

(c) whether there is any foreign collaboration, and if so, from which country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY (SHRI BIBUDHENDRA MISHRA) (a) to (c) A licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 has been issued in May, 1963 in favour of the Director of Industries, Punjab for the establishment of a new Industrial Undertaking in the name and style of M/s Punjab Air Rifles Limited for the manufacture of Air Rifles and Shots for a capacity of 1 80,000 Nos per annum, with the collaboration of an American firm. The factory has not yet been constructed and it cannot be said with any certainty at present when the production would commence.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(1) REPORTED DEATH OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN MADDIKARE VILLAGE IN KURNOOL DISTRICT DUE TO FOOD POISONING

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh) Sir, with your permission, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Education to the reported death of twenty-five students of Maddikare Village in the Kurnool district due to food poisoning caused by eatables supplied by CARE.

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA) Sir, in the first place, you will permit me on behalf of the House to convey to the parents of these children our deep sympathies in the terrible tragedy and I am sure we all regret this unfortunate incident.

The unfortunate tragedy in question came to the notice of the Ministry through radio and press reports. We are all deeply grieved that such a shocking tragedy affecting a large number of children of an elementary school should have occurred. The Ministry has been constantly in touch with the Director of the CARE in Delhi and also with the Education Department of the Andhra Pradesh Government for further details. Information received from both these sources indicates the following position.

Maddikare is a Panchayat village with a population of about 15,000 in Kurnool District. The CARE Mid-day Meals Programme had been discontinued in the Block for some time prior to 15th September because of the incidence of cholera. There were no cases of cholera in Maddikare village. The school-going children of this village were supplied mid-day meals on 15th, 17th and 18th September. On the night of the 19th the President of the Panchayat Board reported to the Chief District Medical Officer Kurnool, about the cases of suspected food-poisoning and resultant deaths. The Medical Officer visited the village on the 20th and organised medical help. The Secretary, Zila Parishad, suspended the supply of mid-day meals in all the schools of the Kurnool District on receipt of the report. The Mid-day Meal which consists of Corn Meal, Butter Oil and Milk Powder supplied by CARE (with salt, pepper and onions) was prepared at one central place in Maddikare and served to various schools.

The Chairman, Zila Parishad, Kurnool, met the Director of Public Instruction at Hyderabad on the 22nd and expressed the opinion that the unhappy incident might have been the result of food-poisoning during the process of cooking the mid-day meals. In his opinion the food material supplied by CARE are in fresh

condition and are being supplied from the same stock to other villages in the Block without any complaint.

According to the Health Officer the exact cause for the contamination or the infection will be known after the analysis of (i) foodstuffs (ii) vomitings (iii) excreta (iv) viscera obtained as a result of post-mortem. The Chemical Examiner's opinion had not been received by the Education Department of Andhra Pradesh till the 23rd.

The total number of students who were supplied mid-day meals was 320 of whom 174 were reported to be infected. This shows that part of the meal might have been infected as it was cooked in instalments.

The number of attacks and deaths date-wise is as under:—

Date	Attacks	Deaths
19-9-64 . . .	63	17
20-9-64 . . .	66	12
21-9-64 . . .	30	3
22-9-64 . . .	15	6
TOTAL . . .	174	38

Special medical assistance was rendered by the Superintendent of the General Hospital, Kurnool. No complaint has been received in regard to the inadequacy of the medical help.

The CARE authorities had also started anxious investigations. They have reported that this programme covers millions of children and all the foodstuffs received in Andhra Pradesh are subject to the same rigid controls and made with the same high standards as those consumed in the school lunch programme in America and other countries. It may be stated that the CARE Mid-day Meals Programme is in operation in several

