

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