

MR. SPEAKER : I know that all the leaders of the various parties are very keen to express their sympathies. The Leader of the Opposition has already done so and Professor Mukerjee, as a Bengali, has already extended his sympathies. I will convey to the Pakistan Government and, through them, to the people your sympathies in their distress. Whatever be the political partition, we are the same people and the same race. We speak the same language. We have been brothers for centuries and we will continue to be brothers. In their distress we feel it as our own distress and we will do whatever is possible.

12.07 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ENCIRCLING OF THE TOWN OF
MEKHLIGUNJ IN COOCH-BEHAR,
WEST BENGAL, BY THE PAKISTANI
ARMED FORCES

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY
(Cooch-Behar) rose—

MR. SPEAKER : I communicated it to you that there can be no substitute for any Member.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU (Darjeeling) : It is his constituency; he should be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : No. Shri Vajpayee.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलरामपुर) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अबिलम्बनीय लोक-महत्व
के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर गृह-कार्य
मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता
हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें—

‘पाकिस्तानी सशस्त्र सेना द्वारा कूच
बिहार, पश्चिमी बंगाल, में मक्लीगंज नगर

को चारों ओर से घेर लिया जाने के
समाचार ।’

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF STATE, DEPARTMENTS
OF ELECTRONICS AND SCIENTIFIC
AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SHRI
K. C. PANT) : Sir. On 31st October, 1970,
objections were raised by the personnel of
the East Pakistan Rifles to the construction
of hutments, meant for the rehabilitation
of some tribal families, in the Indian
village of Dhakuatari within the jurisdiction
of Mekhliganj Police Station in the district
of Cooch-Behar in West Bengal. Immediately,
the officer-in-charge of the patrol taken
out by the B. S. F. contracted the East
Pakistan Rifles personnel and asked them
not to take any step that will build up
tension in that area. In spite of it, the
East Pakistan Rifles started concentrating
their troops in that area without any pro-
vocation. Therefore, protests were
immediately lodged on 1st November, 1970,
by the Border Security Force Sector
Commander and also the Inspector General
Border Security Force, Eastern Frontier,
with their counterparts in the East Pakistan
Rifles.

2. In the meeting of the Sector
Commanders, arranged on 3rd November,
1970, an agreement was reached between
the Indian and Pakistani Sector Comman-
ders to the effect that *status quo* in regard
to the hutments would be maintained and
that troops would be pulled out from the
forward areas on both sides by the morning
of 4th November, 1970. The above agree-
ment was implemented.

3. However, again on 7th November,
1970, the East Pakistan Rifles brought
fresh reinforcements, including heavy
weaponry, to the Pakistani border out-
posts at Kaliaganj and four other places.
Precautionary measures were consequently
taken by the Border Security Force on our
side and the Pakistani authorities were
asked to withdraw their reinforcements
immediately. It has, however, been learnt
that these troops which were moved in on
and subsequent to 7th November, 1970,
were being withdrawn from areas opposite
to our own territory of Jharsingheshwar.

[Shri K. C. Pant]

Permekhliganj and Samlibas and that the situation was returning to normal. Another meeting of the Sector Commanders was arranged on the 14th November, 1970 and they agreed to remove the concentration of troops on the border and reiterated their desire to end the tension in that area.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी हमने पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के निवासियों पर प्रकृति का जो प्रकोप हुआ है उसके सम्बन्ध में अपनी सहानुभूति प्रकट की। लेकिन अब हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं कि किस तरह से सीमा पर उन्होंने अपनी सेनाएँ इकट्ठी की। वहाँ मशीनगनों लाये और जो तनाव टाला जा सकता था उस तनाव को पैदा किया। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह सेना एकत्र करने का क्या केवल इतना था कि हम अपने गाँव काकुटारी में निर्वासितों के लिए झोपड़ियाँ बना रहे थे उस पर उनको अपत्ति थी या असली कारण यह था कि वे दाहाग्राम में हमारी भूमि का उपयोग करके अपनी सेना भेजना चाहते हैं। जहाँ झोपड़ियाँ बनाई गई वह जमीन हमारी है। उस पर झोपड़ियाँ बनाने पर पाकिस्तान को विरोध करने का कोई अधिकार नहीं है लेकिन उन्होंने विरोध किया। इसके मूल में यह बात दिखाई देती है कि वे दाहाग्राम में अपनी सेनाएँ भेजने का यत्न कर रहे थे। क्या इस बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने पता लगाने का यत्न किया है ?

