

[Shri Alvares]

Labour Minister to accept this modern connotation of productivity and relate wages to productivity, and as a consequence thereof, include all bonus and production incentives for the purpose of determining the wages.

14.03 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DEFENCE OPERATIONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, the latest Defence Ministry Bulletin would be read out.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi): The Indian Air Force was very active yesterday

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla (Mahasamund): On a point of order. This statement which the hon. Minister is reading has already been circulated to all and sundry....

Several hon. Members: We have not got it. Let it be read out.

Shri Tyagi: The Indian Air Force was very active yesterday and went out after a number of enemy military targets. Last night, our Air Force bombed the Chaklala air base near Rawalpindi, and this morning they attacked the Sargodha air base in West Punjab. They met with stiff opposition at the latter place. The latest reports till this morning indicate that the IAF had on the whole a successful day.

Yesterday's 'bag' includes the destruction of 9 American aircraft of the Pakistan Air Force, damage to two other aircraft and destruction of 16 Patton and Sherman tanks in various sectors, 14 artillery guns, two light anti-aircraft guns and between 30 and 40 vehicles. A number of tanks and armour vehicles were damaged.

In addition, as already reported, the Air Force yesterday blew up an oil

tanker train, a concentration of military vehicles, another goods train carrying military stores, some gun positions and a military camp which was set on fire.

Two of the aircraft destroyed are four-engined American transport aircraft. These two and two F-104's were damaged on the ground. In addition, six American Sabre jets and one B-57 bomber were destroyed in various sectors in air battles as well as by ground action.

The Pakistan Air Force was also active throughout yesterday and attacked a number of our air bases from Pathankot to Jamnagar. Jamnagar airport was subjected to a series of attacks but there was little damage caused and the airport is functioning normally. In Amritsar, the Pakistan Air Force dropped bombs on the civilian area. The extent of damage is still being ascertained. Pakistan yesterday extended the conflict to the eastern sector. The Pakistan Air Force made an attack on the Kalai-kunda air base near Calcutta. The attack was driven off.

The total losses suffered by us both in the air and on the ground in yesterday's operations are eight aircraft. A few other aircraft were damaged.

On the ground, advancing Indian troops are meeting with increasing resistance. Stiff fighting is continuing in the Dera Baba Nanak bridge area, where seven enemy tanks have been destroyed. This morning the Pakistanis blew up the Dera Baba Nanak bridge.

Pakistan dropped small bands of paratroopers in different parts of the Punjab last night and early this morning. A number of paratroopers have been captured in the Pathankot and Jullundur areas. The local Army and civil authorities are taking steps to round them up.

Further advance has been made by our troops in the Poonch sector. They have captured two important positions approximately five miles north-east of Poonch on September 6. In the clashes that took place in occupying these positions, our troops have picked up so far 45 dead bodies of Pakistani soldiers, 30 from one post and 15 from the other one. This includes a few officers and junior commissioned officers also. A number of light machine guns and rifles, 81 m.m. mortars and 0.30 Machine-guns were also captured.

The Pakistani army has launched 'Operation Tank Rescue' in the Chhamb sector. A fleet of 40 tractors has been brought in to evacuate Patton and Sherman tanks destroyed or disabled by air and ground action by Indian troops.

All attempts of the enemy to probe our defences in the Akhnur sector have been completely foiled and the latest reports indicate that the enemy is engaged in pulling out their forces from this area. A counter-attack by Pakistani troops in the area Sanjoi in the Tithwal sector was repulsed by our forces killing one Pakistani officer and four other ranks. It may be recalled that our troops attacked and captured three Pakistani posts in this area on the night of September 3/4.

Our forces have further improved their position in the Haji Pir pass area. They attacked and captured another Pakistani position three miles west of Haji Pir in the early hours of September 5. Three counter-attacks by Pakistani troops in this area were repulsed with heavy losses to the enemy. A number of clashes took place in this area in which Pakistanis suffered a large number of casualties.

The shelling across all along the cease-fire line from the Keran to Nau-shera sector continued during the last twenty-four hours.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshan-gabad): I would make a request that

in future, from tomorrow, the progress report of the war must be presented to the House the first thing in the day, and then as often as necessary, if new developments arise, the proceedings should be interrupted by some Minister—not necessarily the Defence Minister—and the House given information as to what is going on.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): What is the situation in Lahore?

Shri Tyagi: I have taken note of the request and will convey it to the Defence Minister. It all depends...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Prime Minister and the Defence Minister.

Shri Tyagi: Sometimes there is news of strategic importance which we may not be able to place before the House immediately.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): I learn that the BBC has already given quite a bit of these things much earlier.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra (Jammu and Kashmir): Even All India Radio.

Shri Ranga: This must be the All India Radio report. Earlier than the All India Radio, the BBC had given information in regard to the bombing that was indulged in by the Pakistan Air Force. That news must have reached Government also, and that is why there is additional force in the suggestion made by hon. friend, Shri Kamath, that more frequently and much more early these bulletins should be issued or this information given to us at least in the Central Hall as well as in this House.

Some hon. Members: In the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Government will give the information at the earliest to the House, immediately after the question hour.

Shri Tyagi: I have taken note of it