

**RANSACKING OF INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION BUILDING IN KARACHI****\*24. SHRI M. AJMAL KHAN**

SHRI J. H. JOSHI

SHRI OM MEHTA

SHRI JAGAT NARAIN

SHRI U. S. DUGAL

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR

SHRI A. D. MANI

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI

SHRI ARJUN ARORA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Government of Pakistan regarding the ransacking of the Indian High Commission building and the harsh and humiliating treatment given to our staff at Karachi during recent Indo-Pakistan hostilities;

(b) if so, whether Government have demanded compensation from Pakistan and how much compensation has been demanded; and

(c) what arrangements were made by Government to keep in touch with our diplomats during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have lodged a strong protest with the Government of Pakistan demanding an apology and amends for the ransacking of the Indian High Commission building, for the armed searches of the houses of our personnel and for the harsh and humiliating treatment meted out to them. The Pakistan Government has also been asked to give an assurance that such outrageous violations of diplomatic rights and immunities will not take place in future.

(b) The question was actually asked by the floor of the House by Shri R. S. I Khandekar.

(b) Yes, Sir; the Government of India have asked for a compensation of Rs. 25,230 for damage inflicted on the Chancery by organised demonstrators on September 21. We have also asked for the return of the articles illegally seized and suitable compensation in respect of the articles damaged during the armed ransacking by the Pakistan Police.

(c) The Government made several efforts to establish contact with our High Commission through the Missions of friendly countries. The Pakistan Government, however, made it impossible for any foreign Mission to meet our High Commissioner or to ascertain our staff's welfare.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know what is the response to this demand for compensation from the Pakistan Government? Has the Government received any reply or has the Government received any compensation?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: No, Sir. They did not accept our protest saying that our contention was not quite correct and, in fact, they have rejected our protest.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: May I know the details of these incidents, whether actually the property was damaged or persons were manhandled or articles were removed? Have the Ministry got any details of these things?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Yes, Sir, the Ministry has details of the articles removed from the Viceroy's building where the personnel were staying. Of course, we have claimed damages only for the Chancery which was exposed to attack.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister stated just now that the Government tried to keep in touch with our Mission in Karachi through friendly foreign Missions. May I ask her whether any specific request was made to the British High Commission and the American Embassy in Delhi to ensure such contacts and was there

any co-operation from these two Missions?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I have already stated in the answer that it was very difficult for these Missions to contact Delhi because everything had to be routed through the Foreign Office of Pakistan. We did contact both the British High Commission and the U.S.A. Embassy there and also the Yugoslav Embassy, which was very helpful.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the principle of reciprocity was applied in the case of Pakistan High Commission when the Government of Pakistan did not allow friendly powers to help the Government of India to maintain touch with our High Commission in Karachi and, if not, why not?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, the House knows that our High Commission was completely kept incommunicado. There was no means of ascertaining any news from them and they were really, as our High Commissioner said, incarcerated and we did not know what was happening till long after the cease-fire.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, the learned Minister has said that the Government did not know what was happening but the Government certainly was in a position to know what was happening in the Pakistan High Commission at Delhi. May I know whether the Government took any steps to ensure that the Government of Pakistan also does not know anything about what is happening in their High Commission at Delhi or in spite of the fact that they were getting no news from Karachi, they were allowing the so-called friendly powers of Pakistan to communicate views and news and other things regarding the Pakistan High Commission to Rawalpindi?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, as I stated earlier, in the initial stages we had imposed curbs on a reciprocal basis. Since the 11th of September there was no means of

communication between us and our High Commission, nor were friendly countries able to give us any news about them. The whole thing has been published in the papers—the details of what happened. We did not know whether Pakistan was able to communicate through their friendly Missions here.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Mr. Chairman, the question of Mr. Arora was very simple.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So was the reply.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It has not been replied to, Sir. SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Sir, we would like to know why the Government did not seal off the Pakistan High Commission's office in Delhi and why it was allowed to have contacts with the foreign Missions here, when the Government knew that during that period the U.K. and U.S.A. Embassies could not contact and pass on news to the Government of India after contacting our High Commission's office in Pakistan.

This is a simple question requiring a simple answer.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, the simple answer is this that we had no information, whatever, about the happenings in Karachi till long after the ceasefire.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Sir, she has not understood me. I would like her to understand my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope it is quite clear.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: She is not clear, Sir.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Sir, even if the Pakistan High Commission have made use of their friendly countries here in their contacts with their Government, we have no information. How are we to know . . .

! SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: This is very strange, Sir.  
(Interruption)

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: It is not clear from what the hon. Minister has stated so far as to what exactly transpired between the friendly countries and our High Commission in Pakistan. May I know the names of the other friendly countries, apart from Britain and America, who were approached to gather information about our High Commission in Karachi and the attitude of those countries?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: As I pointed out, Sir, on the 11th September, all communications were cut off, our High Commission could not contact anybody. Just before the telephone communications were cut off, our High Commission contacted the Mission at the United States, the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia and Ceylon and asked them to inform our Government through their Governments of what was happening there and that is all that they did. While they were talking, the telephone wires were cut off and nothing was known. In fact, they could not even get any news from the All India Radio and they thought that we were very callous not to mention about them. That is the only communication they had with the outside world.

