

has been drawn to the fact that Pakistan has ordered immediate evacuation of all civilian population living along the Western Bangla Desh border with India; and

(b) if so, whether these are war preparations tactics?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM):** (a) and (b). Government have seen reports to this effect. A large number of the East Bengalis who have taken temporary refuge in India originate from the East Bengal's border districts. It is obvious that Pakistan Government has been carrying out a ruthless policy of depopulating these areas. Government have taken into account the Security implications of this policy.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Pakistan army has moved right up to our eastern border? If so, what is our government doing to counteract the aggressive activities of the Pakistan Army?

**SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM:** The policy of the Pakistan Government has been such that the border area adjoining us has been practically vacated of Hindus and Muslims. As the House is aware, more than six million people have come to our country. So, practically that area has been evacuated of population as a deliberate policy. We have made the necessary security arrangements on our border to take care of any contingency that may arise.

**SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:** As I have said earlier, Pakistan army has moved right to our border and only Border Security Force is stationed on our border. In view of the present developments, is it enough to have only our Border Security Force to counter act Pakistani aggression, if at all it comes?

**SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM:** This question has been raised in the House on more than one occasion and I have said that the Border Security Force is strong enough to take care of the Pakistan Army.

**श्री झार० बी० बट्टे :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मन्त्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान ने बाईर से अपनी सिविल पापुलेशन

हटा ली है लेकिन हमारी सिविल पापुलेशन जो बाईर पर है उस पर पाकिस्तान की तरफ से रोज हमले होते हैं तो क्या शासन के लिए यह आवश्यक नहीं है कि सिविल पापुलेशन को वहाँ से हटा ले या फिर उनको शस्त्रास्त दें ?

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** सिविल पापुलेशन को वहाँ से हटाने का हमारा इरादा नहीं है । हमारी सिविल पापुलेशन बाईर पर ही रहेगी और उनके लिए सभी प्रकार की सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था की जायेगी ।

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY:** Sir, in view of the hon. Minister's statement that all arrangements have been made for the security of our own people I would like to draw the attention of the Government and of the hon. Minister that in the North Bengal districts of Cooch Bihar and West Dinajpur the continuous shelling by Pakistan Army has compelled the border people to start evacuation from their homes and hearths and about 20,000 people have left their places. May I know what security arrangements have been made to protect these Indian citizens?

**SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM:** Sir, I have returned only last night from some of the border areas and I would advise the hon. Member to visit and see the conditions for himself. If the Pakistan Army in their foolishness want to waste large quantities of ammuniton we cannot help them.

#### **Diplomatic Passports Granted to Ex-Rulers of Indian States**

\*770. **SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ex-Rulers of Indian States are still enjoying the privilege of diplomatic passports; and

(b) whether Government propose to withdraw these passports and replace them by ordinary passports?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH):** (a) The ex-Rulers of Indian States do not enjoy

the privilege of diplomatic passports. Some of them are, from time to time, issued diplomatic passports in accordance with the provisions of the Act of the Rules and generally on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) The Government examines each request on merits and it is not necessary to withdraw such passports by revising individual decisions taken in these cases.

**श्री सतपाल कपूर :** स्पीकर साहब, मैं इतना ही जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इन डिप्लोमैटिक पासपोर्ट्स के मिस्यूज करने की कोई कम्प्लेन्ट्स गवर्नमेंट के पास आई है ?

**श्री सुरेन्द्रपाल सिंह :** ऐसी कोई भी कम्प्लेन्ट नहीं आई है ।

**श्री सतपाल कपूर :** पेपर्स में बहुत बार यह चर्चा हुई है कि पासपोर्ट्स को मिस्यूज किया गया और इनके जरिए जिन राजाओं महाराजाओं को पासपोर्ट दिए गए उनके जरिए स्मगलिंग गुड्स भी आये हैं . . .

MR. SPEAKER: This is not relevant.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: May I know that during the last two years which are those rulers who have been granted this diplomatic passport?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: I have not got the information at the moment.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that taking advantage of this diplomatic passport or any privilege granted to them, whatever they bring from the foreign country, the customs authorities do not open that and touch that and it is cleared without any check. If it is true what steps Government intend to take to see that princes do not smuggle in things from abroad.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: The diplomatic passport to any individual in this country does not give him any immunity from custom duty etc. although they are giving special treatment outside. When they come back to our country they are subjected to the local law as anybody else.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: It is never done.

**Views of Mr. Pierre M. Gallois Re: Development of Atomic Armaments by India**

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\*771. MAHARAJA MARTAND SINGH:  
DR. KARNI SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views recently expressed by Mr. Pierre M. Gallois, a retired French General and an expert on nuclear weapons, advocating that India should develop its own atomic armaments to safeguard its interests; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): (a) Government have seen a newspaper report regarding the views expressed by Mr. Pierre M. Gallois.

(b) Government's policy on the development of nuclear weapons has been explained to the House in the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1417 on the 7th June, 1971.

MAHARAJA MARTAND SINGH: I should like to know from the hon. Minister of Defence if a study has been made of the report of Mr. Gallois in the context of the rapid expansion and progress of China in the field of nuclear weaponry?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: I cannot say definitely but, I think, the Atomic Energy Commission will go into that question.

MAHARAJA MARTAND SINGH: Might I know what steps precisely the Government has in mind to counterbalance this threat of nuclear weaponry from China?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: I do not think such a question can be answered adequately during question time. The matter has been discussed in the house and during Budget discussion it can be discussed. The policy of the Government of India has been explained that it is our objective to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.