

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 4, 1967/Agrahayana  
13, 1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIAN ENCLAVES IN EAST PAKISTAN

\*421. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 130 Indian enclaves having a total area of more than 50 square miles with nearly 60,000 people are completely encircled by Pakistan territory in the Districts of Rangpur and East Dinajpur in East Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 70 per cent of the population of these enclaves consists of Hindus;

(c) whether the Indian citizens of these enclaves have no freedom of movement to other parts of the Indian territory; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to ensure the security of the population of these enclaves and their freedom of movement to other parts of the Indian territory ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) 123 Indian enclaves of a total area of about 29 square miles and with a population of nearly 11,000 according to the 1951 census, are encircled by Pakistani territory in the Districts of Rangpur and East Dinajpur. No census could be taken in the Indian Enclaves in 1961 as the Pakistani authorities refused to allow our census officials to proceed to our Enclaves.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India have been in correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in regard to the sending of police parties to the enclaves, on a reciprocal basis, and the grant of visas to the residents of the enclaves.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is not correct. It is not 123 but 130 Indian enclaves are inside Pakistan. It is also not 11,000 people but more than 75,000 Indians live in these Indian enclaves in Pakistan. These Indian enclaves, 130 in number, having a population of 75,000 and with an area of 33 square miles, represent an astounding phenomenon of political bankruptcy of the Government of India. These are Indian territories where Indian citizens live. But even after twenty years of freedom these people have not been able to exercise any right that has been enjoined upon them as citizens of India. These Indian citizens have been brutally persecuted, their women-folk dishonoured, their property looted and hundreds of them have been gulfed. There is no inlet and outlet for them. I want to ask whether it is a fact that these Indians have not had any opportunity whatsoever to exercise their right as Indian citizens and to participate in any of the elections held after independence ?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Sir, I shall answer the first part where he said that the information given is not correct. He said the enclaves number 130 and not 123. I have to inform the hon. Member that initially there were 130 Indian enclaves in Pakistan and 95 Pakistani enclaves in India. Three of the Indian enclaves are within the enclaves of Pakistan in India and as such their areas are not separately exchangeable. Four of the Indian enclaves have already been merged in the Jalpaiguri District. The net result is that there are only 123 Indian enclaves in Pakistan and 74 Pakistan enclaves in India. As for the situation there, it is true that the very life of the people there is very insecure, a large

number of people have migrated and there are also difficulties in extending our control to these areas because of obstruction by Pakistan Government. The only solution is that they should be merged as quickly as possible. There the difficulty is that because the Berubari thing is in the court the Government of Pakistan have taken the position that unless that is settled they will not agree to the merger of these enclaves. We hope that very soon when the Berubari thing comes out of the court we will be able to take this up and proceed in the matter.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** The hon. Minister said that it will soon be merged. After 20 years of independence they have ceded so many territories to Pakistan. Although in name the Cooch-Bihar District Commissioner and the District Magistrate of West Dinajpur are in control of these 130 Indian enclaves in Pakistan, may I know whether it is a fact that many Indian officials and many Indian citizens have been gulfed in Pakistan, whether Pakistani flags are flying over this Indian territory and also whether it is a fact that a number of Indian citizens, both men and women, have been persecuted? May I also know whether 5,000 of the Indians have been squeezed out from these Indian enclaves, whether it is a fact that these Indian territories are now completely under the occupation of Pakistan and that they are ruled as if conquered territories of Pakistan?

**MR. SPEAKER :** I think he has already answered all the questions in the beginning.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** I have very little to say because the hon. Member has himself provided the answer. It is true that administration does not extend to that area at the moment because of its geographical situation. They are not allowed the facilities to go there and even our police party is not allowed to go there. So, whatever the hon. Member has said may be true, but the only answer is . . .

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** This is happening to the Indian citizens and still you do not know anything? You are pleading ignorance?

