

Statement

List of giant sized refugee Camps to be administered centrally and the Construction of which has been Completed or is in process of Completion

State	Number of Camps	Sites
Tripura	4	Uptakhali, Bagma, Ambassa, Manu.
Assam	2	Sorbhog, Bahalpur.
West Bengal	8	Peardoba, Salboni, Brindabanpur, Dhubukia, Cooper's Camp.
Madhya Pradesh	3	Nowgaon, Mana Bhata, Kendri (Near Mana, Raipur).
Bihar	1	Panchanpur
Uttar Pradesh	1	Iradatganj.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION OF MATTER OF
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED PAKISTANI SHELLING INTO INDIAN
TERRITORY ON ASSAM AND TRIPURA BORDER

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (गुवालयर) : मैं अबिलम्बनीय लोक महत्त्व के निम्न विषय की ओर गृह-मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :

“असम और त्रिपुरा सीमा पर भारतीय क्षेत्र में अभी हाल की पाकिस्तानी गोला-बारी और उसके परिणामस्वरूप दस व्यक्तियों के मारे जाने के समाचार”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
K. C. PANT): On 26th July, 1971, between
1300 and 1330 hours, Pakistan Army Units
opened artillery fire across the interna-
tional border on Sonamura area in the Union

Territory of Tripura as a result of which
four Pakistani shells landed on the town
killing two and causing injuries to four
Indian nationals.

On the same day and about the same
time, the Pakistani Army opened artillery
fire on Indian territory at NAWADIP
CHANDRA NAGAR and MOTINAGAR
BOP in Sonamura Police Station area as
a result of which seven shells landed inside
Indian territory. One head of cattle is
reported to have been killed.

In the early hours of the 26th instant,
about 20 Pakistani artillery shells landed in
the Indian territory at HARIHARDOLA in
the Police Station of BISALGARH, resulting
in the death of one evacuee from Bangla
Dsh and injuries to four other evacuees.

In all the above cases our Border Security
Forces replied effectively silencing the firing
and shelling from across the border. We
have also lodged strong protests with the
Pakistan Government in each such case.

We have no information about the re-
ported shelling by Pakistan forces across the
international border in the Sutarkandi area
of Cachar district on the 26-27th July, 1971.
Five civilians are reported to have been
killed on 25th July in Village Gandak half a
mile south of Sutarkhandi, as a result of an
explosion in a house. Further investigation
is being made.

The Border Security Force is fully alive
to its responsibilities and has clear instruc-
tions to reply effectively to any attempt by
Pakistan Army at violating Indian territory
either by intrusion or by shelling or firing
across the border.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अच्छा होता
अगर सीमा की सुरक्षा से सम्बन्धित इस विषय
पर वक्तव्य सुरक्षा मन्त्री की ओर से आता ।
लेकिन शायद गृह मन्त्री इसलिए उत्तर दे रहे हैं
कि अभी तक सीमा पर बोर्डर सिक्स्योरिटी फोर्स
हैं और हमने सीमा पर अभी तक सेना तैनात
नहीं की है । लेकिन जो समाचार आ रहे हैं और
जिन में से कुछ समाचारों की पुष्टि गृह राज्य
मन्त्री महोदय ने भी की है उनसे ऐसा लगता है

कि पाकिस्तान सारी सीमा पर अपनी आक्रमणात्मक गतिविधियों में तेजी लाने पर तुला हुआ है। इस वक्तव्य में मुझे यह देखकर आश्चर्य हुआ कि राज्य मन्त्री महोदय ने 25 जुलाई और उसके बाद की 26 और 27 जुलाई की घटनाओं में अन्तर करने का प्रयत्न किया है। अगर आप हमारा नोटिस देखें तो उसमें इस तरह का कोई अन्तर नहीं किया गया है। अगर मन्त्री महोदय ऐसा अन्तर न करते तो उनके वक्तव्य का रूप कुछ और होता। उदाहरण के लिए उन्होंने कहा है :

“We have no information about the reported shelling by Pakistan forces across international border in the Sutarkandi area of Cachar district on the 26-27th July, 1971.”

