

सरबार पटेल ने पाकिस्तान सरकार को यह कहा था कि वह या तो इस प्रकार के हत्या-कांड बन्द करे या वह आबादी का तबादला करे और या वह भारत को उतनी भूमि दे, जिस पर पूर्वी पाकिस्तान से आने वाले अल्प-संख्यकों को बसाया जा सके। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार उस पुरानी नीति से हट गई है कि पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में इस प्रकार के हत्या-कांड फिर से शुरू हो गये हैं और कोई उन की देख-भाल करने वाला नहीं है। यदि वह उस नीति से नहीं हटी है, तो क्या उस ने इस सम्बन्ध में पाकिस्तान सरकार को कुछ लिखा है और क्या उसने विश्व के जनमत को इन भयंकर हत्या-कांडों से परिचित कराते हुए यह बताया है कि पाकिस्तान अपने अल्प-संख्यकों की रक्षा करने में बिल्कुल असफल रहा है?

Shri M. C. Chagla: I want to assure my hon friend that there is no drift or change in the policy of the Government of India, the policy continues to remain the same. As I said, our policy is based on the Nehru-Liaquat Pact and that policy is perfectly clear that Pakistan must discharge its responsibility towards its minorities, if it does not, we protest. Whenever the occasion arises, we draw the attention of other friendly powers to what is happening to the minorities in Pakistan and how Pakistan is treating its minorities.

Border Roads

*1028 **Shri S. S. Kothari:**
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
Shri Heerji Bhai:
Shri K. Pradhani:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) the progress made in respect of building border roads for satisfactory defence of the country's borders;

(b) how many miles of such new border roads have been built and the target fixed in this regard; and

(c) when the target is likely to be achieved?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Swaran Singh): (a) to (c) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The immediate programme of the Board cover the construction of 4,273 miles of new roads, improvement of 2,863 miles of existing roads and the surfacing of 6,394 miles of newly constructed and improved roads

As against the above, the progress up to 31-5-1967 is as follows:—

<i>Formation cut (New Roads)</i>	3'-on track (20 ft wide)	2,103 miles
	1 ton track (16 ft wide)	270 miles
	Jeep track (8 ft wide)	97 miles
	Total	2,470 miles
<i>Improvement of existing roads</i>	Improvement is a continuous process. It is not possible to give linear progress of improvement works	
<i>Surfacing</i>	Soling	2,765 miles
	Metalling	2,597 miles
	Black-topping	2,134 miles

(c) The programme and priorities of roads to be constructed/improved are reviewed from time to time and targets fixed. According to the present expectation, the formation cutting and surfacing of most of the roads included in the immediate programme would be completed in another 5 years

Shri S. S. Kothari: Which are the areas in which the construction of border roads has not been satisfactory and halting and what are the reasons for the same?

Shri Swaran Singh: I will not say that there are any areas in which the programme has been halting. If there is any particular area in the mind of the hon. Member, I am prepared to give further information.

Shri S. S. Kothari: I have three areas in mind—it may be regarded as my next question—Rajasthan, Himalayan border and Chhamb-Jaurian sector.

Shri Swaran Singh: In Rajasthan, the programme which was entrusted to the PWD there was to construct 1695 miles of roads and 27 major and 67 minor bridges. The achievement so far is 285 miles of road and 3 major bridges.

In Jammu and Kashmir and the Himalayan border most of the work is being undertaken by the Border Roads Development Board.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: What is the progress?

Shri Swaran Singh: I have already given in the statement the target and also what has been done. The progress has been given there.

Shri S. S. Kothari: The statement does not contain any details about the Jammu and Kashmir area and the Himalayan border. It does not give details about the different areas.

Shri Nath Pal: One of the reasons for the rather disappointing performance of our forces which were otherwise brilliant in other sectors and their rather far from satisfactory performance in the Rajasthan sector was the poor development of communication and very poorly developed roads. We are alarmed to hear today that that symbol of incompetence, in-

efficiency and corruption, namely CPWD has been entrusted with the construction of these strategic roads. I do not know if this is not lackadaisical and almost cynical attitude towards this vital development.

The hon. Minister admits that out of about 1695 miles entrusted to them, the performance is only about 285 miles. What is it that makes Government take such a view of this particular strategic road on the western border?

Shri Swaran Singh: We do attach importance to the development of roads in Rajasthan, and the development has been entrusted to the Rajasthan PWD and not the CPWD.

