12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FIRING BY BURMESE CUSTOMS PERSONNEL ON INDIAN BAITE TRIBESMEN

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The reported firing by Burmese Customs personnel on Indian Baite tribesmen on the 22nd and 23rd July, 1966, resulting in the death of one person and injuries to others.".

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Nanda): Sir, on 22nd July at about 3 P.M. while two Indian tribals were working on the Indian side of Indo-Burmese border, two persons reported to be Burmese Customs officials challenged them for having entered Burmese territory and asked the two Indian tribals to come towards them. The two Indian tribals having refused to do so, the Customs officials are alleged to have opened fire from a stengun and one of the Indian tribals also returned the fire from his S.B.M.L. gun. Thereupon, the Burmese officials left the place and the two Indian tribals reported at the nearby police station at Moreh. A case under section 307 IPC and 25 Arms Act has been registered at Moreh Police Station.

According to further reports, on 23rd July two other Indian tribals went to the place of occurrence at about 8 A.M. and saw two Burmese sepoys in olive green dress and wearing helmets on the other side of the Lokchao river which flows near Moreh within the Indian territory. As soon as the sepoys saw the Indian tribals, they are reported to have taken firing positions and apprehending danger to themselves the two Indian tribals also took up positions. The sepyos are then alleged to have opened fire. During a short pause, one of the Indian tribals ran to the Moreh police station and reported the matter to the officer in charge.

The Officer in charge Moreh police station arranged a joint search with the Burmese Customs and military officials stationed at Tamu, a small town on the Burmese side of the border. They found the body of the other tribals lying dead with two bullet injuries on the abdomen and another on the right thigh. On inquiry, the Burmese Customs and military personnel posted at Tamu denied any knowledge of the incident. A case has been registered in this connection also at Moreh police station and is under investigation.

We have got the best relations with the Burmese authorities all along the Indo-Burma border and we have had the fullest cooperation from them in regard to matters of common interest. We have never had any similar complaint in the past of misunderstanding or skirmishes on the border. Our Embassy in Rangoon has been requested to get in touch with the Government of Burma and to obtain precise facts about the incident as known to Burmese authorities. I would urge the House not to attach too much importance to this incident.

Shri Kapur Singh: I want to know how far the place near Moreh police station where the first incident of the 22nd July took place, and the farther bank of the Lokchao river where the second incident of 23rd July took place are inside Indian territory, and whether the police investigations held so far indicate the necessity for any extradition proceedings against the Burmese culprits?

Shri Nanda: The place Moreh itself is about 1½ miles to 2 miles from the border, and the place of occurrence may be a few hundred yards, perhaps 400 or 500 yards from there. The investigations are proceeding, and of course, there is the necesary expeditious effort being made.

Shri Kapur Singh: How far is the other bank of the Lokchao river, where the second incident took place, from the border?

Shri Nanda: Between the border and this river, there is a very small strip of a few hundred yards.

श्री गुलशन (भटिंडा) : इस दुर्घटना के बाद बर्मा सरकार ने इस कार्यवाही में जो हमदर्दी दिखाई है, उसके बारे में मिनिस्टर साहब ने बताया कि वे हमारे साथ मिल-वर्तन दे रहे हैं । मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके फलस्वरूप उन्होंने क्या-क्या मिल-वर्तन दिया, जिन व्यक्तियों ने भारतीय पुरुषों पर गोली चलाई, क्या वे उनको देने के लिये तैयार हैं या नहीं ?

श्री नन्दा : उनसे हमें बहुत बातों में सहयोग मिल रहा है, खास कर उस किस्म के आदमियों को जिन्हें हम होस्टाइल कहते हैं, उनको वे रोकते हैं, वापस भेज देते हैं, पकड़ कर हम को दे देते हैं, इस तरह की बहुत सी मदद हम को मिल रही है ।

श्री गुरुशन : मैंने यह पूछा है कि क्या उन व्यक्तियों को वे देने के लिये तैयार हैं ?

श्री नन्दा : इसके लिये इन्क्वायरी हो रही है, एम्बैसी के साथ बातचीत हो रही है ।

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): I want to find out if the India-Burma border has been properly demarcated and if there are boundary pillars, and also whether the Government of Burma have expressed regret for this incident.

Shri Nanda: It has been demarcated. So far as our communication with the Government of Burma is concerned, it is proceeding.

Shri P. K. Deo: About the boundary pillars?

Shri Nanda: Yes, that part is there.