दूसरे वाक्य में उन्होंने कहा कि 25 जुलाई को जरूर एक विस्फोट हुआ और उसमें लोग हताहत हुए। इस तरह का अन्तर करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं थी। ध्यानाकर्षण सूचना हाल में पाकिस्तान द्वारा जो गोलीबारी की गई है उसके बारे में थी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पाकिस्तान के इरादे क्या हैं, क्या इसके बारे में सरकार ने कोई अनुमान लगाया है? क्या यह सच है कि बंगला देश की घटनाओं से सारी दुनिया का ध्यान हटाने के लिए पाकिस्तान हमारी सीमा पर आक्रमण कर रहा है और यह आक्रमण केवल असम की सीमा पर ही मर्यादित नहीं है बल्कि त्रिपुरा में भी हो रहे हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल की खबरें हैं कि सीमा पर हेलीकाप्टर पाकिस्तान के उड़ रहे हैं। मन्त्री महोदय ने इसकी पुष्टि की है कि सोनामुरा एरिया में पाकिस्तान ने गोलीबारी की है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह भी सत्य है कि सोनामुरा एरिया में 58 पाकिस्तानी गिरफ्तार किये गए जो तोड़फोड़ के लिए भारत की सीमा में भेजे गये थे और जिन के पास बायरलैस सेट थे और जो पाकिस्तानी फौजों को इशारा कर रहे थे, पाकिस्तान फौजों को राह दिखा रहे थे? मन्त्री महोदय का वक्तव्य इसके बारे में बिलकुल चुप है। इसका कारण क्या है? वह बीच समाचार-

पत्रों में प्रकाशित हो चुकी है। क्या यह भी सच है कि पाकिस्तान के हेलीकाप्टर हमारी सीमा पर उड़ रहे हैं? मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसकी भी पुष्टि या खंडन मन्त्री महोदय करें। हिन्दुस्तान स्टैंडर्ड का एक समाचार मैं उनके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ :

“Pak helicopters are flying daily over this border area. On Monday one such helicopter flew close to Gede once in the morning and next in the afternoon. On Tuesday noon too, one helicopter hovered Banpur, Toongi and Bhajanghat areas of Nadia District.”

अगर यह सच है कि पाकिस्तान के हेलीकाप्टरों ने हमारी सीमा पर उड़ान की, यदि हां, तो इसकी इजाजत क्यों दी जा रही है? अभी सुरक्षा मन्त्री महोदय ने उस दिन दूसरे सदन में वक्तव्य दिया था कि अगर पाकिस्तान का हवाई जहाज हमारी सीमा का उल्लंघन करेगा तो उसे मार गिराने के आदेश दे दिये गये हैं। क्या इसका अर्थ यह है कि वे आदेश केवल हवाई जहाजों के लिए हैं और हेलीकाप्टर उसमें शामिल नहीं हैं? अगर हेलीकाप्टर उसमें शामिल हैं तो अभी तक किसी हेलीकाप्टर को गिराये जाने की खबर हमें नहीं मिली है। क्या यह समाचार सही है या नहीं है? अगर सही है तो सीमा पर इन अतिक्रमणों को रोकने के लिए क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है?

मन्त्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह तो कहा है कि हमने बोर्डर सिक्वोरिटी फोर्स को कह दिया है कि वह जवाब दे। लेकिन इसके सम्बन्ध में जो सीमा से समाचार प्राप्त हुए हैं वे इस वक्तव्य की पुष्टि नहीं करते। मैं फिर हिन्दुस्तान स्टैंडर्ड को उद्धृत कर रहा हूँ :

“It is understood the Indian Border Police are restraining themselves in retaliatory firing to maintain normality and peace on the border.”

क्या शान्ति स्थापन एक तरफा काम है? पाकिस्तान तुला हुआ है हमारी सीमा का अतिक्रमण करने पर। जो शरणार्थी पाकिस्तान में मरने

[श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी]

से बचने के लिए हमारी धरण में जाये हैं हम उनकी रक्षा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। उनको पाकिस्तान द्वारा हमारी भूमि पर आकर गोलीबारी का निशाना बनाया जा रहा है। अगर बोर्डर सिक्योरिटी फोर्स को आदेश दे दिये गये हैं कि पाकिस्तानी हमले का मुंहतोड़ उत्तर दिया जाए तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये आदेश केवल कागजों तक सीमित हैं या इनका वस्तुतः पालन किया जाएगा ?