**श्री जेपीशंकर शर्मा :** भारत वर्ष के क्षेत्रों में इस प्रकार की कितनी पाकिस्तानी बस्तियां

हैं जोकि भारतीय इलाकों से घिरी हुई हैं और वहां पर हिन्दुओं और मुसलमानों की संख्या कितनी है तथा उसका अनुपात क्या है ?

क्या इन बस्तियों में भी उसी प्रकार की पाबंदियां भारत सरकार द्वारा लगाई गई हैं जैसी कि पाकिस्तान ने हमारी बस्तियों पर लगा रखी हैं? क्या इन बस्तियों के जो निवासी हैं वे भारतीय क्षेत्रों के बीच होकर पाकिस्तान आ जा सकते हैं ?

**श्री ब० रा० भगत :** कितनी संख्या हिन्दुओं की है और कितनी मुसलमानों की इसको बताने के लिए तो सूचना चाहिए . . . . .

**श्री बलराज मधोक :** टोटल एरिया कितना है ।

**श्री ब० रा० भगत :** 18 वर्ग मील के करीब है ।

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** It is absolutely wrong. It is 33,745 sq. miles.

**श्री ब० रा० भगत :** पाकिस्तानी एनक्लेव्स जो हमारे यहां हैं उनका पूरा क्षेत्रफल 18.4 वर्गमील है ।

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** You get the documents from the West Bengal Government. I challenge him, he is giving wrong information.

**श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त :** इनको ही मिनिस्टर बनाइये ।

**SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK :** I forgive the Minister of State for his ignorance because he is new to his job. He has said that there are Indian enclaves in Pakistan and Pakistan enclaves in India and that the area of Indian enclaves in Pakistan is 33 sq. miles and that of Pakistan enclaves in India is 18 sq. miles and that the population is almost equal. It has just been admitted by the hon. Minister that the people living in Indian enclaves in Pakistan have not been given any civil rights at all and that they are being treated like citizens of conquered territory of Pakistan and many of them have been squeezed out. In view of that, since we cannot change the situa-

tion, because of Pakistan being what it is, not prepared to deal with us honourably, could the government seriously consider the proposition that there should be exchange of population of these two enclaves—the population of Indian enclaves in Pakistan coming to India and the population of Pakistan enclaves in India going to Pakistan—so that this problem could be settled permanently and thereby prevent the continuous intimidation and continuous harassment of Indian citizens in those enclaves by Pakistan ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** The agreement provides for the exchange of these enclaves and not exchange of population. But, in fact, so far as the Indian enclaves in Pakistan are concerned, an overwhelming majority of the people have come over to India.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Apart from these enclaves, as previously stated in this House by Shri Chagla, Lathitilla, Dumabari and Pahegram, these three areas....

**MR. SPEAKER :** Are they also enclaves ?

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** I started by saying "apart from these enclaves".

**SHRI UMANATH :** Sir, you missed the crucial phrase.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** With regard to these villages, especially Lathitilla and Dumabari, even the hon. Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs said last time that Pakistani flags are flying in that area, which is not according to any convention or any agreement, merely because they are within Pakistan. May I know whether they are still in Pakistani occupation or they have vacated them ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** That question relates to Starred Question No. 428 listed for today.

**SHRI RUPNATH BRAHMA :** If the hon. Minister is not prepared to accept the figure given by my hon. friend regarding the exact area of the enclaves, will he be pleased to make an inquiry and give us the correct figure ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** We have taken note of what the hon. Member has said. But the position which I have mentioned is after verification.

**SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE :** But both cannot be correct.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** The Minister is talking about exchange of population. May I know whether the Nehru-Noon agreement had provided that, so far as the exchange of these enclaves is concerned, 60 in India and 130 in Pakistan, mutual exchange proposals should be considered, and whether the External Affairs Ministry have initiated any talks with Pakistan for the exchange of these enclaves ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** There was no mention of exchange of enclaves in it.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** Could you say that there was no mention of it in the Nehru-Noon Agreement ? It was clearly stated that talks for exchange of these enclaves would take place.