Shri Nath Pal: It is worse, if anything I had said it was the Rajasthan PWD. Now I stand corrected. So far as the CPWD at the Centre is concerned we know what it is, it is a living scandal. But if it is the State PWD then it is worse.

Shri Ranga: They are not even doing the work.

Shri Nath Pal: They cannot do anything.

Shri Swaran Singh: The progress is being watched by the Roads Wing of the Central Government. We have recently deputed officers also to watch the progress and we ourselves are very keen that development should take place. I have already given figures relating to the programme and the achievements.

Shri Ranga: What about our anxiety?

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: On a point of order. This question about border defence has been raised in this House a number of times, and the attention of the hon. Minister was drawn to the fact that the border roads were

not there and no attention was being paid to it. But again and again, the hon. Minister has been saying that everything is being done and everything is satisfactory. But now he says that out of about 1695 miles of protected roads only about 285 miles have been constructed. May I know whether the House has not been deliberately misled again and again in this vital matter, and if so, may I seek your protection in this matter so that the hon. Minister will not misguide the House in future in such vital matters?

Shri Swaran Singh: There is no question of misleading at all.

Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda: May I know whether the building of border roads in the Mizo Hills District has been completed, and if not, when it will be completed?

Shri Swaran Singh: In the Mizo Hills district, the targets that have been laid down are:

Aijal—Champai 75 miles
Aijal—Tuipabari 70 miles
Lungleh—Tuipang 100 miles

In certain cases, I have not got the actual completed targets in these areas. But these are the targets that have been laid down.

Shri S. K. Tapariah: The progress of the construction of these roads has been definitely slow, whether it be the Rajasthan area or the Assam—tribal area. In the Barmer sector, we know how badly we had fared during the last war, and even now the progress has been terribly slow. Now, news is pouring in from all quarters about the scandalous activities of the PWD of Rajasthan. May I know what steps the Central Government have taken to enquire whether the Rajasthan PWD is engaged in doing the work quickly and efficiently and honestly, and if not, what other steps the Central Government are going to take to take the work in their own hands and expedite the progress?

Shri Swaran Singh: The Rajasthan Government have always claimed that they are well organised and the allegation . . . (*Interruptions*).

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta: Is he not playing with the defence of the country?

Shri Swaran Singh: We should hesitate to blame the State Government in this respect. I do not accept the allegation made by the hon. Member.

Shri Ranga: He has not answered the question at all.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah: On a point of order. My question was specific. I asked about the scandalous news pouring in. He is saying that the Rajasthan Government claim that everything is all right. Has he made any inquiry into the scandalous reports pouring in? What steps is he going to take? Let him not depend on the Rajasthan Government.

Shri Swaran Singh: There is no scandalous report that has poured in and there is no question of inquiry. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Not so many at a time.

Shri Bedabrata Barua: While appreciating the Minister's reply in respect of road construction in the Mizo hills area, may I know whether in view of the fact that the Mizo Hills are not only a disturbed area but offer an attractive target for Pakistani activities, he will look into the very unsatisfactory state of communications in Mizo Hills at present because of landslides and all that?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua. (*Interruptions*). I have heard the question.

Shri Hem Barua: During the Chinese aggression of 1962, it was discovered that the roads that were supposed to have been in NEFA under the Border Roads Division were roads

built only on paper. They did not physically exist in the landscape of NEFA. Because of that, we suffered reverses there. This was also disclosed. Have Government tried to see that roads, particularly in the border areas like NEFA actually and physically exist in the landscape and not only on paper or in the files of the department?

Shri Swaran Singh: I presume that it is the elementary duty of Government to see that whatever we claim is actually on the ground.

Shri Hem Barua: His reply is very evasive. I put a specific question. During the Chinese aggression, this was pinpointed even by Government spokesmen on the floor of the House that the roads were not adequately built. We are interested in the defence of the country because of mobilisation by the Chinese. He has not given a satisfactory reply.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Supakar.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: Out of 4,273 miles of new roads envisaged, only 2,470 miles have been built. So far as the northern border is concerned, the conflict with China took place five years ago. Are the northern border roads complete within the last five years?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is correct that our road communications in the northern Himalayas were unsatisfactory. That was precisely why a special agency, the Border Roads Development Board, was constituted. They have undertaken systematic construction of new roads in the U.P., NEFA regions and they have made very significant progress. Today our means of communication are much better.

Shri K. Lakkappa: The contractors have swindled money in collusion with officers without building the roads. This has been pointed out in the audit report also. Will the Government institute an inquiry into this?