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ये घटनायें इसलिये हो रही हैं कि इन भारतीय आदिवासियों को तस्कर व्यापार के लिये प्रयोग किया जाता है और यहां तक कि इस आशय के आरोप लगाये जा रहे हैं । मैं गृह मंत्री से जानना चाहता कि क्या पश्चिमी बंगाल के तीन मंत्रियों का इसमें हाथ है, जिनके खिलाफ़ बंगाल के सेन साहब और अतुल्य घोष साहब कुछ नहीं करना चाहते ?

श्री नन्दा : यह सवाल इसके बारे में नहीं है ।

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : यह एक बहुत गम्भीर मामला छेड़ा गया है और मंत्री महोदय को इसकी सफाई करनी चाहिये । अगर आप इस समय इसकी सफ़ाई करने की स्थिति में नहीं हैं तो कुछ समय के बाद करें ।

श्री नन्दा : किस किस्म की सफ़ाई ? यह सवाल मणिपुर और बर्मा के बार्डर के बारे में पूछा है, यह बात सही है कि वहां कुछ स्मगलिंग वगैरह होता है, लेकिन आपने जो सवाल पूछा है वह बंगाल के मिनिस्टरों के बारे में पूछा है । यह रेलेवेन्ट नहीं है ।

श्री मधु लिमये : एक मामला दूसरे मामले से जुड़ा हुआ है । वहां पर तस्कर व्यापार का जाल बिछा हुआ है और बड़े-बड़े लोगों का उसमें हाथ है, बंगाल के तीन मंत्रियों का उसमें हाथ है, बंगाल के गृह मंत्री का हाथ है, पुलिस मंत्री का हाथ है ।

श्री रामसेवक यादव मेरा प्रश्न बिल्कुल साफ़ है । क्या इस घटना का सम्बन्ध तस्कर व्यापार से है और क्या इन आदिवासियों को इस काम के लिये इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, यहां तक कि तीन मंत्री इसमें शामिल हैं ?

श्री नन्दा : जब तहकीकात होगी तो पता चल जायेगा कि इस घटना का सम्बन्ध तस्कर व्यापार से है या नहीं ।

श्री मधु लिमये : कब तक ?

श्री नन्दा : इस में तहकीकात हो रही है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि वे मीजो लोगों को पाकिस्तान जाने से रोकने में हमारी सहायता करते हैं, क्या उन्हीं मीजो लोगों पर इन बर्मा के सिपाहियों ने गोली चलाई थी ? यदि हां, तो ये जो मारे गये हैं, इनके परिवारों को सरकार ने क्या सहायता की है ?

श्री नन्दा : मीजो के बारे में मैं कह नहीं सकता हूं । वहां की गवर्नमेन्ट ने क्या सहायता की है, उसकी डिटेल मेरे पास नहीं है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हमारे जो आदमी वहां मारे गये हैं, क्या सरकार उनके परिवारों की कुछ मदद करेगी ?

श्री नन्दा : मणिपुर गवर्नमेन्ट जरूर मदद करेगी ।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I agree with the hon. Minister that our relations with Burma are very, very friendly. But here is a case which seems to be a continuous affair. One incident takes place on the 22nd and another on the 23rd. Both these things relate to tribesmen. May I know if the Government are exposing unduly these tribesmen who live on this border to danger on the India-Burma border? If they are doing so, what extra precautions are they taking? If they are not doing so, why have these unfortunate incidents taken place?

श्री नन्दा : यह एक्सीडेन्ट [illegible] ही हुआ है । इधर भी ट्राइबल्ज रहते हैं और दूसरी तरफ भी उसी किस्म के ट्राइबल्ज रहते हैं, बार्डर की खसूसियत ऐसी है कि दोनों तरफ आना-जाना चलता रहता है । इसके लिये खास प्रबन्ध किया है ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: What does the hon. Minister say? I did not follow what he said. It is raining outside, and therefore his voice is not audible.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने जवाब दिया है कि दोनों तरफ वैसे ही ट्राइबल रहते हैं, उनका आना-जाना भी रहता है, वे एक ही किस्म के आदमी हैं ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: Does it mean that tribals can kill each other?

श्री नन्दा : वहां पर यह पहला ही इन्सीडेन्ट हुआ है ।

12.15 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENT TO KERALA MOTOR VEHICLES RULES, ETC.

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of Notification S.R.O. No. 206/66 published in Kerala Gazette dated the 24th May, 1966, making certain amendment to the Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, 1961, etc., under sub-section (3) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, read with clause (c) (iv) of the Proclamation dated the 24th March, 1965, issued by the Vice-President, discharging the functions of the President, in relation to the State of Kerala.

[*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-6594/66].