

Berhampore (West Bengal) to some outside location.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### Pakistan Forces overflying India

5853. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether personnel of the Pakistan Armed Forces have been allowed to overfly in India in large numbers from West Pakistan to Dacca during March, 1969 ;

(b) whether the martial law administration of Pakistan asked for such facilities from the Indian authorities ; and

(c) if so, Government's response thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Savings in Defence Expenditure

5854. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by Lt. Gen. Khanna on the 26th March, 1969 at the Indian International Centre for effecting savings in defence expenditure ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to look into defence expenditure with a view to effect saving therein ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A number of steps have already been taken to effect economy in Defence expenditure ; but for these economy measures, the Defence expenditure would be appreciably higher than it is today. Economy in Defence expenditure

without impairing the operational efficiency of the Services is a continuous process and is constantly under examination in the Defence Services and the Ministry of Defence. An *ad hoc* Committee cannot deal with this matter effectively and, therefore, it is not considered necessary to appoint such a Committee.

#### Punishment to Navy Personnel for keeping their beards untied

5855. SHRIMATI NIRLEP KAUR : SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY : SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN : SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : SHRI KIKAR SINGH : SHRI P. N. SOLANKI : SHRI DEVEN SEN : SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA : SHRI D. R. PARMAR ;

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some Navy personnel have been court martialled for keeping their beards untied in Vishakhapatnam and other places, recently ;

(b) if so, their names ;

(c) whether Government will issue instructions to Navy Officers not to punish and body on this account ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir, but only at Vishakhapatnam.

(b) (i) Mehnga Singh Gill, Petty Officer.

(ii) Rajinder Singh, Electrical Artificer.

(c) and (d). Defence Services Regulations, orders and tradition provide for the proper dressing of the hair by Service personnel. Sikh personnel are expected to do the same. It is desirable that the

same. It is desirable that the regulations, orders and tradition, which have been followed in the services in the past should continue.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

ALLEGED FIRING ON THE EMPLOYEES  
OF GUN AND SHELL FACTORY,  
COSSIPORE, CALCUTTA

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : Sir, may I just submit one thing ? After this Calling Attention Notice elicits some facts could you be pleased to reconsider the Adjournment Motion of which we gave you notice ?

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Reported firing on the employees of Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore, Calcutta, by Defence Security Corps on the 8th April, 1969 resulting in death of five employees."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : Mr. Speaker Sir, an unfortunate incident occurred yesterday the 8th April 1969 at about 07.30 hours at the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore. Information so far available indicates that a gate meeting was held at about 07.00 hours outside the Gun and Shell Factory, Cossipore during which agitational speeches were made. According to the usual practice, the factory gate is closed at 07.30 hours after the muster and then re-opened again after a short time to admit late-comers so that a proper record of late-comers can be kept. According to this practice, factory gate No. 3 was closed at 07.30 hours after muster. A large number of workers outside the gate forced an entry into the factory premises. The workers attacked the Defence Security Corps person-

nel and the Durwans on gate duty, during which a musket was snatched from one DSC personnel and the Manager (Admn.) on gate duty were assaulted. Faced with this situation, the DSC personnel opened fire in self-defence. It is reported that ten rounds were fired, and nine persons received gun shot injuries. Five persons are reported to have died. Prompt medical aid to the injured was rendered by the factory medical authorities.

Police authorities were immediately informed by the management and a Magistrate was also requested to come. The Army's assistance was sought for guarding the installation and an infantry company is in position in the factory from approximately 10.30 hours on 8th April, 1969.

According to our information, Shri D.P. Chakraborty, Manager (Admn.), Shri B.M. Gupta, Assistant Manager and Shri J. M. Ghosh, Assistant Manager, and one Durwan have been arrested by the Police.

The Chief Security Officer of the DGOFF is holding an inquiry into this occurrence. An army Court of enquiry will be held. The factory has been closed with effect from 2.30 p. m. yesterday and will remain closed today also. The workers are reported to have left the factory premises yesterday evening.

The DGOFF has sanctioned an *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 10,000...

MR. SPEAKER : Rs. 1,000/-

(*Shri L. N. Mishra then sat down*).

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Sir, may I complete the statement ?

The DGOFF has sanctioned an *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 1,000/- for the family of each deceased worker and Rs. 500/- for each worker injured.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I am sorry the Minister takes such a cavalier view of an incident which is so serious. Within a few days attacks against workers have taken place in Central establishments in West Bengal, and the statement says things which