जब पाकिस्तान अपनी सेना सीमा पर ले आया है, उसने सारे फ्राउंड रूल तोड़ दिये हैं और भारत को बड़े युद्ध में फँसने के लिए ललकार रहा है और शायद इसके पीछे यह चाल होती कि वह यू एन के आबजर्वंस को बंगला देश में भी लाना चाहता है और हमारी सीमा पर भी लाना चाहता है और इसलिए जानबूझ कर अतिक्रमणात्मक कार्रवाइयाँ बढ़ा रहा है तो क्या समय नहीं आ गया है कि हम भी सीमा की सुरक्षा का भार सीधे सेना को सौंपें ? बोर्डर सिक्योरिटी फोर्स अच्छा काम कर रही है। लेकिन अगर सेना का मुकाबला सेना से होगा तब तो हम मुंह तोड़ उत्तर दे सकते हैं। इस वास्ते क्या समय नहीं आ गया है कि हम सीमा पर सेना रखने के बारे में विचार करें ? मैं समझता हूँ कि ये जो प्रश्न हैं ये स्पष्ट उत्तर की मांग करते हैं और सदन तथा देश को आश्वस्त किया जाना चाहिये कि सीमा पर पाकिस्तान के किसी भी हमले का हम सफलतापूर्वक सामना करने के लिए तैयार हैं।

SHRI K. C. PANT: The Border Security Force, as my hon. friend just now said, is along the border and we have strengthened this force, all along the border of Bangla Desh. He raised the question about the Army. The Army is also standing by and will take necessary and adequate action to meet the situation whenever required. My hon. friend wanted to know why I have said that in Sutarkandi there was no shelling on the 26th and 27th, and why I draw a distinction between that and 25th, when some explosion took place in the House. The reason

is that on the 20th there was shelling and it was discussed in this House and it was only to distinguish between that incident which was discussed on the floor of the House and this incident that I said so. That was a later incident which he has referred to and I mentioned the date.

He also referred to Government's assessment of the possible reasons for Pakistani action, for the repeated shelling and some intrusions across the border for the last few months. From the very beginning the effort of the Government of Pakistan has been to convert the problem of Bangla Desh into an Indo-Pakistan issue and we have avoided being drawn into a situation where we would be involved in an Indo-Pakistan issue as a result of what is happening in Bangla Desh. The issue is that in Bangla Desh, the democratically elected Government there is not functioning and this issue must be kept in focus.

He asked me about the arrest of some Pakistani armed personnel and about some helicopters flying over the border. The question here specifically refers to shelling. It says: The reported recent shelling across the border. I have collected all the information with regard to that. But on these things, I do not have the information with me just now.

He has quoted from a newspaper with regard to the adequacy of the response of the BSF. I would like also to quote from two newspapers, the *Times of India* and the *Indian Express*. They referred to these very same incidents and in both of these, they have said that the Border Security Force returned the fire effectively.

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN (Kangra): At present our country is passing through a great crisis and every second day one finds Pakistan misbehaving with us in one form or the other. On the one hand it is massacring innocent people of Bangla Desh and on the other hand it is violating our sacred soil. Our patience has practically been exhausted on the impertinence of Pakistani action. There are a few recent examples. The incidents are not confined to the eastern border. For example there is a news item in the *Indian Express* of 20th,

saying, Armed Pakistani intruders crossed the ceasefire line in the Mendhar area of Jammu border and fired shots on Friday. This is on Jammu border. In Bikaner, 4 Pakistani intruders shot on a villager and injured another in Ramara village and took away 4 camels. This is in Bikaner district. 8 civilians were killed including 3 women by Pakistani shelling in the Assam border. In Tripura border 2 persons were killed. There is another news item which has appeared in which it is said that 4 Indian children and one girl were killed and 5 others injured. Pakistani army men started unprovoked firing at Gandak village, hardly one mile from the border. Thus, we see that within a short span of one week there have been six incidents on the different borders of the country. The time has come when we have to take a deeper look into the impertinence and impunity of the Pakistan rulers.

In the context of this situation which is prevalent, in the context of the regular war cries which are being raised by the Pakistan rulers, in the context of the Chinese forces training the Pakistan troops and the Pakistani forces digging trenches, and in the context of the Pakistani aircraft flying over Indian territory, taking all these things into consideration, it becomes a matter of grave concern to all of us, and we have to find out ways and means by which we can deal with the situation.

I need not repeat what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said. But I would like to ask a few questions. Not only is there danger of aggression from Pakistan but within our country also various political parties are using this particular issue for satyagraha purposes. Therefore, I wish to point out. . .

SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN (South Delhi): Shame !

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That is irrelevant.