States of the country covering about 7 million children and the CARE appoints its own Administrator in each of the States where the Programme has been accepted by the State Government.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: May I know whether any official of the Education Ministry has been despatched to find out for himself what actually happened that resulted in the death of such a large number of children?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: We have not despatched any official from Delhi but we are in constant telephonic communication with the Education Department of Andhra Pradesh, with the CARE officials both in Delhi and there, and we are getting all the information possible. If necessary we will send.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: It is indeed surprising that the Education Ministry should not have sent any official to make an on-the-spot enquiry. How are we to judge what went wrong, whether there was something wrong with the cooking or with the food supplied by the CARE?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I share the indignation and regret of my hon. friend. But will he kindly tell me what an official from Delhi can do? All possible steps are being taken by the State Government. Post-mortem examination is being held. All medical help is being given. CARE has rushed its own officials. I do not see any useful purpose that an official from Delhi can serve by rushing to this particular village.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: If something went wrong with the cooking, is it not the responsibility of the Education Ministry to see that even in remote villages food is cooked in such a manner that no poisoning is possible? Who is to look after this arrangement?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: The hon Member should realise that this is essentially a State subject. We are not disowning our responsibility. We are responsible to the extent that we share one-third of the expense of the CARE programme, and our anxiety is to see that as far as CARE is concerned the best materials are supplied and we want to make sure that CARE does not supply anything which is bad. The report so far is that they have been supplying fresh stocks and in all probability this unfortunate tragedy was not due to the supplies but may be some faults in cooking. In a small school if cooking is bad, surely it is the function of the Zila Parishad or the district authority or the State authority. But surely we will not let the matter rest there. We will see that in future such things do not happen.

श्री गिरिराज किशोर कपूर (मध्य प्रदेश) : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपा करके बतलायेंगे कि इतनी मीठें हो जाने के बाद भी कोई अधिकारी यहां से भेज दिया जाता तो बहुत अच्छा होता और परिणाम भी ठीक ठीक मालूम होते । क्योंकि यह मामला स्टेट से सम्बन्ध रखता है इसलिए वहां के अधिकारियों के ऊपर छोड़कर जानकारी लेना कहा तक उपयुक्त होगा ? जिस जगह इतनी मीठें हो गई हैं वहां के अधिकारी अपनी बातों को छिपायेंगे, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर कोई अधिकारी अभी भी वहां नहीं भेजा गया है तो किसी अधिकारी की वहा भेजने की अवश्य कृपा करेंगे ?

श्री एम० सी० चागला : इस बात की जिम्मेदारी लेना है कि इस तरह की कोई बात पाई नहीं जायेगी । मैं अफसरों से कहता रहता हूँ कि तुम वहां से बातें मालूम करने के लिए टेलीफोन करते रहो और मुझे वहां से खबरें मिलती रहनी हैं ।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया (मध्य प्रदेश) : जो मीठें हुई हैं वे तीन रोज तक होती रही और जब शुरू के दिन यह दुर्घटना हुई उसके बाद से क्या दोपहर का भोजन बन्द कर दिया गया है ?

श्री एम० सी० चागला : खाना बन्द कर दिया गया है ।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : वहां पर मीठें तीन रोज तक लगातार हुई तो क्या एक रोज के खाने की वजह से तीन रोज तक मीठ होती रही या तीन रोज तक लगातार खाना दिया गया ?

श्री एम० सी० चागला : जैसे ही मालूम पड़ा कि खाना इन्फेक्शन है वैसे ही पकाना बन्द कर दिया गया ।

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : किस राज बन्द कर दिया गया ?

श्री एम० सी० चागला : इस रिपोर्ट से ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है The school-going children were supplied mid-day meals on 15th, 17th and 18th.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : पहली दुर्घटना कब हुई ?

श्री एम० सी० चागला : पहला एटैक १६ तारीख को हुआ ।

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): In view of the terrible tragedy that has happened in Andhra Pradesh, may I know whether the Government have directed the suspension of the supply of these food articles by CARE throughout India until these articles are properly investigated into and chemical examination has taken place with regard to the quality or otherwise of these food articles?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: No, Sir. Reports say that this programme is going on in other parts of Andhra Pradesh and there is no bad result.

