

RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, 28th August 1958

The House met at eleven of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FIRING BY PAKISTANIS ON INDO-EAST PAKISTAN BORDER

- *249. { †SHRI V. K. DHAGE:
SHRI T. S. AVINASHI-
LINGAM CHETTIAR:
SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:
SHRI NAWAB SINGH
CHAUHAN:
SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ:
SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:
SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI
NIGAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days on which there was firing by Pakistan on the Indo-East Pakistan border during the months of May, June and July, 1958;

(b) the reasons for such firing;

(c) the extent of loss of life and property on the Indian side; and

(d) what steps have been taken to prevent such incidents?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) There was firing by Pakistani forces on 11 days.

(b) We do not know all the reasons for these firings. Pakistan, however, did attempt to encroach upon territory in India's possession in the disputed portions of the border.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri V. K. Dhage.

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(c) No loss of life was reported in the firings during May to July 1958. The loss to property was estimated at about Rs. 3,500.

(d) Protests were lodged with Pakistani authorities and Government. Security measures were strengthened on the border. Twice the Government succeeded in arranging a cease-fire but Pakistan violated it each time. The matter will also be taken up at the forthcoming Secretary level Conference to be held at Karachi on the 30th August 1958 and the Prime Ministers Conference in September.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know what has been the reply to the protests that have been launched?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Which protest? A number of protests were lodged from time to time.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: How many protests were lodged against the 11 days' firing that took place?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The normal reply is a counter-protest.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: Is there any territory indisputably Indian which is in the occupation of Pakistani troops?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Yes, there is a village.

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या यह सच है कि इस फायरिंग की वजह से लग भग दो हजार मकान मशीनगनों से गिर गये या खराब हो गये ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : यह तो मुझे मालूम नहीं । कुछ नुकसान हुआ है लेकिन आपने देखा कि इस में लिखा है कि साढ़े तीन हजार रुपये का नुकसान हुआ है, साढ़े तीन हजार रुपये के नुकसान में गालिबन दो हजार मकान नहीं शामिल होंगे ।

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether trenches were dug nearabout

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