary who told him that the Foreign Minister had telephoned to him from Rawalpindi expressing his great regret at what had happened. A protest was also made here by our Commonwealth Secretary to the Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi. These are the facts.

There was some continuation of this and subsequently section 144 or some equivalent section was applied by the authorities in Karachi. Yesterday, I think, some trouble continued—not in our Chancery but—in city generally. But I had not got a full report of that and I do not wish to say much about it before I have accurate details.

Shri Muhammed Elias: The incident of such a serious nature which has happened in Karachi has roused the indignation and anger of all the people in India especially the minority community here; they are very much perturbed over this. Every section of our people has condemned these things that had been done in Karachi. It has a chain reaction. It has started from the speech of President Ayub Khan. He has made a speech at Dacca and he has compared the Jabalpur incident with the murder of Patrice Lumumba. In this respect, we want to say to President Ayub Khan that he should not interfere with the internal affairs of India. Although I belong to the Opposition Communist Group and I have got many differences with the Prime Minister, I can very confidently say that so long as Prime Minister Nehru is there, there is no danger to the life and property of the minority community. But a section of the people in Pakistan, including President Ayub Khan are interfering in this matter and they are creating trouble in India.

In this respect, I want to appeal to the Prime Minister to look into this matter. He should also try to make President Ayub Khan understand that he should not interfere with Indian affairs. At the same time, the incident in Karachi should not be taken as an act of the people of Pakistan. It is an act of hooligans. It has also been condemned by the democratic students' organisation and many other sections of people in

[Shri Muhammed Elias]

Pakistan. We should tell the Pakistani people that here in India, the people belonging to the minority community are safe due to the goodwill of the majority community here. The Jabalpur incident also has been condemned by every section of the people in India.

I am expressing this feeling because I come from the minority community and every man belonging to the minority community is very much perturbed by this incident. That is why I am expressing my feeling about these happenings which have occurred in Karachi and which have been witnessed during the last two or three days.

In this respect, I want to request the Government to ask the people of our country not to take any retaliation, as the Prime Minister also stated yesterday at the meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party, and all Members of the House should try to make our people understand the strength, the unity and the friendship between the people of Pakistan and the people of India so that we can build a good friendship between these two neighbouring countries.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Raja Mahendra Pratap.

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): I also gave notice of an Adjournment Motion. My point is this. I have discovered a method to see that a Mussalman here will not think that he belongs to a minority community nor the Hindus will think that they belong to the majority community. We shall investigate the ideas here and we shall propose this to Marshal Ayub Khan there. Let us investigate these ideas which make us so angry and enraged. I believe that if you try my experiment, it will be good. I do not ask anything for myself. I just beg you: please constitute a department to investigate ideas

which create these disturbances. Who will be the minority? Only the rogues and hooligans will be a minority. A good Mussalman is our brother and a good Hindu is our brother. We are Hindus and we are Muslims. We pray to one God, and that is the idea which we should give to the people. I remind our Prime Minister that in this very House I said that I shall go to Pakistan. I went to Pakistan and my going to Pakistan helped India and Pakistan to come closer together.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I just want to make one point. In today's newspapers an unfortunate piece of news has come to the effect that five people had been killed in Khulna, in East Pakistan, and there is also another piece of news which is disheartening. It is reported that another mandir—Shri Narayan Mandir—was also attacked in Karachi by hooligans. I wish this is incorrect. I want to know whether the Prime Minister has got any information about this, and if so, he may give it.

Mr. Speaker: Regarding the mandir?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Yes, and also about the five people who were killed in East Pakistan.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): I have given a Calling Attention Notice regarding the killings and arson in Khulna, and because of these things a lot of people are extremely perturbed. I would request the Prime Minister to let us know what exactly is the position.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): There is one point on which I beg to seek information from the Prime Minister. From the statement, as I heard, it seems that the most alarming and surprising information is that the hooligans of Pakistan just responded like disciplined soldiers to the whistle of the police who were standing by. If that is so we would

naturally conclude that the policemen had brought them and that it was a State-managed affair. In that case, it is most alarming and unconventional that even the authorities should be a party to some sort of hooliganism. The very fact that the hooligans responded to the whistle goes to show that the whistle could have been sounded earlier.

Shri Amjad Ali (Dhubri): As I understand it, the whole trouble started after the statement of Gen. Ayub Khan at Dacca. We should unequivocally say in this House and through this House to the people outside that we, the people belonging to the minority community here, are perfectly able to protect ourselves and our rights under the present set-up of our Government and under our able Prime Minister like Shri Jawaharlal Nehru we are surely protected, and we think that no interference from Gen. Ayub Khan or anybody in this matter should be there.

Mr. Speaker: Shrimati Renuka Ray has given a Calling Attention Notice about the happening in Khulna.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I have no information about it. I can enquire. The Home Ministry possibly knows it. But in the course of my remarks which I just made, I said that there was some continuing trouble in Karachi yesterday about which I do not wish to go in detail because I have not got all the facts. It appears to have been rather a mixed kind of trouble; that is to say, there were some continuing demonstrations near a temple or something like that, and some processions were also taken yesterday in connection with the Congo, that is, pro-Lumumba demonstrations, which came into conflict with the police because of section 144. Something has happened but not, I think, of any major dimension. Otherwise we would have had some further particulars.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about Khulna?

Shri Naldurgkar (Osmanabad): Is it not a fact that all processions and meetings were banned, under the military rule, in Pakistan. If that is so, how is it that the processions were allowed to proceed? This point was not referred to in the Prime Minister's reply.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the statement made by the Prime Minister, it is unnecessary to pursue this matter further. I do not give my consent to the Adjournment Motion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about Khulna, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: They will make enquiries.

12:17 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REQUISITIONING AND ACQUISITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (AMENDMENT) RULES.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property (Amendment) Rules, 1961 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 176 dated the 11th February, 1961 under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2672/61].

PROCLAMATION ISSUED IN RESPECT OF STATE OF ORISSA AND ORDERS ISSUED UNDER HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) ACT.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): I beg to lay on the Table (i) a copy of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 25th February, 1961 under article 356 of the Constitution, in respect of the State of Orissa,