Therefore, the suggestion is that the cause of this is something local. Very likely it has something to do with cooking in bad utensils. So I do not see why this very fine programme under which so many millions of children are being fed should be stopped.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) It will be premature to come to a definite conclusion at this stage when the matter is under investigation. But is it not proper in view of the great tragedy that the Central Government should directly investigate into this matter instead of having telephone conversations and so on? Because it may well be, and we should go by presumption, that if local responsibility is there, there might be an attempt to shirk responsibility, some individual may try to do so. Whichever way you look at it, this matter should not be treated in a routine way, and the Central Government should directly handle this investigation in order to arrive at a proper conclusion.

SHRI M C CHAGLA The hon Member may have a little patience. I am waiting for the post-mortem results. That can only be done on the spot. A chemical analyser is examining, as he says, excreta, viscera, the food, and so on, and as soon as we get the results perhaps we will know the cause. Then we will take the necessary action.

شری پیارے لال درمل دہطالبہ

(اگر پردہس) : میں منسٹر صاحب سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ جن برتنوں میں کھانا پکایا گیا تھا کھانے والے کھڑے (Care) کی طرف سے دیکھے گئے تھے اور جن برتنوں میں بچوں کو کھانا دیا گیا تھا وہ اپنے کھڑے سے لڑتے تھے کہ کھڑے کی طرف سے دئے گئے تھے۔

†[श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील 'ताजिब' (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैं मिनिस्टर साहिब से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन बर्तनों में खाना पकाया गया था क्या वे केर की तरफ से दिये गये थे और जिन बर्तनों में बच्चों को खाना दिया गया था वे अपने घर से लाये थे कि केर की तरफ से दिये गये थे ?]

श्री एम० सी० चागला : यूटेंसिल केयर मण्डाई नहीं करता ।

MR CHAIRMAN That is enough. There is another Call Attention Notice.

(11) REPORTED INTRUSION OF PAKISTAN-OCCUPIED KASHMIR TROOPS IN THE POONCH AREA ON 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1964

SHRI D THENGARI (Uttar Pradesh) Sir, with your permission, I rise to call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the reported intrusion by Pakistan-occupied Kashmir troops in the Poonch area of the cease-fire line in Jammu and Kashmir on the 17th September, 1964.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI Y B CHAVAN): Mr. Chairman, on 17th September 1964, at 9.30 A.M. our patrol consisting of one officer and 4 other Ranks was ambushed by Pakistan-occupied Kashmir troops in an area about 8½ mile South-West of Poonch. The place of ambush was approximately 1000 yards on our side of the cease-fire line. Simultaneously two of our posts in the same area were fired upon for 30 minutes with medium machine guns from four places across the cease-fire line. Three Other Ranks of ours have been killed and one officer is missing, presumably taken prisoner by the Pakistanis. Besides, we have lost one sten gun and two rifles with ammunition.

Our troops inflicted two casualties on Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir troops. One of them was a regular soldier and the other was a Razakar. Our troops also recovered a bag containing 2 grenades and 5 sten magazines full of

†[] English translation

ammunition from the dead bodies. Cease-fire violation complaints have been lodged. The decision of the Chief Military Observer is awaited.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Have there been any cases during the last fortnight of the United Nations' vehicles or United Nations' observers being fired upon by Pakistani intruders and what steps do Government propose to take? Do Government propose to take it up with the United Nations to prevent the recurrence of such firings?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Yes, Sir, Unfortunately, for the last few days there has been an increasing number of such incidents of continuous firing which are certainly going on in that sector of Poonch-Nowshera area. I have also heard about some sort of firing at the United Nations' vehicle and personnel. Naturally, we are all concerned about it and we do not like this position because we do not want any incident to take place on the cease-fire line because we do not want any wrong relationship on that side. Well, Sir, the matters are brought to the United Nations organisation there and possibly we will have to take it up with the High Commissioner also, if necessary.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is there any proposal to increase the strength of the United Nations' Observers team?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Well, Sir, we have mentioned it before on the floor of the House that we had asked for a larger number of observers. I think, to a certain extent, this request has been conceded.

श्री गिरिराज किशोर कपूर (मध्य प्रदेश): ये घटनाएं आगे न हों, इसके लिये सरकार अब भी कुछ कदम उठाने की बात सोच रही है ?

