

received and the same amount has gone out. Regarding these 10,000 tons it is ready to be delivered.

**PAKISTAN PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT
REGARDING ROUNDING UP OF INDIANS IN
EAST PAKISTAN**

*25. { SHRI JUGAL KISHORE:
SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL
NAIDU:
SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:
SHRI J. H. JOSHI:
SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ:
SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has stated recently that the vast number of Indians in East Pakistan will be rounded up and put in concentration camps; and

(b) if so, what action Government are taking in this matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): (a) Yes.

(b) Immediately on seeing the press reports, Government sought a clarification from the Pakistan Government. As the reply received was not satisfactory, a further protest was made. Since then, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has issued further clarifications. After this, it was not considered necessary to pursue this matter further.

A copy of the statement made in this behalf in the Lok Sabha on the 10th February is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Statement given by the Prime Minister in Lok Sabha on 10-2-58 regarding Pakistan Prime Minister's reference to Indian citizens in East Pakistan.

Newspapers of 12th January 1958, in India and Pakistan, carried reports

of a statement made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan at a press conference in Karachi the previous day wherein he referred to arresting Indian citizens in East Pakistan and putting them in concentration camps. The following appeared in the "Dawn" of Karachi dated 12th January:

"There was no doubt in his mind that 'a very large number of Bharati citizens are roaming about the province without passports and visas'. The Prime Minister declared that 'we are going to arrest the whole damn lot of them, and going to put them in concentration camps to build mud roads'."

The statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan naturally caused concern amongst the Indian public. Our High Commissioner in Karachi was therefore telegraphically asked to request the Government of Pakistan for an authentic version of their Prime Minister's statement. The Prime Minister of Pakistan was on a foreign tour and the Pakistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations informed our High Commissioner that no authentic version of Prime Minister Noon's statement was available. They added that what he said was off the record to some press men, and that he did not intend to refer to changing any law or to vary any agreements existing between India and Pakistan.

In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the clarification and the threat of putting Indian citizens in concentration camps and using them as forced labour to build mud roads made in the statement, Government of India protested against this statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan which was in violation of normal international practice in these matters and also violated the terms of the Indo-Pakistan Passport and Visa Agreement.

Since his return to Karachi, the Pakistan Prime Minister has clarified his earlier statement in an interview given to the press. The following

report of this clarification appeared in the "Dawn" of Karachi dated 3rd February:

"Malik Firoz Khan Noon pointed out that it was stated by an Opposition member of Parliament during the last session in Dacca that there were 2,00,000 Bharati citizens roaming about in East Pakistan without passports or visas of any kind.

'I stated in an answer to him', the Prime Minister recalled, 'that if there were any foreigners without passports or permits they would be arrested and put into concentration camps—since they would be too many for our few jails, and made to build roads, since it would be difficult to provide other labour for them'.

'Since there have been no arrests of such persons, it is clear that either there were no such unauthorised persons or if there were any, they must have cleared out of East Pakistan as a salutary result of my statement', he said, and remarked: 'Both conclusions are to be welcomed'."

I do not wish to add any comments to the various statements made by the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

The so-called 'operation 'Closed-Door' conducted in East Pakistan-Indian border is an intensive anti-smuggling drive conducted by the Pakistan authorities and is not meant to be a sealing of borders between India and East-Pakistan. The Government of India have received reports that the Pakistan border police and the Pakistan Army who are operating on the India-East Pakistan border in connection with this anti-smuggling drive have, in some cases, been responsible for border incidents involving trespass into Indian territory, kidnapping and harassment of Indian nationals, forcible removal of property belonging to Indians and to some extent disorganising the border

trade arrangements between East Pakistan and India.

These incidents have been taken up with the Pakistan authorities both at the level of the State and Central Governments. We have also lodged a general protest about these incidents and asked the Pakistan Government to apprehend and punish those responsible for the incidents and to issue clear instructions to the Pakistan police and Pakistan Army Personnel operating on the border not to harass those engaged in border trade in pursuance of the Indo-Pakistan agreement in this matter.

श्री पां० ना० राजभोज : क्या इस बारे में पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री ने कोई विधान किया है कि पाकिस्तान में कितने भारतीय नागरिक हैं और क्या यह विधान करने के बाद कुछ भारतीय नागरिक पाकिस्तान से लौट आये हैं ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : कुछ समझ में नहीं आया। जो मैंने लोक सभा में बयान रखा था, उसमें उन्हीं का बयान है यानी प्रधान मंत्री पाकिस्तान का। उन्होंने पहले यह कहा था कि इन भारतीयों को जो करीब दो लाख के होंगे उनको पकड़ कर के कन्वेंशन कैम्प में रख दिया जायेगा और उनसे सड़क बनवाई जायेगी मगर उनके पास इस बयान के कागजात नहीं हैं। तो बाद में उन्होंने कहा :

"since there have been no arrests of such persons, it is clear that either there were no such unauthorised persons or if there were any, they must have cleared out of East Pakistan as a salutary result of my statement', he said, and remarked: 'Both conclusions are to be welcomed.'"

Surely, Sir, no comment of ours is necessary after what the Prime Minister of Pakistan has said on the subject.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: I can certainly see the sense of humour in the answer of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, but may I know, Sir, from the hon. the Prime Minister whether injury has not been done to the prestige of India by a statement like that that all people, nearly two lakhs people will be put in concentration camps, and, in view of that fact, may I know, Sir, from the hon. the Prime Minister whether it is advisable just to ignore the event or make further protests to the Prime Minister of Pakistan?

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: What is the use of protesting?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: No further steps. It is true and I think the hon. Member is perfectly right in saying that such a statement—I would not say—caused injury to India but it caused dismay to many people. That is true. The injury, I think, is ultimately more to Pakistan, to make such statements which have no meaning. I suppose possibly this might have reference to what was taking place in those days under an agreement allowing a certain measure of border trade and people were allowed to go across the border 10, 15 miles—I forget what—and maybe he was referring to that.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: Is the Prime Minister aware that the present Prime Minister of Pakistan wrote a book entitled, "Wisdom from the Mouth of Fools"?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Well, maybe, but only the latter part might be correct, not the first.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether actually there have been no arrests made, as stated by the Prime Minister of Pakistan?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: Apparently not, Sir. This is what he himself has said. There is nobody to arrest.

*26 and *27. [For answers, vide cols. 214-217 infra.]

SURVEY FOR URANIUM AND THORIUM RESERVES IN THE COUNTRY

*28. **SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any survey has been made to find out the total reserves of Uranium and Thorium in the country?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ALSO IN-CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU): A detailed and systematic survey, including prospecting work, for estimating the reserves of atomic minerals including Uranium and Thorium is being carried out by the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy since 1950. The work is still in progress.

This is a continuing process in all countries, and our effort is being progressively increased. Our total reserves of Uranium and Thorium are presently estimated at approximately 30,000 tons of uranium and about half a million tons of thorium. About half of these reserves were found in the large deposits recently discovered in Bihar.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: May I know, Sir, in what States Thorium and Uranium deposits are found?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: In many States. Thorium of course is plenty in Kerala, and is found in other parts too. The present areas of operation where geological field parties are working are Rajasthan, U.P., East Punjab, parts of Madhya Pradesh north of the Narmada and Son rivers, Mysore, Andhra and Madras, Kerala and some other parts of Madras, Bombay, parts of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Assam, eastern coastal districts of Andhra State, mainly east coast beach,