

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) and (b). The play "Free Passage Home" contained certain objectionable features, which were pointed out by our High Commission in London to the British Broadcasting Corporation. In reply, the author, Mr. Ian MacCormick, has regretted giving any offence to Indian sentiment and has offered his apologies for any impression that the play was in any way biased against India.

PROTECTION GIVEN BY PAKISTAN TO THE JAGMAL SINGH GANG OF DACOITS OPERATING ON RAJASTHAN-PAKISTAN BORDER

*462. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan have reported to the Government of India that protection is being given by Pakistan to the Jagmal Singh gang of dacoits who are operating on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border since 1953; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) The Government of India have received reports from Rajasthan Government which go to show that dacoit Jagmal Singh and his gang are taking shelter in West Pakistan and that the Pakistan police authorities have not been very cooperative in the matter of their being apprehended and handed over to Indian authorities.

(b) Protests have been lodged with the Government of Pakistan.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: My question was whether they are being given shelter by the Pakistan Government. There is no reply to that question.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: I have said that the Government of India have received reports from the Rajasthan Government which show

that the dacoits, etc. are taking shelter in West Pakistan.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Are they being given shelter by the Pakistan Government?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: How is it possible for our Government to say whether the Pakistan Government is doing this unless they do it openly and publicly? Obviously, this is not done publicly or openly, if at all.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is it a fact that when the gang is encountered by the Indian police and ambushed, the Pakistan armed police fires on our police?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: The hon. Member should get used to diplomatic language, and when the answer is in diplomatic language, he should understand what it means. We do not use in matters concerning diplomacy language which is sometimes more precise.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is difficult for me to be as politic and diplomatic as the Prime Minister; otherwise everybody will be a Jawaharlal Nehru in India. I can only put my feelings as a soldier in straightforward language.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a Parliament Member and not a soldier here.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think that when the hon. Member talks about the Pakistan Government, he has possibly in his mind some local officials at the border or some local police at the border. That is not necessarily the Pakistan Government.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: The question is very simple. When the dacoits are encountered by the Indian police and when they are about to be caught, the Pakistan police comes to the aid of these dacoits. Is it true? That is what Mr. Jaswant Singh is asking.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: And res-I cues them, after firing on our police.

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That was answered long ago. This is another question.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: We who live on the border very well know the hardship we are undergoing. Naturally, the Prime Minister, sitting in Delhi, cannot appreciate our difficulties. I know Jagmal Singh personally because he comes from my village. He, having killed several Indians, has now gone and taken shelter in Pakistan. Occasionally he comes and within an area of about 50 to 60 sq. miles no million-naires can stay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a long speech. Put your question straight.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The question is this: Two days ago the D.I.G. of Rajasthan made a statement to the press that neither have they got transport nor does the Indian Government give them any facilities to chase these dacoits, that the Pakistan Government helps them and gives them protection and that in the circumstances they cannot shelter the people of India. Is this a satisfactory state of affairs that the Government cannot make some adequate arrangements at least to provide protection to the people?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: It is patent, Sir, that we cannot enter Pakistan territory in chasing these dacoits or for any other purpose. The only arrangement we can make in their territory is through the Pakistan Government. We endeavour to do so. In our territory we can make such arrangements as we can.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Is it true that this gang enters the Indian territory as far deep as 100 or 150 miles and even then the Indian police is unable to catch the dacoits or encounter them?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I do not know the details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does not know the details. It took place two days ago.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know whether the Government of India have made any efforts to secure the cooperation of the Pakistan border authorities in stopping the depredations of this gang in India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: They always do it. The Government is always doing it.

THEFTS COMMITTED BY PORTUGUESE IN BOMBAY STATE

♦463. SHRI M. B. JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the petty thefts being committed in the villages of Una Taluka of Sorath District in Bombay State by the miscreants of Diu (Portuguese);

(b) if so, how many of such incidents have so far been brought to the notice of Government during the last three years; and

(c) what steps, if any, have so far been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): (a) No reports to this effect have reached the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

•464 and *465. [For answers, vide cols. 2772-2773 infra].

RISE IN PRICES OF OIL SEEDS

*466. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state whether the prices of oil seeds have gone up despite increased crop estimates and if so, what are the reasons for the increase and what steps have been taken by the Forward Market Commission to check the rise of prices?