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि इस समय दाहाग्राम की स्थिति क्या है ? उसके चारों ओर की भूमि हमारी है, उसे हमने अभी पाकिस्तान को सौंपा नहीं है लेकिन हमारे कर्मचारी वहाँ जाकर के टैंक इकट्ठा नहीं कर सकते हैं, दाहाग्राम से सम्पर्क स्थापित नहीं कर सकते हैं। इसी संसद में सरकार ने आश्वासन दिया था कि दाहाग्राम से संबंध बनाये रखने के लिए हम पूरा प्रयत्न करेंगे। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ की स्थिति क्या है ? और भविष्य में पाकि-

स्तान इस तरह से सेना एकत्र करके तनाव पैदा न करे, इस सम्बन्ध में कौन से स्थाई पग उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री कृष्ण चंद्र पन्त : जो सूचना हमको प्राप्त हुई है उसके अनुसार ये जो हटमेंट्स बनाए गए उसमें से दो हटमेंट्स पाकिस्तान की सीमा के 150 गज के अन्दर थे। भले ही ये डिफेंस इन्स्टलेशन्स नहीं हैं किसी भी तरह से लेकिन इस तरह की गलतफहमी हो सकती है। इसलिये इस तनाव का कारण लगता है गलतफहमी थी। यह बात सही है कि कई जगह पाकिस्तानी फौजें जमा हुईं और दाहाग्राम के नजदीक जो पतली सी नली है उसके आस-पास भी जमा हुए लेकिन बी.एस.एफ. हर जगह चौकन्नी थी, कहीं कोई मुठभेड़ नहीं हुई और हमारी जमीन पर पाकिस्तान की फौजें कहीं भी नहीं आईं। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर यह माना जाये कि गलतफहमी से यह चीज हुई और ऐसा ही लगता भी है और अब वहाँ पर स्थिति सामान्य हो गई है तो इसको ज्यादा अहमियत नहीं देनी चाहिये।

जहाँ तक भविष्य की बात है तो सबसे आवश्यक चीज यही है कि हमारी जो बी.एस.एफ. की फौजें हैं वह मतक रहें जैसे कि मतक रही हैं कि जहाँ कहीं खतरा पैदा हो तो वे फौरन कार्यवाही करें

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मैंने यह पूछा था कि दाहाग्राम की स्थिति क्या है ? क्या उससे हमारा सम्पर्क है ? क्या टैंक वसूल करने के लिए जा सकते हैं ? क्योंकि हमारा सारा सम्पर्क काट दिया गया है।

श्री कृष्ण चंद्र पन्त : दाहाग्राम की सारी स्थिति के बारे में मैं इस समय नहीं बता सकता क्योंकि यह प्रश्न उसके सम्बन्ध में नहीं था।

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : The narrow and the strategic corridor that connects Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura,

Manipur, Nagaland and NEFA administration to the rest of India has become a trouble spot for India. All the troubles have started from there. Naxalberi is there and we know the Naxalite activities have got inspiration from Red China. At the same time, we find that unlike the last war with Pakistan, when we expected danger from West Pakistan and that except a sporadic raid on Kalaikunda from East Pakistan to which they got adequate reply, we now see Pakistani guns being pointed to us even from East Pakistan and that too in that narrow and strategic corridor.

Taking all these facts into consideration, in case there is a collusion between China and Pakistan, I would like to have an assurance from the Government that they will adequately safeguard that corridor so that there will be uninterrupted communication between the eastern part of India and the rest of the country. It is a matter of great concern that all skirmishes start with small beginnings. So, a categorical assurance is needed and I hope the Government will give that assurance.