Shri Swaran Singh: I will certainly look into this. If there is any specific instance, you might bring it to my notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it is a fact that during the Chinese aggression, there was a contractor called Tusker Co., and whether some orders had been placed for construction of some roads with the Bharat Sevak Samaj and they created more scandal than anybody else and if so, whether that has since been withdrawn or not?

Shri Swaran Singh: Specific instances of something that happened several years ago I cannot answer without notice.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Whether the Bharat Sevak Samaj has been constructing roads or not, I want to know.

Mr. Speaker: He has no information.

Shri Ranga: May we know what is being done in order to develop these roads in the Assam tribal areas, in the Lushai, Garo and other tribal areas that we have bordering on Pakistan, whether the construction of these border roads in Rajasthan also would be handed over to the Border Roads Organisation, instead of depending upon the local PWD which has failed, as anybody can see, to discharge the duties that were entrusted to it?

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to inform the hon. House that some roads in the tribal region, Mizo Hills for instance, are already under the Border Roads Organisation. About the other, it is a suggestion for action, I will examine it.

श्री अब्दुल गनी दार : प्वाइंट आफ़ ग्राइडर, सर। अश्री मिनिस्टर साहब ने अप्पा साहब के और वैनर्जी साहब के जवाब में कहा कि कोई स्पेसिफ़िक इन्स्टेंस दो कि सड़क खाली कागजों पर है, और सड़क बनी नहीं है,

उसका पेमेंट हो गया, तो उन्होंने यह कहा था कि आडीटर जनरल ने यह एतराज किया है कि सड़क कोई बनी नहीं है तो क्या मिनिस्टर साहब को यह हक हासिल है कि एक मेम्बर अगर बाकायदा यह कहे कि आडीटर जनरल ने कहा है कि सड़क बनी पार ही है

Shri Shashi Ranjan: The report given by the Minister also shows that the progress in Rajasthan about border roads is very slow only 200 miles out of 1,600

Mr Speaker: It has been said by so many people you are only repeating

شہری عبدالغنی دار پوائنٹ
آف آرڈر سو - ابوی مینسٹر صاحب نے
ایسا صاحب اور بہنر چی صاحب کے
حواب میں کہا کہ کوئی سہولت
انسٹانسی دو کہ سڑک خالی کھڑوں
پر ہے اور سڑک دیہی نہیں ہے اس
کا پیمائش ہو گیا تو انہوں نے یہ
کہا تھا کہ آڈیٹر جنرل نے یہ اعتراض
کیا ہے کہ سڑک کوئی بنی نہیں ہے
تو کیا مینسٹر صاحب کو یہ حق
حاصل ہے کہ ایک ممبر اگر باقاعدہ
یہ کہے کہ آڈیٹر جنرل نے کہا ہے کہ
سڑک مہم پر ہی ہے۔ [. . .]

Mr Speaker: There is no point of order Please sit down It is not proper to make a speech in the name of a point of order. If hon Members do so, I do not know what to do There is no point of order absolutely

श्री अब्दुल गनी दार आखिर यह कोई बात है कि जब आडीटर ने एतराज किया है तो उसके ऊपर क्या डम नरज में कह सकते हैं ?

شہری عبدالغنی دار پوائنٹ
یہ کوئی بات ہے کہ جب آڈیٹر نے
اعتراض کیا ہے تو اس کے اوپر کیا
اس طرح سے کہہ سکتے ہیں - [

Mr. Speaker: You please sit down That is a question, I can understand but that is not a point of order

Shri Shashi Ranjan: Our reverses in NEFA are due to this The House is very much eager that the Ministry should itself take up this matter, but the Minister is still saying that the local PWD is doing well According to the report we find the progress is very slow What is the difficulty with the Minister to take up the matter himself and see that the roads are completed quickly?

Shri Swaran Singh: I have already said that I will examine this matter Already, Mr Ranga has raised this question and I have said that it is suggestion for action

Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi: Instead of relying upon this report and that report from this Government and that Government will the hon Minister assure us that he will take pains to go into this, personally supervise and submit a report to the House?

Shri Swaran Singh: I would like to assure the House that every step will be taken to expedite the construction of roads and achieve the targets

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there is any proposal to include representatives from the departments of transport and public works in the board for the construction of border roads which is entrusted with the work of construction of border roads?

Shri Swaran Singh: Representatives of the Ministry of transport are there on the border road development board