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN: Not only are we faced with external aggression but we are also faced with an internal situation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: The ruling party itself has decided to stage a rally on the 9th. The ruling party itself is demonstrating!

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN:

In view of Pakistan's impertinence and impunity, I want an assurance from the hon. Minister. Will the hon. Minister give us an assurance that not only will Government take defensive measures but they would also adopt retaliatory measures and teach Pakistan a lesson for violating the sacred soil of India and they will teach them such a lesson that they dare not violate our sacred soil ?

Secondly, I would like to know whether our Government have claimed compensation from Pakistan for those who have been killed by them, and if they have not, whether they will claim compensation and in the meantime whether they will give relief to the families of the victims of this aggression. I would also like to know whether they will do something for creating peace within the country so that we can unitedly face the aggression.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Recognise Bangla Desh.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Gontai): Let them recognise Bangla Desh. The whole country will be one with them.

SHRI K. C. PANT: While sharing the hon. Member's expression of concern at the repeated intrusions and firings and shelling across the border, I would like to dispel any impression that the Border Security Force is not adequate to the task or that they quietly suffer when there is firing or shelling from across the border. I have said in my main statement that the Border Security Force successfully silenced the firing from across the border.

SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN: Have we been able to kill even a single Pakistani by our shelling so far ?

SHRI K. C. PANT: It is very difficult to know it and to collect this information even in normal circumstances, and even if we do collect it, it is very difficult to reveal it on the floor of the House.

So far as claiming compensation from Pakistan is concerned, in all cases where damage has been caused, compensation has been demanded from Pakistan.

[Shri K. C. Pant]

So far as relief to these persons is concerned, this is a matter for the local administration to look into. In certain cases where there had been repeated shellings, the villagers wanted to be evacuated, and I find that the Tripura administration has evacuated them temporarily to some other locations.

With regard to maintaining peace within the country, it is a very important question, and I can only express the hope on behalf of Government that realising the general seriousness of the situation along the borders, every effort will be made to maintain peace on all fronts within the country.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): We have seen in the statement which the hon. Minister has just now made,—we have seen the same latitude in the past also—the same stereotype statement and nothing more. Last time it was said that our borders have been effectively strengthened by the deployment of more and more Border Security Force units and all kinds of intrusions are immediately repelled by these forces. But the more we hear such statements from the hon. Minister the more we see every day, open the morning papers, details of reports of Pakistani mortar shelling killing so many Indian citizens and injuring so many others. On the last occasion, on 17 June, I remember the hon. Minister gave the number of persons killed, injured etc. on our side due to Pakistani atrocities from across the border.

My first question is: Will the hon. Minister be pleased at least to tell the House what is the number killed to date? Will he also realise that this number is swelling higher and higher from day to day? What are the reasons therefor?

In a word, I can say that this situation has been brought about the policy so long pursued by the Government which is a 'timid and weak-kneed' policy, whatever they may say is about the increase in the deployment of border security forces to protect our border and our citizens. As a matter of fact, in the statement we find:

"Five civilians are reported to have been killed on 25th July in village Gandak half a mile south of Sutarkhandi, as a result of an explosion in a house."

The hon. Minister did not clarify why there was this explosion in a house which is within this side of the border. Press reports give us a clue about these things. I quote from a report appearing in the *Hindustan Standard*, Calcutta, dated July 28:

"Pak soldiers also trespassed into the Ranibari tea garden in Tripura on Saturday and started unprovoked firing using mortars and light machine guns and causing injuries to about a dozen of Indians, two being in precarious condition. Before retreating, the soldiers planted three mines at that place. . . ."

There are other reports also. The distance between Sutarkhandi and Karimganj is only seven miles; within half a mile from the border the Pakistani military trespassed into our own border and started firing. This is also reported in the papers. They fired at various places and after that went away.

If our border security forces are strong enough to protect our citizens living on the border in various places, in Agartala, Tripura, which is a Union Territory, and also in Sutarkhandi in the Cachar area, how is that the Pakistani forces are able to transgress into our border unchallenged? Will the Minister also be pleased to state very clearly how long Indian citizens have to keep on hearing that so many of their fellow citizens have been killed due to firing from across the border? What effective steps does he propose to take in view of the fact that the number of such persons affected by such attacks among our citizens as well as among the Bangla Desh refugees is swelling every day higher and higher?