SHRI K. C. PANT : Certainly the Government is aware of the dangers in that area and is taking all steps to safeguard the security interests of the country.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : The Hon. Minister has stated that normal conditions have come again. Our Inspector-General of the Border Security Forces, Mr. Basu, had demanded immediate withdrawal of concentrated forces. Sir, it has also been reported that incidents of arson were taking place in Dahagram enclave and that machine guns had been set up on the border. I would like to know when the Minister says that normalcy has come again whether the Pakistanis have withdrawn this concentration of forces and whether the machine guns which were visible on the 11th of November have been removed? What is the position with regard to those machine guns? What is the position with regard to the incidents of arson which were reported from the Dahagram area?

I would also like to know whether the Government has tried to find out whether it was just a solitary incident and whether

it was an isolated incident or it is one of the chain of incidents by which the Pakistanis are trying to create a condition of tension in this area uptill the time when elections come because the position is that in East Pakistan the population is greater than the population of West Pakistan. So they are anxious that East Pakistanis do not secure a majority and weaken their hold on Pakistan. Therefore, by all possible means they are trying to reduce the number of people in East Pakistan whether they are Hindu minorities or others, so that in the next elections they can have a majority of the West Pakistanis and are thus in a position to retain their hold over Pakistan.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I said that normal conditions are being restored. The concentration of troops had taken place at certain points. I have mentioned some of those points, I have also mentioned the particular points from which these troops have been withdrawn. There are some other points where some of the troops remain. But, on the 14th November when the Sector Commanders met, they agreed that there would be a complete withdrawal of troops and the old position would be restored and that tension would end in that area. It is on that basis that I have said that the situation is returning to normal.

So far as Dahagram goes, the Dahagram enclave belongs to Pakistan and I am not aware of incidents of arson within that enclave. I am not in a position to give any information in that regard.

So far as the nature of this incident is concerned, whether it is an isolated incident or part of the chain of incidents... (Interruptions).

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : What is it that the Minister is saying?

SHRI K. C. PANT : There is an enclave. It is a narrow neck. There is an enclave which belongs to Pakistan, and the other side is Pakistan. In between there is a narrow strip of Indian territory. It is an isolated incident. There have been no other incidents of late. Nothing has come to my notice that suggests that this is a part of the chain of incidents. This appears to be an isolated incident.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
May I seek a clarification from the
Minister because I know that problem ?

MR. SPEAKER : I explained to you
in my Chamber. Then you again get up.
You see when a Member is absent, you
cannot substitute another Member's name
in his calling attention motion. That is
the rule. You can change the rules any
time. That is in your hands. So long as it
is there, I cannot deviate from it.
(Interruptions). No bad precedent please.
This is not to be treated as a precedent.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :
Let the record be straight; he has not
stated the position correctly. I will state
the position correctly in a minute.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I am not allow-
ing you.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond
Harbour) : I gave notice under Rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER : About that state-
ment I am helpless; I cannot allow; so
far as the other thing is concerned, I
will think over it.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I gave
notice under Rule 377.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait for your
turn.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय
जो मैं अज कर रहा हूँ उसे जरा आप सुन
लीजिए। मेहरबानी करके दो मिनट सुनियेगा
अगर आप को मेरी बात जंचे तो आगे मामला
चलेगा वरना मैं बैठ जाऊंगा, आखिर जो मैंने
आप को लिखा था तो कोई बिना कारण तो
लिखा नहीं था। महाराष्ट्र में यह एक अनोखी
घटना हुई है कि महाराष्ट्र का शीतकालीन
सत्र कैबिनेट किया गया है। क्या कभी इस
देश के इतिहास में ऐसा हुआ है? महाराष्ट्र
में विधान सभा के शीतकालीन सत्र को
मुस्तवी रखा गया है। सरकार का सारा
काम हड़ताल की वजह से ठप्प हो गया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं संविधान की दो धाराओं
की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ...

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing
you.

