

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): When it is a question of verifying facts in Pakistan territory, naturally it is not particularly easy for the Government to be able to get satisfactory proof. In this particular case, a press report appeared, I believe, on the 31st December 1952, and it is a case that happened over two months earlier, and we are trying to get reports of something that happened on the border; it is not particularly easy for any Government to find out real facts about it. We are trying to do so, in so far as we can, where the facts are ascertained with some degree of accuracy. Well, then, the steps normally taken, apart from protests to the Government, are that the District Magistrates meet etc.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether this gentleman was actually taken to prison, and where he is now?

Shri Anil K. Chanda: We have no information yet.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We have not yet any information, except the Press Report.

Shri Nanadas: On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the visitors are supplied with the lists of questions and whether they are allowed to carry such papers into the visitors' galleries?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. How does it arise out of this question? Hon. members ought not to interrupt the proceedings like that.

PAKISTANI RAID ON RAMGARH IN JAMMU

***21. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Pakistanis armed with stenguns and rifles raided Ramgarh village near Jammu on the 19th December, 1952 and took away cash, property and 19 heads of cattle?

(b) Is it a fact that the Revenue Minister of Jammu and Kashmir visited the place and if so, has he submitted any report to Government on the incident?

(c) How many times since 1947 have Pakistanis raided the State Territory?

(d) How much cash, property and heads of cattle were taken away in the raid made on the 19th December, 1952?

(e) How many persons died in this raid?

(f) Since 1947 upto January 1953, how much property of all kinds, cattle, cash etc., were looted by Pakistanis?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a), (b), (d) and (e). The information is being collected and, when received, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Until 1st January 1949 active operations were in progress. No tally of raids could be kept during the period as 'raids' could not be distinguished from 'operations'. Since 1st January 1949 there were 723 raids which can be considered violations of the Cease Fire Agreement.

(f) In the 723 raids mentioned in (c) above, the raiders lifted 1831 heads of cattle and looted property worth over Rs. 7,500.

CLOSURE OF TEA GARDENS

***22. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government are aware that after the Calcutta Tripartite Conference, nearly 53 Tea Companies in Cachar have so far been closed?

(b) Is it a fact that by closing the Tea Companies over 50,000 workers and staff of the closed gardens are out of employment?

(c) How many Indian-owned gardens are on the closure list?

(d) Is it a fact that notices have also been served on the workers to vacate quarters?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (c). According to information available, the number of gardens closed in Cachar since the Calcutta Tripartite Conference is 26, out of which 12 are Indian owned.

(b) The number of workers and staff in the above 26 gardens is 22,556.

(d) I understand that when a tea garden is closed, labour is normally served with a notice to vacate quarters more as a legal formality than with any intention of dislodging the workers.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have the Government sent a communication to the West Bengal and Assam Governments to find out some alternative occupations for these discharged labourers?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: There is no reason to believe that the West Bengal and Assam Governments are not endeavouring to do the needful in this matter.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, if the Government have got any information as to how many of these

discharged labourers have been employed in some alternative occupations or given lands for cultivation?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no precise information, Sir.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know, Sir, why the tea gardens of Assam alone were closed?

Shri Sarmah: What steps do Government propose to take against tea estates closing down which has 'squeezed' out labour?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: This again is a matter in which the State Government is concerned and we are quite prepared to arm them with the necessary amount of powers to prevent such 'squeezing' out of labour.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Have any such allegations been received by Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, the possibility was envisaged. That was why this question whether the State Government could be armed with those powers was raised.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that there is a huge number of people who are unemployed suddenly, do the Government of India propose to take up this question of alternative employment in the various other schemes of the Government?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The Government of India can only act through the State Government, and they are in communication with the State Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it proposed to have any conference with the State Governments of West Bengal and Assam on this particular subject?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the moment, Sir, the Government do not feel that a conference is necessary. Correspondence apparently would do what is possible.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know, Sir, if any allegation has been made to the Government of India by any party that the tea estates are closing down to squeeze out labour from them?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, allegations are made in dozens. I am not able to say that we have got any particular allegation of this nature—because we do get so many communications.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether besides serving with the legal notice, any labourers have actually been sent out of the quarters provided by the Tea gardens?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid, Sir, the hon. member who tabled the question did not think of asking me that question. I have, therefore, not got the information.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the fact that there is a proposal to give financial facilities to tea gardens, do Government propose to offer similar financial assistance to unemployed labour?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Well, if it is possible for us to offer the same facilities on the same terms, we should certainly do so. But I am afraid the two things are not on all fours.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Is it in the contemplation of Government to give such assistance to workers? Let us have a clear answer to a clear question.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a clear answer to a clear question. But the clear question is based on a lot of misconceptions. We propose to give facilities to tea gardens in respect of moneys that they borrow from banks to the same extent that they had borrowed last year, provided they return the money that they have borrowed. These conditions do not occur so far as labour is concerned. If, for example, a Labour association has been dependent for finance from a bank on the same terms, possibly we might consider the question. But the two things are not on all fours, however clear it may be to the hon. member.

HARASSMENT OF SHRI H. V. KAMATH IN ATHENS

*23. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India through its High Commissioner in London had taken up with the Greek Government the matter of harassment to which Shri H. V. Kamath was subjected by the Greek Police Officers in Athens on the 28th October 1952?

(b) If so, has any reply been received by the Government of India from the Greek Government and what is the nature of the reply?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No reply has been received so far.