I would also request the hon. Minister to consider, as was demanded on earlier occasions also, that in view of the abnormal conditions prevailing in the border and the fact that the Bangla Desh problem has not yet been solved, the entire border should be handed over to the military forces instead of being manned as now by the Border Security Force.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The main thrust of the question is the same as that of my hon. friend, Shri Vajpayee, namely, why we do not post the army along the border instead of

leaving it to the BSF. I have already answered it. This mortar shelling has also to be seen in its proper perspective. I have given the number of shells which landed in each place. That will give an idea of the nature of the shelling and its intensity. In one case, 4 Pakistani shells landed; in another 7 and in the third case, 20.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: How many persons were killed upto now?

SHRI K. C. PANT: I will give the figure.

With regard to the explosion in a house, I am making enquiries. The matter is under investigation at the moment. This morning I also tried to find out exactly what the situation was. I am making enquiries into it.

Regarding Sutarkandi, it is true that the Pakistani army personnel did intrude at Sutarkandi sometime back. Actually, I visited the border force myself to see, and I found that our troops, our BSF boys, are today in high spirits. They told me that on that particular day, unfortunately, a unit which was stationed there earlier was going away under orders of transfer. Some had gone and a new unit was coming in and it just happened that on that particular day this incident took place, under normal circumstances; I do not say that the Pakistani army cannot intrude at one given point; if they concentrate a sufficient number of men and arms they can intrude. But it would have been difficult if the unit had been in position and well entrenched. This is no explanation. I am just giving the facts. I do not accept that explanation because we have to be ready at all times and at all points on the border. But I say this because normally the BSF boys have been found to be up to the mark and in fact, they have been doing a very good job along the border.

My hon. friend took objection to the shells landing deep within Indian territory. Some of these guns have a long range; they can be fired from across the border and yet the shells can land deep within the territory; and we do return the fire. That is the point.

About the number of Indian nationals killed, it is 50. This is during the period from 25th March to 27th July, 1971.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: In Tripura alone?

SHRI K. C. PANT: These are the casualties as a result of border violation by PAK army troops.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: On the 17th June, the hon. Minister stated that the figure for West Bengal was 30 killed; Assam and Meghalaya, 38 killed, and Tripura, five killed, up to 17th June. That is on record. On the 17th June, the Minister said that the total number of persons killed in the eastern region was 73. Now, he is saying it is 50. This is on record.

SHRI K. C. PANT: My figure is 50. Indian nationals killed, 50. If there is any discrepancy, I will check up on that.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB (Tripura East): In his reply, the Minister said that four Pakistani shells landed on the town,—it means Sonamura town—"killing two and causing injuries to four Indian nationals." This Sonamura town is five miles from the border. I want to know from the Minister whether the Pakistani army crossed the border and from our land itself they started shelling the Sonamura town or from the East Bengal area.

This is not the first time that our citizens on the border area in Tripura were killed by the shelling of Pakistani troops. Since the genocide had started in East Bengal by the Pakistani army, many more Indian citizens particularly in Tripura were killed and also injured. Even in Agartala town, three people were killed in June, and some people were injured also there. There was panic and some people started leaving Agartala at that time. I do not find from the reply of the Government that they are taking any steps to protect the people there.

Secondly, when the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Defence visited Agartala, they assured the people of Agartala that if any danger would come from Pakistani army, the people would be protected and every possible measure would be taken to protect them.

Since then many incidents have taken place not only Agartala area but in Bolonia area also where two persons were killed; In Sab-

[Shri Dasaratha Deb]

room and Srinagar very recently three persons were killed and I do not know whether these casualties had been included in Mr. Pant's list.

I am very sorry that inspite of the assurances given in this House by the Government, steps are not being taken to protect the life and property of Indian citizens. All of us know that Tripura is encircled by East Pakistan territory on three sides; now it is called Bangla Desh. Military operations are being conducted by the Pakistan Army in several places near Tripura, particularly in areas adjoining Tripura.

In view of all these, is it not the supreme duty of our Government to set up at least watch centres, chowkies, in several places from where our military intelligence could watch the movement of Pakistani troops in places bordering Tripura. I want to know if such watch centres are there and if so what are those people doing and why they have not alerted our Armed forces when they came to know of the movements of the Pakistani Army.