श्री वाई० बी० चव्हाण: हम ज्यादा जागरूक रहें, यही एक तरीका हो सकता है हमारी तरफ से। लेकिन पाकिस्तान की तरफ से मैं क्या कह सकता हूँ ?

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया (मध्य प्रदेश): हमारे घर में घुस कर हम को ही मारते हैं और हमारे शासन की तरफ से हमेशा यह कह दिया जाता है कि हम यह प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं, वह प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। आखिर, हम एक ठोस कदम उठाएँ जिस से कि कम से कम हमारे घर में हमारी पिटाई न हो, ऐसा कुछ करने का इरादा नहीं है ?

श्री वाई० बी० चव्हाण: हाँ, कभी हमारे घर में वे आते हैं तो हम उनकी भी पिटाई करते हैं।

श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील (तालिब):

(उत्तर प्रदेश): क्या इन घटनाओं के सम्बन्ध में कभी हमारी सरकार ने पाकिस्तान सरकार से बातचीत की है ताकि यह घटनाएँ रोकी जा सकें ? मैं यू० एन० ओ० की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ।

[श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील "तालिब":
(उत्तर प्रदेश): क्या इन घटनाओं के सम्बन्ध में कभी हमारी सरकार ने पाकिस्तान सरकार से बातचीत की है ताकि यह घटनाएँ रोकी जा सकें ? मैं यू० एन० ओ० की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ।]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chavan, you said in your reply that you will take it up with the High Commissioner.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: We will have to take it up with our High Commissioner.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): In view of the repetition of these incidents on the cease-fire line, has Government considered the question of informing the United Nations that if the United Nations is not able to stop this kind of intrusion, we will

take retaliatory action against the intruders in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir area?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: It is not for us to go to the United Nations. That is what exactly Pakistan wants in this matter. We can certainly take up this matter with the United Nations Organisation in Kashmir.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): The day before yesterday, you were good enough to pass on our Calling Attention Notice with regard to the arrests in West Bengal under the Defence of India Rules

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh): A new subject, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, are you dealing with this?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is not on this.

(Shri P. L. Kureel Urf Talib stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kureel, I would request you to put your most important question first. I gave you a chance. Evidently, you put a less important question. Now, you want a fundamental question to be put. I want you to put a fundamental question.

SHRI G. M. MIR (Jammu and Kashmir): I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that Pakistani forces have reoccupied two of the posts in Bigaldara in the Poonch sector, which have been vacated by the United Nations Observers in 1948?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I do not know about that particular incident which is mentioned.

SHRI G. M. MIR: My question is whether it is a fact that the Pakistani forces are going on firing for the last about two months and they have recaptured two posts which have been vacated by the United Nations Observers in 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you deal with this subject?

SHRI G. M. MIR: It is with regard to this question, Sir. I am talking of the Poonch area and my question is this. The Pakistani forces have been carrying on firing for the last about two months in the Poonch sector, continuously, everyday, and they have re-occupied the two posts which have been vacated by the United Nations Observers in 1948. What action have Government taken in this regard?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, I did mention about the continued firing for the past two weeks. About this thing, I have no information.

RE THE ARRESTS OF SOME M.L.As. AND M.L.Cs.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I mentioned it because I thought that the other subject was over.

The day before yesterday you were good enough to pass on our Call Attention Notice with regard to the arrests of MLAs, MLCs, trade union and political workers in West Bengal under the Defence of India Rules to the Government. Since then, it appears that more arrests have taken place. And I ask the hon. Minister whether they have found it out. Now, the position is this. If there was a Call for hartal and so on against high prices etc. it is a legitimate thing, the thing is not illegal at all. Now, they are using the Defence of India Rules in advance in order to suppress it. I should like to know from the Government why it is being done, whether the Central Government has been consulted in the matter and whether the Government has authorised—I am concerned with the Central Government—the West Bengal State Government to take recourse to the Defence of India Rules and arrest so many people. As a result, the West Bengal Assembly