श्री रवि राय (गुरी) : एक सबमिशन सुन
लीजिये। कर्मचारियों को हड़ताल के फर-
स्वरूप प्रशासन अबिलकुल ठप्प हो गया है।
महाराष्ट्र विधान सभा के शीतकालीन सत्र
को मुस्तवी रखा गया है। मैं आप की मार्फत
गृह मंत्रीजी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र
की जो हड़ताल की स्थिति है उस पर बयान
दें और उसमें हस्तक्षेप करें। अध्यक्ष महोदय,
ऐसी गजब की हड़ताल पहले कभी नहीं हुई
थी। शीतकालीन सत्र को बंद रखा गया
है। आप मंत्री महोदय को कहें कि वह एक
बयान दें.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री रवि राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप
256 धारा देखिये और मंत्री महोदय को
कहिये कि वह बयान दें। महाराष्ट्र में सारा
प्रशासन ठप्प हो गया है।

श्री मधु लिमये : 256 में लिखा है कि
संविधान के अनुसार काम होना चाहिये।
विधान सभा की बैठक बुलाई गयी थी 174
धारा के तहत उसको बाद में कैबिनेट किया
गया.....

MR. SPEAKER : I would request the
House that we all together should see
that we do not encourage such statements
about State matters to be brought up
every time in this House.

SHRI RABI RAY : It is not a State
matter exclusively, Sir.

श्री मधु लिमये : उसमें मैंने लिखा है कि
पूरे राज्य का कारोबार ठप्प हो गया है....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आप को इजाजत
नहीं दे रहा हूँ लेकिन आप है कि बोल चले
जा रहे हैं।

श्री रवि राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, महाराष्ट्र विधान सभा का सत्र मुस्तवी हो गया है। यह एक अनोखी चीज है। हड़ताल की वजह से सारा कामकाज प्रशासन का ठप्प हो गया है।

श्री मधु लिमये : महाराष्ट्र के 23 साल के इतिहास में कभी ऐसा नहीं हुआ कि असेम्बली की बैठक को इस तरह से पोस्टपोन कर दिया गया हो.....

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to encourage this practice of bringing in State matters every time in this House. So far as Delhi is concerned, I can say, I will be admitting some Motion on that.

श्री मधु लिमये : उधर ट्रेजरी बैंचैज पर बैठने वाले लोग बड़े प्रोग्रेसिव बनते हैं लेकिन वहाँ इस तरह से अपना क्रूर रूप दिखा रहे हैं। वहाँ कत्ल करते हैं लेकिन यहाँ आकर बड़े प्रोग्रेसिव बन जाते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kalita, so far as your letter sending the telegram is concerned, on that matter, I am sending it to the Railway Minister. He is not here today. But I am sending it to him to make a statment at the earliest possible opportunity.

श्री मधु लिमये : वहाँ ऐसी हरकत करते हैं और यहाँ यह सब आकर प्रोग्रेसिव बन जाते हैं.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर, मैं आप को इजाजत नहीं दे रहा हूँ। आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने आपको वाक्यायदा पहले इस बारे में लिखा हुआ है और मैं कोई ऐसे ही खड़ा नहीं हुआ था लेकिन चूँकि आप मुझे नहीं सुनना चाहते इसलिये छोड़िये मैं बैठ जाता हूँ।

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA : He should make the statement today.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already sent it to the Railway Minister.

SHRI RANGA (Sri Kakulam) : May I bring to your notice an earlier convention which has not been broken so far? No intimation has been given to the country so far about the successor to the present Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India. We had raised this question once before in this House, and it was raised in the other House also, but we did not get any satisfactory reply either from the Prime Minister or the law Minister or anybody else concerned. May I request you, therefore, to take an early opportunity of asking the Government to make a statement in the House about how soon they are going to name the next Chief Justice, and whether they would conform to the earlier practice of appointing the next senior most Justice as the Chief Justice?

MR. SPEAKER : As regards Shri Jyotirmoy Basu's notice, I have already said that I am sending it to the Railway Minister.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I am not now on that matter, but I am on another matter now. Shri A. K. Sen had kicked the assistant secretary of the union of workers of the *Basumati* paper. It is a serious matter. He had kicked the union assistant secretary in Calcutta in the office premises, and the man has been hospitalised. I have received a telegram about it. It has come out in the papers already. It is a serious matter. You must take note of it, and the Hon. Minister must be asked to make a statement and tell us what the position is.

MR. SPEAKER : The Hon. Member should resume his seat. Every time he cannot get up and make a noise about something or the other.