

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Negotiations between India and Pakistan are in progress. It is difficult to give a precise date by which an agreement will be reached.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether it is a fact that, if the demand put forward by Pakistan relating to the settlement of the Feni River dispute is conceded, some area of which India is the rightful owner will go to Pakistan?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not understand the question still, but as I understand it, the dispute is as to where the Indo-Pakistan boundary is, either in the middle of the river or on one side. The Pakistanis claim that the whole river falls to them. Our claim is that the boundary should be in the middle of the river. That is the main contention.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that this problem of the Feni River has been hanging fire for a very long time and every time we are posted with one information only namely that negotiations are proceeding with Pakistan, may I know the nature of the present negotiations?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Negotiations are on the official level.

Mr. Speaker: Their nature he wants to know.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Their nature is: each party puts forward its claim, supported by such evidence as it has. It is a very old dispute, originally between the Tripura administration and the then British India. It is a continuation of that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: What is the international practice with regard to demarcation of rivers? All other river boundaries with Pakistan are, I think, along the middle of the river. What is the reason for an ex-

ception being demanded in this case and the matter being held up because of this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot speak as an international lawyer. But, it seems to me reasonable and pretty obvious that the boundary should be lying in the middle of the river and not on one side of it. That is the normal case. But, in this case, the dispute is a very old one. There are many ramifications. Obviously, we consider the boundary should be in the middle of the river.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: In view of the fact that for long the negotiations have been proved to be fruitless, may I know whether the Government of India is willing to take up the negotiations at the Central Government level? If so, when?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The negotiations are going on. The Central Government is being kept informed. The Central Government occasionally writes to the Central Government of Pakistan. But, actually, the examination is done by the local governments or the officials concerned. The Central Government is not out of the picture in this.

Radio-Activity in Calcutta

*10. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to recent newspaper reports that some Calcutta Scientists who made investigations into the radio activity contents in rain water in Calcutta on the 27th January, 1962, have detected an abnormal increase of radio-activity in it;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiries about it; and

(c) if so, full details of the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Government have seen a press re-

port that a group of scientists of Jadavpur University has detected "a little rise" in radio-activity in the rain water in Calcutta on 27th January, 1962.

(b) Yes;

(c) According to a report received from the Head of the Department of Physics, Jadavpur University, a "somewhat abnormal rise in the radio-active contamination carried down by rain waters on January 27, February 8 and February 27, 1962" was detected.

Systematic measurements of activity in air and rain water (when collected) received from eight stations—Bombay, Bangalore, Calcutta, Delhi, Gangtok, Nagpur, Ootacamund and Srinagar—scattered all over India, are made daily by the Department of Atomic Energy, which noticed an increase in activity deposited by rainfall at Calcutta during January, 1962. The increase level is, however, too low to present any danger to the public.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Is it not a fact that the scientists gave the report that the amount of radio activity in the upper atmosphere is feared to have reached the danger point and also that they were carrying out further examination? Is the Government aware—that is a different question—as to which nuclear test has increased this radio activity?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): All I can say in answer is that the Atomic Energy Department has a fairly thorough way of judging this radio activity. It has numerous stations; 8 full-scale stations, and 30 other stations, all over India, where things like samples of milk are tested; the stations are all over India; from north to the south. They are constantly monitoring these; and a very close watch is kept on the level of radio active contamination. It has gone up occasionally; but, in their view, it is fairly below the danger level yet.

Shri Nath Pai: We want to know the answer to the second part of the question. The Prime Minister admits that there has been an increase in radio activity. The hon. Member wanted to know to which test this is due—which test has caused it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It, usually, is connected with these test explosions. Some increase immediately happens and it goes down afterwards.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri: Which country's tests are expected to have done this? (*Interruptions*).

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, heavy drinking of tea serves as a deterrent to radio active effects... (*Interruptions*). This is what the scientists have discovered. Heavy drinking of tea serves as a deterrent to radio active effects. Have the Government examined this?

Shri Tyagi: He comes from Assam, the tea estates area. (*Interruptions*).

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The radio active effects would have had their chance before that when the man dies.

Bonus Commission

*11. **Shri P. G. Deb:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bonus Commission has started its work; and

(b) if so, the progress made in the work?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The Commission has held meetings to discuss the questionnaire which is expected to be finalised and issued shortly.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know whether a final decision has been taken to include the Defence, Posts and Telegraphs, Railways and other Central Government employees in this bonus scheme.