I also want to know if the attention of the Government has been drawn to a report appearing in the newspapers that the West Pakistan army has ordered three border villages in Akhaura-Singabil area adjoining Tripura to be evacuated completely. The order served on the villagers on 24 July directed them to evacuate their houses immediately. The villages are: Nalgharia, Noabari and Ashimpur on the western side of the Singarbil railway station. I may add that this area is very near the Agartala airport, not even a mile and is also very near the Agartala town, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles. From this report it is evident in those areas at least the Pakistani army is planning to intensify its military operations.

In view of this alarming situation, I want to know from the Government what specific steps are being taken to protect our border areas and also to protect the life and property of the people residing in that area.

A large number of Bangla Desh evacuees, numbering a little over ten lakhs have come to Tripura and are staying there in several camps and outside the camps also. Our

Government has set up these refugees camps in the border area which is within the bullet range from Bangla Desh. During recent shelling by the Pak Army the report says that four refugees had been killed—they were living in the camps. That only confirms that the camps are within the bullet range from Bangla Desh. How is it that the Government has chosen to set up all these refugees camps within Pakistan Army's bullet range?

I also want to know whether Government will re-think and shift these camps from that area to some other area which is at least beyond the range of bullets.

Shri Pant has already replied that for the damages and the killed persons compensation has already been demanded from the Pakistan Government, but it will take a long time, and I am not sure whether that compensation will come at all.

AN HON. MEMBER: It will never come.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: In view of that, will the Government from the Centre itself give some relief to the families of those who were killed by the Pak army?

It was reported in the press that U. Thant would be convening a meeting of the Security Council on this Bangla Desh issue. I want to know whether it is a fact or not.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked all sorts of questions. Some are not connected with this calling attention.

SHRI K. C. PANT: The first question was whether the Pakistani army crossed the border or whether it was from across the border. The Pakistan army did not cross the border.

AN HON. MEMBER: Five miles.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Yes, five miles. There are guns with even longer ranges.

Neither did our army cross the border. I want to make it particularly clear that our army did not cross the border.

Secondly, he cited some specific cases of some deaths in some localities and asked whether these were included in the list I had. I will have to check up whether these were

included. The information with me is up to 22-7-1971. I will have to checkup because my hon. friend said that there was some discrepancy between this and the earlier statement.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Why should there be any discrepancy?

SHRI K. C. PANT: If there is any discrepancy, I will have to find out.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: It is a serious matter, two different Ministries making two different statements with regard to the casualties from Pak firing, and if this appears in the press, it will give a very bad impression about our Government and our country.

SHRI K. C. PANT: I can say off-hand that the BSF men killed is not included in this number, the number of Indian nationals other than fighting forces. So, we will have to see if the total includes both or not.

On this question of watch centres and outposts which should get military information about the movements of Pakistan troops and should alert our people, I donot think my hon. friend would expect me to go into the details of this question.

SHRI DASARATHA DEB: I do not want to know the places, but whether such kind of arrangement is there.

SHRI K. C. PANT: Necessary arrangements are always there in such cases.

About steps being taken, as I said earlier, the BSF has been strengthened all along the border, and the army is standing by and will take necessary and adequate action.

He asked me about the refugee, whether he was killed in the camp. I cannot say whether he was killed inside the camp or outside. I do not know whether the camp is located there or the refugee happened to be there at that time.

About relief, as I said earlier, it is a matter for the local administration to look into.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North-East): Will you ask the Defence

Minister to explain to the House the difficult strategic position of Tripura to which he made specific reference, and what steps are taken, if any, in that regard by the Defence Ministry? The House is in possession about that kind of material about the strategic peril of the Tripura area, and the Defence Minister should enlighten us.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) rose—

श्री हुकम चन्व कछवाय (मुरेना):
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मिनिस्टर साहब जबाब दे रहे हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Indrajit Gupta. When you are replying to Shri Indrajit Gupta; you may cover that also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Alipore): Several disturbing aspects of these incidents have been brought out adequately, I think, by the members who have spoken. I do not want to repeat that ground. So, with your indulgence I would like to put a few questions to the hon. Minister. Firstly, may I know whether they still regard these incidents, the series of incidents, the successive incidents, whether it be shelling, whether it be intrusion, whether it be violation of air space or whatever it be, whether they continue to regard these merely as isolated incidents to which this kind of statement in reply has to be given or whether the Government of India are analysing these more deeply and trying to understand whether there is any set pattern or design behind it.

