

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**TWENTY-THIRD REPORT**

Sardar Hukam Singh (Bhatinda): I beg to present the Twenty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**NINTH REPORT**

Shri B. G. Mehta (Gohilwad): I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research on the subject 'Secondary Education'.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES—
A SUMMARY OF WORK**

Secretary: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the "Parliamentary Committees—A Summary of Work", pertaining to the Third Session of the Second Lok Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-659/58.]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE****RECRUDESCENCE OF FIRING BY PAKISTANI
BORDER FORCES ON THE EAST PAKIS-
TAN-ASSAM BORDER.**

Shri Hynniewta (Autonomous Districts—Reserved-Sch. Tribes): Under Rule 197, I beg to call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

**'RECRUDESCENCE OF FIRING BY PAKIS-
TANI BORDER FORCES ON THE EAST
PAKISTAN-ASSAM BORDER.'**

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): On behalf of the Prime Minister, I make the following statement:

"The House will recall that in response to a number of Call Attention Notices and Short Notice Ques-

tions, the Deputy Minister made a statement on my behalf on March, 31st, regarding firing by Pakistani troops across the Sylhet-Cachar border. This statement dealt with the course of events up to March 27th when a cease-fire agreement—the second since the incidents began on March 11th—was arrived at. Firing, however, has continued and more Call Attention Notices and Short Notice Questions have been tabled in the last few days. I fully appreciate the concern felt by the House and I take this opportunity to make a further statement on the course of events between March 27th and April 14th.

Though detailed reports about individual incidents have not yet been received, the following general picture emerges from the preliminary reports received so far:

Sporadic firing has been going on almost daily in the Surma region from March 27th to 7th April. The affected area covers such places as Madanpur, Latu, Nijjalalpur, Mahisasan and Bhanga Bazar.

The firing spread from the Surma region to the Khasi-Jaintia Hills along the Pyain river. Full details are not available, but it is clear that Pakistani armed forces opened fire on an Indian patrol on April 4th, the firing on Indian cultivators was resumed on April 5th and continued throughout the morning and the next day. As usual, protests were lodged by Assam Government. Pakistan authorities have also lodged counter-protests.

The casualties on our side as a result of firing were one killed, three seriously wounded, who may or may not survive, and five others wounded.

There was an exodus of about a hundred families from the Bhanga area caused by the intensity of firing and collecting of vegetables on both sides of the Surma had stopped but people have started returning for vegetable collection since the cease-fire on 9th April.