

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it under contemplation or is it being implemented? That is his question.

SHRI ABID ALI: I have said, Sir, that so many beds have been reserved and so many have been put in annex-

■ es. There is a proposal to construct more hospitals and also annexes.

SHRI J. V. K. VALLABHARAO: I am asking about the proposal to

■ construct hospitals. Has the proposal materialised anywhere and, if so, in what places?

SHRI ABID ALI: In Madras we have already purchased the land and plans are being got ready for constructing a hospital there.

BABU GOPINATH SINGH: May I know, Sir, what has been done at Kanpur? There is a lot of T.B. in Kanpur but the Government have not provided any T.B. hospital there.

SHRI ABID ALI: The Government of Uttar Pradesh have decided to have a hospital in Kanpur.

RAID BY PAKISTANI FORCES ON ASSAM BORDER

◆61. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to : state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Forces crossed the Assam border in the month of March more than once and injured Indian nationals and if so, the nature of the incidents and the number of persons injured; and

(b) the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) No, Sir, Pakistani forces did not cross the frontier but fired at Indian territory from their own side. One Indian national was killed and seven injured. One of the injured has died since.

(b) Throughout the period of the firing the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and the Assam Government were continually in touch with their counterparts and efforts were also made at State and Central Government level to control the situation. Two cease-fire agreements negotiated by Deputy Commissioners on 21st and 27th March proved ineffective and a third cease-fire agreement was reached between the two Commissioners on 8th April.

Governments of India and Pakistan have also since agreed to depute representatives of the Central Governments to carry out a joint enquiry into the entire series of these incidents since March, 11.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether it is a fact that heavy firing took place at Nathanpur from 3 to 10 P.M. on March, 12?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: The whole thing was answered in an earlier question.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether there is any truth in the press reports appearing in certain sections of the press that Pakistani Armed Forces have been concentrating across the borders in Assam?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We have also seen some reports.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: May I know whether the Pakistani nationals have come away to the Indian side seeking shelter because of the harassment of the firing on that side?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Not that we know of.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know the attitude of the Government of India towards the concentration of Pakistani Armed Forces there?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON:
We have protested against that and in the cease-fire agreement we have ! said that the bunkers and trenches

should be removed and that whatever Armed personnel there is should be withdrawn.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मंत्रिणी महोदया यह बताने की कुरा करेंगी कि पिछले मास में इस प्रकार के कितने वाक्यात सरहद पर हुये ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I suppose he has asked about the number of instances. There were a number of instances from the 11th March till the 9th April.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What constitutes a firing?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Firing across the border.

BOATMEN FROM THE 24 PARGANAS DISTRICT KIDNAPPED BY PAKISTANI MILITARY PERSONNEL

62. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (ON BEHALF OF SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND) : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether the boatmen from the 24 Parganas district of West Bengal kidnapped by the Pakistani Military personnel, have been restored to India and if not, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON) : On repeated protests being made both by the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal, the Government of East Pakistan informed the Government of West Bengal on the 5th April 1958 that these Indian nationals were arrested on the eastern bank of the river in Pakistan territory. Further that the arrested persons were produced before the Sub Divisional Officer, Satkhira (East Pakistan) who had released them on bail, and that the cases against them were pending. Enquiries are being made as to their present whereabouts.

2. The Government of West Bengal have been requested to move the Government of East Pakistan to hold a joint enquiry at District Magistrates' level.

10 RSD.—2.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether these seven persons have since been returned to India?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: We have no information about them except that they were released on bail and I have stated in the answer that enquiries are being made to know as to their whereabouts.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know if the Indian Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca has been instructed to help the legal defence arising out of this case?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPORT OF MONKEYS DURING 1957

3. SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of monkeys exported from India, State wise, in the year 1957?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI LAL BAHADUR) : During January—November, 1957, for which figures are available, 1,75,901 monkeys were exported. Figures of State-wise exports are not available.

DEVELOPMENT OF TASSAR SILK INDUSTRY

4. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main tassar producing areas in the country;

(b) whether Government have taken or propose to take any steps for the development of the *tassar* silk industry; and