It seems to me, and I would like the Minister also to tell the House if it is so, whether government does not see these incidents, these chain of incidents as a deliberated attempt by Pakistan to organise a series of provocations which would help to escalate the situation towards some sort of a clash. military clash, between Pakistan and India in such a way that the blame can be put on India. Whether they will succeed or fail in this game is a different matter, but I personally feel that it is not a question of four shells or forty shells. I do not like the way the hon. Minister tried to deal with it, probably not intentionally but he was in fact minimising these shellings by saying that the intensity of the shelling must be kept in

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

mind and so on and then he went on to say that 4 shells, or 10 shells or 15 shells have fallen. That is not the point. I want to know whether they regard these shells as the opening shots of a drama which is being prepared, very consciously and very deliberately, in order to create a new situation. Of course, the more they create these incidents the more we can take it to be an indirect admission by Pakistan. And that should give us some consolation—that the operations of the Mukti Fauj are beginning to pinch, beginning to hurt Pakistan which is a good thing.

But, at the same time, I do not think that is the only factor and certainly we should not fall into the trap which is being set for us. We should not be provoked into doing something which in other places will be interpreted and defined as aggression committed by us, because this is what is sought to be done now. The main argument which I find is being put forward by the Pakistani side is that India is training and sending guerillas to Bangladesh. This is what the Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Agha Hilaly is reported to have said that "guerillas were being sent into Pakistan. Mr. Hilaly who has just returned to Washington after consultations at home has charged that India was openly training members of the liberation army." This is how the ground is being prepared. Therefore, they want to justify their shelling, justify certain incursions and so on on this ground. So, with your permission, Sir, I may just quote what has appeared in *The Statesman* of today:

"He said"

—that is to say, Mr. Hilaly—

"he said he had discussed this with Mr. Sisco."

—Mr. Sisco is the Under Secretary of the United States Government who had an exchange with Shri Swaran Singh when he was there in Washington—

"He said he had discussed this with Mr. Sisco and that his Government was bringing the present situation to the attention of the Soviet Union, Japan, Britain, France and Germany as well as the UN Secretary-General and the head of the Security Council."

So, I think it would be wrong for the government to see these incidents in isolation and to reply to them as though they are isolated incidents of four shells here and forty shells there. Something else is going on. I would like to know from him whether the statements and the replies which the Government of India through its Ambassador in Washington is making—I do not know what line they are taking—but they have to refute this because the Mukti Fauj constitutes the armed force of the Government of Bangla Desh. Unfortunately, this Government has still refused to give recognition to that Government and, therefore, this Mukti Fauj is passed off in USA and United Nations by Mr. Agha Hilaly as being our guerillas whom we are training and sending into Bangla Desh. If we had recognised the Government of Bangla Desh as sovereign having its own standing army then they could not have taken shelter behind this excuse to support their case in the United Nations. Even the United States Senator, Mr. George McGovern has stated only yesterday that the arms which are being supplied by the United States Government to Pakistan may be in the nature of *quid pro quo* for the help that Pakistan gave them for arranging Mr. Kissinger's flight to Peking. This is what Senator McGovern says. Is the Government prepared to say or not that the Mukti Fauj as the armed force of the Bangla Desh Government has as much right to get help and assistance from its friends as Pakistan has got the right to take the arms from United States of America otherwise these incidents will go on multiplying in order to allow that case to be built up.

I would also like to ask him and, I hope, he will not take the excuse behind the fact that he is not dealing with External Affairs, whether Mr. U. Thant, Secretary General of UNO—I do not like to say harsh words about a person holding such a high position—maybe unwillingly is playing the same U.S. game. I am told he has circulated a letter—it has appeared in the press although not the full text—to various countries and it speaks of serious escalation of events and incidents. It refers to the dangerous escalation to a "flash point" between Pakistan and India. So, the whole stage is being set that some conflict between India and Pakistan is in the offing. I would like to know whether it is not the right time for India to remind

Mr. U Thant that when the prestige and the honour of the United Nations was at stake in many places—in Congo, in the Gaza Strip, in Korea and other places—it was the armed forces of this country which went out to uphold the honour of United Nations and we had not expected this kind of treatment.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going very much beyond the scope of the Calling Attention. As these issues do not concern the Minister he will not be in a position to give a reply to that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I want to know from him whether they are even now prepared to re-consider this thing in its proper context and background and not to delay any further in extending recognition to the Government of Bangla Desh. I wish to point out if these incidents go on multiplying on the border and we have to take retaliatory action then it will be regarded as direct confrontation between India and Pakistan whereas the territory lying between India and Pakistan is that of Bangla Desh. If you recognise it, the position changes; if you do not recognise it, we will fall into this trap of a direct confrontation between India and Pakistan. I would like to know what is the Government's assessment of this question.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not allow the latter part to be replied to but only that which falls within the scope of the question. Of course, they are very important questions but it is not the proper occasion for them.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: These are all related to this.

