

whether Government propose to set up a Radio Station at Kurnool; and if so, when?

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI G. RAJAGOPALAN) : There is no such proposal at present before Government.

Sir, I may add that we have since received a letter from the Government of Andhra asking for a Radio Station at Kurnool and we are examining the question.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Are you considering it favourably?

(*Wo reply.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, Starred Questions are over. There are two Short Notice Questions.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

GUN BATTLE BETWEEN PAKISTAN ARMEU POLICE AND INDIAN POLICE

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gun battle between the Pakistan Armed Police and the Indian Police took place on the 22nd February 1954 near Khanpur village in Indian territory situated on the Bahawalpur (Pakistan) border;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the circumstances which led to the said incident; and

(c) whether there were any casualties, and if so, the particulars thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. K. CHANDA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Two Indian nationals, Shri Shiv Ram and Shri Surja were

sitting in a field near the village Khanpur in Indian territory adjacent to the Bahawalpur-Ferozepore border when at about 5 P.M. on the 22nd February 1954 a Pakistani police party belonging to Dab Sharqi Picket (Bahawalpur) trespassed into Indian territory and ordered them to approach the police party. Shri Surja thereupon ran away towards the village but Shri Shiv Ram was forcibly captured by the Pakistani police and carried away to Pakistan. The exact number of Pakistani policemen in the party is not known.

The information of this outrage reached the Indian authorities soon thereafter and a party of the Punjab Armed Police rushed to the scene of the incident. There they were fired upon by the Pakistani police from across the border. This resulted in an exchange of fire till about 3.30 A.M. on the 23rd February 1954. Meanwhile, senior police officers from the Indian side reached the spot and as a result of their efforts the situation was brought under control. While negotiations were going on between the police officials of the two sides for the return of the kidnapped Indian national and evidence was being shown to the Pakistani police of their trespass into Indian territory, the body of Shri Shiv Ram was found lying about 50 to 60 yards on the Pakistani side of the border.

A protest is being lodged with the Government of Pakistan against the trespass into Indian territory by Pakistani police and the capture and killing of the Indian national.

There were no casualties on the Indian side. The number of casualties, if any, suffered by the Pakistani police is not known.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: May I know Sir, what arrangements Government have made to compensate the family members of the late Shri Shiv Ram?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The matter is still under discussion with the Pakistan authorities.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: Have Government taken any steps to prevent such action in future so that no incident may happen, and has proper protection been given to our nationals?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: We have increased the patrol force.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Sir, Government have said that senior police officers had gone to the scene of occurrence. Have they received any report?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Yes, Sir; Government have received a report; it is pretty long one, but the details are more or less on the lines I have indicated in my answer.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: **May** I know what the report says about the persons responsible for this occurrence, and if they have suggested any course of action or anything? i

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: The first Police Officer who appeared on the scene from the Pakistani side admitted the fact of trespass, but later on he said that it was the Indian nationals who had trespassed into the Pakistan territory.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Do I understand that that was the report of the Pakistani Police? Has that been confined by our police?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: So far as our information goes, our Police say that it was they (Pakistanis} who had trespassed into our territory.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: May I know, Sir, on how many occasions such incidents have happened in the past?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: If the question relates to incidents all along the
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border, in the Western Sector and the Eastern Sector, sir. I should like ■ to have notice.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: Only in the Western Sector.

SHRI A. K. CHANDA One incident happened near that area about a year ago.

SHRI S. MAHANTY: What steps did the Government of India take to stop the recurrence of such incidents after the incident to which the hon. Minister has just now referred?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: We have increased the patrol force.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: May i know, Sir, whether the border areas are under the charge of the military or the Punjab Police? In the case of such incidents, are the military intervening or are the Punjab police intervening?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: It is the Punjab Armed Police which patrols this area.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: How far was the police station from the scene of 'occurrence?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: There are two outposts near it, Churiwala and Shivana. Our Police appeared on the scene within about forty minutes of the incident.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: Have the Government any idea of the distance and what was the time that our police took to-reach the scene?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: As I said, Sir, our police arrived soon after, within about an hour of the occurrence; so I think the distance would not be too great.

SHRI B. C. GHOSE: My question is, did the police come soon enough? That is why I wanted to know about the

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: So far as our information goes, the local villagers informed our Police immediately and our police appeared on the scene. I am not sure of the exact distance.

SHRI KANHAIYALAL D. VAIDYA: I know, Sir, if any post *mortem* examination was made on Shri Shiv Ram?

SHRI A. K. CHANDA: Yes, Sir; post mortem examination was made by the Pakistani police on his body; it was found that there was a bullet on the right and two bullets on the left side.

ETfBH 01 Tl;ST D.-KOTA AIRCRAFT

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two Dakota planes belonging to the Indian Air Lines Corporation were subjected to test flights during the last fortnight;

(b) whether it is also a fact that both of these planes crashed during 'the test flights; and

(c) whether these Dakotas were in active service immediately before the test operations and if not, when they were grounded for the test flights?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). Three Dakotas of the Indian Airlines were being used for carrying out certain special tests between the 12th and the 25th February 1954. One of these crashed and not two. The crash occurred near Delhi on the 25th February 1954.

(c) The aircraft were in active service immediately before the test operations were conducted.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask, Sir, whether these tests were made in pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee which went into the question of the Air Crash at Nagpur some time in December last?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes, Sir.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask whether the Committee recommended that all the Dakotas should be subjected to tests?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The Committee recommended that Dakotas should be tested for their performance under various conditions.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask whether they recommended any special form of tests to be applied to these Dakotas and whether the recommendations in this respect were complied with?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: They did not recommend any special form, but they recommended that a test should be carried out to see what weight the Dakota can carry in the case of the failure of one of the engines.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask whether, as a result of these tests, any clue was found as to whether these crashes occurred due to mechanical trouble or structural defect?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: No, Sir; up till now, it has not been established that these crashes occurred either due to mechanical or structural failure.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I ask whether we can infer from both the tests that were made that the general condition of the Dakotas is very satisfactory from the point of view of the nature of these tests?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, it is too early to make that inference because we carried out only a number of tests. We tested eight and there was no failure. Even in the case of the aircraft in question, it flew on that day for more than an hour, landed, and then again took off. Of course, we have suspended all test flights since the accident occurred.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: May I know whether a safe weight was recommended by the Committee?