**श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया :**

क्या श्रीमान यह बतलाने काफ़्त करेंगे कि जब पाकिस्तान का इस तरह का रवैया रहा कि वहाँ के अपने दूतावास की तरफ से कोई समाचार न तो वहाँ के अन्य दूतावासों को मिल सका और न हमारे पास कोई समाचार आ सका तो हम इसके लिये सक्रिय हों इस दृष्टि से हम क्या कर रहे हैं ? जब कि अभी हाल में जितने भारतीय दूतावास के लोग हैं उनके कुटुम्बियों को हम भारतवर्ष में बुला रहे हैं, तो ऐसी स्थिति में एक भयंकर स्थिति का निर्माण न हो इसके लिये हम क्या कर रहे हैं ?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: What was the last part of the question? Would you kindly repeat it in English?

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA: What I action are we taking to safeguard our people in Karachi so that this sort of trouble may not occur again?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: Since we have not received any cooperation from the Pakistan Government, we are recalling most of the people working there and only a very-small staff will be kept since diplomatic relations will continue.

**श्री जगत नारायण :** क्या बजीर महोदय बतलायेंगे कि जब पाकिस्तान बिल्कुल कोआपरेट नहीं कर रहा है तो यह जो फ़ैशन आफ़ स्टाफ़ रखना चाहते हैं वह क्यों रखना ज़रूरी समझते हैं, क्यों नहीं बिल्कुल अपना ताल्लुक क़ता कर लेते हैं, अपना सारा स्टाफ़ वहाँ से बुला लेते हैं और यहाँ से स्टाफ़ को वहाँ भेज देते हैं।

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: That is a policy decision. The question is whether we should break off diplomatic relationship with Pakistan and withdraw the entire staff.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: The question is whether we were in a position to prevent the Pakistan High Commission here from contracting the other Embassies as a reciprocal measure. That was the question which was not answered by the hon. Minister May I know whether we were in a position to prevent them? not?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: I think the hon. Members have not understood my answer. We did not know of the happenings there. Reciprocal action can be taken only when we are aware that they are being treated badly. If we had known that our people were subject to hardships of the kind that we came to know later, certainly reciprocal action could have been taken but there was an opportunity for that.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Presumably Pakistan has signed the Vienna Convention. May I ask the hon. Minister -whether, after noting this and having known the things that were done to our people there, the Government have brought to the notice of the other signatories to the Vienna Convention that the Vienna Convention has been effectively broken by Pakistan?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI N. MENON: We have not brought it to the notice of the signatories to the Vienna Convention but certainly Pakistan has ratified the Vienna Convention and what it has done is a flagrant violation of that Convention.

**PERSONS AFFECTED BY INDO-PAK  
CONFLICT**

f SHRI ABDUL GHANI: I SHRI  
SITARAM JAIPURIA SHRI ARJUN  
ARORA:-)SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: \*242. ^  
SHRI U. S. DUGAL: I SHRI OM  
MEHTA: I SHRI P. ABRAHAM: I SHRI  
G. MURAHARI: ( SHRI RAM SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been uprooted in the States of Punjab, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir as a result of Indo-Pakistan conflict;

(b) how many persons have been rehabilitated in each State with Central assistance; and

' the nature of the assistance given by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF REHABILITATION (SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI): (a) 2,97,000 approximately.

(b) About 50,000 persons have been sent back to their original places of residence in Jammu Division. As soon as conditions permit assistance will be provided to others also to

•fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.

<sup>1</sup> return to their original place of residence.

(c) Relief camps have been opened in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan. Arrangements have been made to provide food, shelter, educational and medical facilities, clothing and other necessities of life to the uprooted persons. In addition, financial assistance is being given to them to return to their homes, where conditions permit.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister appears to deal only with the displaced persons in Jammu and Kashmir but the question related to Punjab, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir. May I know if the same facilities which the Government is giving or proposes to give to the displaced persons of Jammu and Kashmir have also been made available and will be made available to the displaced persons in Rajasthan and Punjab because the reports are that nothing much is being done in these two States?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Certainly, Sir, my answer covers all the three States. My friend pointed out about Jammu and Kashmir particularly because it was only in Jammu and Kashmir that some people could return to their homes because that place was not occupied by Pakistan. In other States, the people have not yet returned and, therefore, I have not been able to talk about their return. As regards facilities, they are being given in all the three States. It is the State Governments which are giving these facilities direct and we only supplement the expenditure they incur on that account.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know whether, in the case of Rajasthan and Punjab, the Centre has taken the entire responsibility of rehabilitating the displaced persons or whether the responsibility is shared by the States and the Central Government because these people have been uprooted because of a national event?