SHRI K. C. PANT: At the very beginning Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee asked me for our assessment of the likely reasons for all these incidents and I had submitted that from the very beginning, the Pakistan Government's effort has been to convert the problem of Bangla Desh into an Indo-Pakistan issue. We have all along avoided being drawn into a situation where we would be involved in an Indo-Pakistan situation as a result of what is happening in Bangla Desh. This may be what they want—I cannot speak for them—but, as my hon. friend rightly cautioned the Government, we should not fall into a trap or do anything which is likely to be misconstrued or misinterpreted.

He referred to the possibility of this being a deliberate attempt by Pakistan to escalate the situation into a conflict and blame India for it. Again, I cannot speak for their intentions, but this is a possibility which will have to be kept in mind.

So far as the shelling goes, there is no question of minimising the firing even of a single shell across our border. That was not my intention. If unwittingly that impression has been created, I would like to correct it. Even a single shell fired across our border is a violation of our territory and we take the strongest and the most serious objection to it. There can be no question of condoning even a single shell crossing the border.

He asked me about the guerillas and the statement by Mr. Agha Hilaly. For the record I want to say that this has been refuted. He wanted it to be refuted. It has already been refuted.

The other two questions, according to your direction, I would not answer because they do not fall directly within the scope of this question.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: अध्यक्ष जी, मैं एक व्यवस्था आपसे चाहता हूँ।

मैंने नियम 377 के अधीन एक नोटिस दिया है कि यहाँ दिल्ली में 68 प्रतिशत के लगभग अंक प्राप्त करने वाले करीब 170 विद्यार्थियों को मेडिकल कालेज में दाखिला नहीं मिल रहा है। वे एक नया कालेज खोलने की मांग को लेकर स्वास्थ्य मन्त्री के घर पर घरना दे रहे हैं.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप मेहरबानी करके इस रूल 377 पर रहम कीजिये। जो चाहते हैं किसी बात को इस नियम में उठा देते हैं। I have not allowed it.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय: आखिर वे लड़के कहां जायेंगे अगर उनको दाखिला नहीं मिलेगा.....**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. You are speaking without my permission.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : **

अध्यक्ष महोदय : भाप बैठते हैं कि नहीं ।

12.55 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

WEST BENGAL EMPLOYEES' PAYMENT OF COMPULSORY GRATUITY ORDINANCE, 1971

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): On behalf of Shri R. K. Khadilkar, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the West Bengal Employees' Payment of Compulsory Gratuity Ordinance, 1971 (West Bengal Ordinance No. 1 of 1971) promulgated by the Governor of West Bengal on the 3rd June, 1971 under provisions of article 213 (2) (a) of the Constitution read with clause (c) (iii) of the Proclamation dated the 29th June, 1971 issued by the President in relation to the State of West Bengal. [Placed in Library]. See No. LT-757/71].
- (2) A statement explaining the reasons as to why the Hindi version of the above Ordinance could not be laid on the Table simultaneously. [Placed in Library]. See No. LT-758/71].

ANNUAL REPORT OF COAL BOARD, CALCUTTA FOR 1969-70

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Board, Calcutta, for the year 1969-70. [Placed in Library]. See No. LT-759/71].

ANNUAL REPORT OF FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA FOR 1969-70

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report

(Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India for the year 1969-70 along with the Audited Accounts, under sub-section (2) of section 35 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964. [Placed in Library]. See No. LT-760/71].

NOTIFICATION MAKING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO DELHI, MEERUT AND BULANDSHAHR MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS CONTROL ORDER, 1971

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: On behalf of Shri Sher Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S. O. 2544 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1971 making certain amendment to the Delhi, Meerut and Bulandshahr Milk and Milk Products Control Order, 1971 published in Notification No. S. O. 1911 dated the 3rd May, 1971, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library]. See No. LT-761/71].

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

- (1) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Mysore Appropriation (No. 2) Bill 1971 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd July, 1971 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to said Bill."
- (2) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the West Bengal Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1971 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th July, 1971, and transmitted