

in-charge of that project I have certain powers vested in me and I have vested certain powers in the DDA and they are exercising those powers

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that originally it was decided that the Dandakaranya Project administration would be an autonomous body under the Government of India and that a Cabinet Sub-committee or a Ministerial Sub-committee would look after it and it is only later, somehow or other it seems, that the Rehabilitation Ministry has arrogated to itself the task which did not initially belong to it?

SHRI MEHR CHAND KHANNA: If he is seeking information for the debate which is initiating to-morrow.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Today

MR CHAIRMAN. Next question

CULTIVATION OF LANDS IN INDIAN TERRITORY BY PAKISTANIS

*455 **SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent press report to the effect that the East Pakistani cultivators under armed covers of the Pakistani forces are regularly infiltrating into the Indian side of the border and forcibly cultivating and harvesting the lands of the Indian cultivators, and

(b) what effective steps are being taken by Government to protect the life and property of the Indian cultivators along the eastern borders of India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) The Government are not aware of any recent Press report as mentioned in the question

There have, however, been instances when Pakistani nationals backed by Pakistani Armed Forces have made fanciful claims to Indian fields mainly on the Khasi and Jaintia Hills border of Assam and also made attempts to cultivate or harvest Indian fields on that border. Some of these attempts led to firing incidents. In all cases these attempts at encroachment have been resisted.

(b) Indian authorities at the local as well as central level are constantly in touch with Pakistani authorities to prevent any encroachment from the Pakistan side. In addition, Indian border forces have standing instructions to resist encroachment into Indian territory.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What I wanted to know was whether the encroachments which the Pakistan people were making on India, were made under cover of the Pakistani armed forces, or not?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Most of these so-called encroachments, Sir, are petty disputes between rival farmers, one on this and the other on the other side, but they become important because, sometimes, they are backed up by armed forces. Otherwise they come over during the season to a field which might have perhaps belonged to them before partition because they cannot get over the fact that partition has occurred and changes have taken place. Normally these disputes would be petty police matters in one country, but because there is an international frontier now, they become international matters.

*456 to *458 [Postponed to the 8th September, 1959]

REPORT OF THE ECONOMY COMMITTEE OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY

*459 **SHRI V. K. DHAGE:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether he has recently received any report from the Economy Committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken on the recommendation made therein?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) (a) and (b) Yes The Prime Minister has received an interim report from a Sub-Committee on Economy appointed by the Congress Parliamentary Party. The recommendations contained therein are under consideration of the Government.

SHRI V K DHAGE May I know, Sir, what are the main recommendations of this Sub-Committee?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The report is an interim report and the main recommendation—speaking from memory—is that we should stop recruitment in any class of Government employees for a period. I think the best thing would be, I shall ask—this is not a Government matter, this is a Congress Party matter, but no doubt every Member of Parliament is interested in economy and therefore—I shall request the people concerned to have the report published so that everybody can read it in the newspapers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA May I know, Sir, if the Government has considered the advisability of holding any discussions amongst the representatives of the various parties, say, on the basis of this particular report which has come from the Congress Party?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU No, Sir, we have not considered that, this was entirely an internal party matter and there was discussion. Because certain recommendations were made, naturally they were sent on to the Ministries concerned. If any recommendations are made by the hon. Member or any group of Members of Parliament, we have naturally to consider them. There is nothing difficult, and if hon. Members wish to discuss these very recommendations, of course we can talk to them, there is no difficulty, there is no formality about it.

I think the best thing would be, as I said just now, that this report should be given publicity in the newspapers so that everybody can read them, and if someone wants to discuss them, we shall gladly do so.

PAKISTANI FIRING IN TITHWAL AREA OF KASHMIR

*460 SHRI V K DHAGE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on or about the 11th August, 1959, a raiding party from Pakistan-occupied area of Kashmir crossed the cease-fire line and fired on a Kashmir police outpost in Tithwal area, and

(b) if so, how many persons were injured as a result of the firing?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) (a) On August 2, 1959 at about 0045 hours a Pakistan-occupied Kashmir patrol approached our police picquet at Bandi about 4 miles south-east of Tithwal and about 900 yards on our side of the cease-fire line. On being challenged by our sentry, the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir patrol opened fire. Our post also fired two rounds in return.

(b) We suffered no casualties. The leader of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir patrol, head constable Iskander Khan, who was wounded in the encounter, surrendered and he was admitted to hospital.

SHRI V K DHAGE May I know, Sir, whether this Iskander Khan made any statement at the time of his arrest?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON I have no information.

SHRI V K DHAGE May I know, Sir, whether he was searched and any articles were recovered from him?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON No, Sir.