

Karimgunj before the firing took place on one occasion?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Trenches are normally dug before people start firing so that they may protect themselves from counter-firing.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: In our protests made to Pakistan authorities, have we demanded that these trenches should be closed and the forces withdrawn from the place?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Is that the hon. Member's suggestion for action?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: In the protest made to Pakistan were any such demands made?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Naturally. I cannot remember the wording of what was said about trenches but it was pointed out that this kind of thing was very irregular and not proper.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Apart from making a protest, did the Government of India demand of the Pakistan Government the withdrawal of the forces? Have they done that?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Withdrawal from where?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Withdrawal from the places illegally occupied.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: In a great part of this area, intermittent firing is taking place from respective territories across the river. So from that part there is no question of withdrawal because it is admittedly ours or theirs. Some parts are disputed territories. From such parts—part of a disputed village or disputed area is occupied by Pakistan—from there the question of withdrawal—we of course claim it—means a decision on the question of the disputed territory. In one case, which, as I just said, is indisputably Indian territory—that is the village of Tukergam—it is a clear violation of Indian territory by the

Pakistan forces occupying it. At the present moment that is really a clear violation. That is across the river and rather difficult to reach and we have forcibly and repeatedly asked them to withdraw from that place.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether Tukergam was occupied after Pandit Pant paid a visit to Shillong and said that he would not tolerate the occupation of an inch of land?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, that is so. That holds. That does not mean that overnight something is done about it necessarily.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are meeting on the 30th. Today is 28th. Let us postpone further discussion.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In regard to this particular village . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right.

#### CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT ON THE EASTERN BORDER

\*250. DR. A. N. BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any case-fire agreement has been entered into between India and Pakistan in connection with the Eastern border of India since April 1958;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative—

(i) what were the terms of the agreement;

(ii) whether they have been implemented on both the sides; and

(iii) if not, who was responsible for its violation; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent such violation in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. A

cease-fire agreement was reached between the Chief Secretaries of Assam and East Pakistan to be effective from the midnight of 23rd May 1958.

(b) (i) The agreement provided only that the firing should cease completely in all sectors.

(ii) and (iii) The agreement was violated by Pakistani forces after some days.

(c) Correspondence has been going on with the Pakistan Government and the matter will be discussed at the Secretary level Conference to be held at Karachi on 30th August 1958.

DR. A. N. BOSE: With respect to (b) (iii), am I to understand that the Indian Government never resorted to firing or to violation of the cease fire agreement?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: We are not to understand that there was no firing. There has been firing. Where there has been firing from Pakistan side, this has been met by firing from this side and the argument sometimes arises as to who started the firing. According to us, they started it and our people continued. Sometimes they say, "No, it is you who started". One has to rely largely on local reports about this.

DR. A. N. BOSE: Is there any other place besides Tukurgram which is indisputably Indian territory which was occupied by Pakistan at any stage?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: At any stage I cannot say but there are two or three other areas not indisputably Indian territory. One is the village of Lakhimpur in Tripura and as a matter of fact it has been awarded by the Demarcation Committee or whatever it is to Pakistan and which therefore should go to Pakistan, but according to our agreement no exchange of territory should take place till that area was demarcated so that one could exchange it, and not in-between, because a decision was

made. Therefore although Lakhimpur should—and we have admitted that—go to Pakistan, it should have gone in the proper form after an exchange. They attacked and took possession of it. The other is a forest area—the Patharia forest area—where the question does not arise but where there has been this firing and sometimes a little going backwards and forwards of the police forces.

DR. A. N. BOSE: May I know whether or not any part of Pakistan territory, that is, any territory which is indisputably a part of Pakistan, was occupied by Indian forces as a measure of reprisal?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No, Sir, not according to us but whenever there is a disputed territory, not indisputable, Pakistan would say, if we are in possession of the disputed territory for some time past, that "you are occupying our territory" although it is a disputed territory.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Have we, as Pakistan has occupied forcibly Lakhimpur, which ordinarily ought to go to them, also occupied any territory from Pakistan which ought to have come to us but under the agreement . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: The answer is given already. He put that question and he said 'no'.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My next question is, how many cease-fire agreements have altogether taken place on this border?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: When you refer to cease-fire agreements, normally the reference is to local agreements by local district officers or others on the spot. Quite a number of them are there. The other big cease-fire agreements are between Governments. Normally we refer therefore to local agreements—I cannot say the number. But according to us very

frequently the agreements arrived at locally have been violated by the Pakistani forces there.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is a fact that the Tripura border near the Lakhimpur area has also been sealed off by the Pakistan for the movement of goods and passengers from Indian territory to Tripura via Pakistan?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The hon. Member is somewhat behind the times. It was done and it was a serious violation but many days ago that border was opened.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: May I know the number of times cease-fire agreements were entered into between the two Prime Ministers?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: So far as I remember, one three days ago.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: What is the feeling of the people in the border areas? Is there a feeling of disappointment or a feeling of security?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That depends upon the mentality of the person concerned. I should say that some people may feel frustrated and some may feel elated.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: I am asking about the information of the Government of India regarding the people of the border areas. Have the Government infused any feeling of confidence in regard to security especially when these illegal occupations are taking place?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is obvious that where there is firing going on people who may be hit by the firing do not react happily to it. In fact, many of them may be frightened and some of them may not be frightened. Nobody likes firing to go on round about.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: What, Sir, is Pakistan's explanation for refusing to vacate Tukurgram which is indisputably Indian territory?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not think they have given any particular explanation about that particular incident.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In regard to these border firings, the papers have reported—and I also remember the Assam Government stating it—that some six people were killed and a dozen people were wounded. Is it true?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Is it about the Indian nationals?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, of Indian nationals.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: There were casualties on two or three occasions. One was at Lakhimpur where a surprise attack was made on a police picket in the middle of the night. Three or four persons were killed, three or four were wounded and two or three were captured. They were major casualties. There have been odd firings in other parts of the border. I cannot give the exact number but perhaps two or three have been killed on our side. On the other side, according to Pakistan reports, a number of people have been killed.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The Deputy Minister said that there was no loss of life.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is something else. Do not mix them up. So many things have happened in the border areas.

\*251. [The questioner (Shri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1353-54 infra.]