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** That is what I said—it referred to the exchange of enclaves.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY :** I first started with the question that the Minister was speaking about the exchange of population. I want to know whether it is not a fact that in the Nehru-Noon Pact it was mentioned that they should initiate talks for exchange of these enclaves ? Have they initiated any talks about it ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** Talks have been initiated. But, as I said just now, Pakistan maintains that it will not go ahead with this till the Berubari exchange also takes place. Since that matter is in the court, we cannot proceed with it. That is the present position. I have explained all this.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** The hon. Minister has made mention about Berubari. May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a statement made by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in a very alliterative way, when he said : bluff in Berubari, bullets in Belonia, fraud in Fazilka, killing in Kashmir and sniping at Sialkot ? In that connection, may I know whether the hon. Prime Minister is in a position to assert that there has been no bluff in Berubari ?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** The hon. Member is absolutely right that there is no bluff in Berubari. I am told that the Foreign

Minister he refers to made that statement when he was out of office, not while in office.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** What did he say?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He said that it was an ex-Foreign Minister.

**SHRI HEM BARUA :** This statement was made by the present Foreign Minister, not the other one. May I submit that it was the present Foreign Minister who made this statement in the National Assembly of Pakistan? I liked his string of alliteration.

**SHRI RANGA :** The House has had this experience of seeing how helpless and ignorant the Foreign Minister and her colleague in the External Affairs Ministry are in regard to this matter. How much longer would the Prime Minister take to realise that the Prime Minister's job is heavy enough, big enough and that she should not saddle herself with this additional responsibility?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Is this a supplementary?

**SHRI RANGA :** In view of the fact that such flippant answers have been given to this very small part of the totality of the responsibility that is cast on the Foreign Affairs Ministry, would the Prime Minister be good enough and kind enough towards this country and relieve the country of this miserable experience of having these two great portfolios mixed up under one Minister?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next Question.

#### MEETING OF NON-NUCLEAR NATIONS

\*423. **SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA :** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Statesman, of the 19th August, 1967 published from Delhi under the heading "China may attend meeting of non-nuclear nations";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Pakistan took initiative to persuade the General Assembly to invite China; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :** (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** प्रश्न के पहले भाग के उत्तर में कहा गया है कि यह बात सही है और दूसरे तथा तीसरे भाग के उत्तर में कहा गया है कि सरकार को इस बारे में खबर नहीं है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर हमारी एम्बेसी है, हमारे राजदूत वहाँ पर रहते हैं, यू० एन० ओ० में हमारे रिप्रेजेंटेटिव हैं, वे सब क्या करते हैं।

**श्री ब० रा० भगत :** इस सम्बन्ध में जो कमेटी बनी थी, उसमें पाकिस्तान ने क्या किया, इस की सीधी सूचना हमारे पास नहीं है, क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान उस कमेटी का मेम्बर नहीं है। माननीय सदस्य स्वयं विचार कर सकते हैं कि किसी सुनी हुई बात के आधार पर हमारी ओर से कुछ कहना कहां तक उचित होगा।

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** एक न्यूजिलियर पावर होते हुए भी चाइना इस मीटिंग को एटेंड करने जा रहा है, इस बारे में भारत सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

**श्री ब० रा० भगत :** हमारे पास ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है कि पाकिस्तान ने चाइना को इस कमेटी में बुलाने के लिए कोई इन्निशिएटिव लिया है। यदि यह बात सही है कि वहाँ पर जो प्रस्ताव पास हुआ, उसमें यह कहा गया कि दुनिया के जितने अणु शक्ति रखने वाले या बनाने वाले देश हैं, उन को बुलाया जाये, तो इनमें चीन भी शामिल है, क्योंकि उस के पास अणु-शक्ति है।

**SHRI D. C. SHARMA :** China, of course, is a menace, whether in the non-nuclear sphere or in the nuclear sphere. May I know what advantages will accrue to the world, and if possible to India in the eyes of the world, if China is asked to attend this meeting of non-nuclear nations but is kept out of the nuclear nations and out of the Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons?