

for Adjournment

12.05 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

(i) ALLEGED PAKISTANI INFILTRATION INTO ASSAM

Mr. Speaker: There is one Adjournment Motion by Shri Vajpayee. I want to know what exactly is the matter. There is also a Starred Question about it given notice of by Shri Harish Chandra Mathur. I have admitted it for answer on the 9th. It is about the grave peril to India's security and integrity posed by planned, large-scale infiltration of Pakistani nationals into Assam and the Government's failure to take effective measures in this regard. May I know what is the position?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):

In so far as I can recollect, there has been no large-scale infiltration in recent months; probably there was some. There has been I believe some infiltration during the last 12 years on a relatively small scale. We have tried to stop it; we have succeeded to some extent; occasionally they come through the border. The Assam Government and the Government of India are taking more effective steps to stop this kind of thing. But I think it will not be correct to say that there has been large-scale infiltration.

Shri Vajpayee (Balrampur): May I make a submission? According to a conservative estimate, during the last few years, more than six lakh Pakistani Muslims have infiltrated into Assam, and the hon. Prime Minister, in his Press Conference, stated that if during the last 12 years, even five lakhs have come to Assam, that is not large-scale infiltration. May I know the definition of 'large-scale'? Are we to understand that even if lakhs of people come from across the border into Assam and concentrate themselves into Cachar, Goalpara and Nowgong the districts which already have a large Muslim population and that, too with a view to make these districts Muslim majority areas no serious action will be taken by the

Government? Even the Chief Minister of Assam had stated that he was thinking of erecting a barbed wire fence on the border. That shows the seriousness of the situation.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I respectfully submit that in the guise of asking for information, all kinds of insinuations should not be made; such as the hon. Member is making?

Shri Vajpayee: What sort of insinuation I have made?

Mr. Speaker: He will say it.

Shri Vajpayee: Sir, I seek your protection. It is for you to define 'insinuation'. I have not made any insinuation.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I may point out that it is an insinuation—that people are coming there in order to upset the Government and to add to a certain majority of a certain community, etc. These are insinuations which I say, to my knowledge, have no basis in fact in the slightest.

I do not know factually how many have come in. The hon. Member has given certain figures. I do not know where he has got them from. I am not prepared to accept it. I would rather wait, for further enquiries and further examination in detail for the census figures and others. Then we shall accept that figure, whatever it is. I do not think that figure is accurate.

But may I just remind the House of the long-term background of all these areas? I should imagine that for the last 60 or 70 years—I do not know how long, and it may be more—and that is long, long before partition—there has been a continuous movement from the overcrowded parts of old Bengal into Assam. I remember reading in the census report of 1911, i.e., exactly fifty years ago, about the movement from, I think, the district of Mymensingh,

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

like an army of ants marching, because Assam was relatively under-populated while this area was terribly populated.

This has been happening all this time for the last sixty or seventy years and all kinds of devices were adopted in those days—the so-called line system etc—to stop this. To some extent they succeeded; to some extent not. Sometimes the Government of Assam was more vigilant; sometimes it was not. This is a very old problem of population flowing over from an over-crowded area to a less crowded area. Since partition, of course, this over-flow has stopped. An attempt has been made to stop and it has largely been stopped. It may be that some of it still flows where there is a chance and we are still trying to stop it.

As to the actual facts, after examining the census figures and such other information we may get, we shall know the position. But anyhow, it is our purpose and intention to stop this.

Shri Hem Barua: (Gauhati): As a matter of fact, there has never been any large-scale infiltration of Pakistani nationals into Assam. But there has been a steady and sustained inflow of these nationals into that State over long years. Mr. Mulan, the Census Commissioner, said in 1911 that at this rate only one district—Sibsagar—would remain and the other districts would be swamped by these people. But even at present, there are stray cases of inflow of people from East Pakistan. I would not agree with the Prime Minister when he said that the security measures are adequate. The security measures are not adequate. There should be adequate security measures. That is what possibly the Chief Minister of Assam has suggested—the sealing of the border. I would request the Prime Minister to look into this aspect of the matter.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): On the 2nd August, I heard that 49 persons entered at one place—Karimganj sub-division of Assam—and they were imprisoned by the local court till the rising of the court. May I know whether such infiltrators will be more severely dealt with?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Pali): I hope my question admitted for the 9th is not being answered now.

Mr. Speaker: I will call him that day.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I would like to invite the attention of the Prime Minister to the census report and the alarming figures given in the census report itself. The percentage of increase in Assam, in particular early this year, has been enormous and has not been explained by any other factor except that there is infiltration.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think that necessarily follows to the extent that the hon. Member thinks. The census people have themselves told us that they want to look into this in greater detail before they can express any opinion.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya (West Dinajpur): The Prime Minister has given us a certain background to assess this question. May I request him to assess it in the background that it was Mr. Jinnah's intention to get Assam into East Pakistan. Even the Cabinet Mission scheme put Assam into the Muslim majority area composed of Assam and Bengal. It was after a great agitation that Assam could be taken out of that Cabinet Mission proposal. It is against this background that this question has to be judged. We shall arrive at the correct conclusion if we judge it against this background as to how and why the Pakistanis are trying to infiltrate into Assam and what can be the possible object with which they are doing it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Certainly all this has to be kept in mind.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know whether the Government of Assam has approached the Central Government for additional funds so that effective measures can be taken to stop this infiltration?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No question of funds has arisen in this matter. But obviously it is the interest of the Government of India and it is of the Government of Assam to deal with this situation.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): I think this Parliament early in 1950 or late in 1949 passed an Act—Undesirable Immigrants Prevention Act or something like that. So, even in 1950, the Government took a serious view of the situation. Since then, I want to know why the Government has not been careful about the situation and what action has been taken for the implementation of the Act passed in 1950.

Mr. Speaker: I do not intend calling upon the Prime Minister to get up every time and answer. Let the hon. Members put their questions and then I will call him.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (वाराणसी) : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ईस्ट पाकिस्तान से जो इतनी तादाद में आदमी आ गये हैं और आसाम में हैं, उनको आसाम से हटा कर के फिर ईस्ट पाकिस्तान में, जो उनका देश है, भेजने का क्या इन्तजाम हो रहा है ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : वजाय एडजर्नमेंट मोशन के यह सवाल जवाब होने लगा है, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता हमारी इच्छा है कि जहाँ तक हमको मालूम है सदस्यगण को बतायें। अगर मालूम होता है कि इधर से उधर कोई आया है तो उसको पकड़

कर उधर कर देते हैं इसमें तो सन्देह नहीं है। लेकिन यह मालूम करना कि कौन आया है और कब आया है मुश्किल बात है।

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): On a point of order, Sir. Adjournment motions have to be given notice of according to our procedure and it is for you to decide and use your discretion as to whether the motion is relevant or not relevant. For that purpose you might also ascertain from the hon. Mover or the Treasury Benches as to what they have got to say. But if an adjournment motion becomes a regular item of discussion and putting questions, I think it would be throwing all old conventions to the winds. I would humbly suggest that we strictly stick to the rules of procedure of the House.

Shri Vajpayee: It is a reflection upon you.

Mr. Speaker: I am addressing myself to every relevant factor. It must be a matter of urgent public importance and it must be a definite matter. We have had the bitter experience of getting this country divided on a religious basis. Otherwise, I would not have brought it up here. If in the guise of coming in, a large number migrate from that country to this country, some day they might ask for partition of Assam also. Therefore, I thought it was a very serious question. But this depends on the number of people coming in, whether there is a mass movement or only here and there. Every step is being taken. These are all matters which I have to consider before I allow adjournment motion. I am trying to dispose of it without adjourning the legitimate business of this House and I am addressing myself to all these relevant questions. After having heard all this, from the volume of persons that have been coming in not only recently but for a long time I am not prepared to allow the adjournment motion. (Interruptions).

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): In connection with the same matter in Assam. I raised a matter about the shooting down of 11 young lives in Silchar and you have ruled it out as a State matter. I want to raise it and submit that it was an unwarranted firing on absolutely peaceful satyagrahis and it was done with the intention of cowing down the movement of the minorities. In view of the fact that this House itself has in the past taken up this matter and it was a continuation of the riots on the Language Bill of last year, I think you should permit a discussion about this unwarranted barbarous murder of these 11 young boys and girls, who were shot down on May 19th in Silchar. The Prime Minister himself was there at that time. When a solution was being sought after, at that very moment, this firing took place. We feel it was done to prevent a solution and cow down the minorities. It is a very important question—the question of the protection of the rights of minorities—which should be taken up in this House.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Lady Member has brought in my name as if I was almost personally responsible for the firing.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I said the Prime Minister was there at that time. When we were hoping that a solution would come about, at that very time, the firing took place, which we feel was done to sabotage any solution.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The main point is, so far as I know, a high level enquiry is taking place in this matter. I think a High Court Judge is enquiring into it.

An Hon Member: Chief Justice.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Chief Justice is enquiring into it. Surely, this is the kind of enquiry that we can have. Again, it is not urgent. It took place nearly three months ago.

I am not seeking to minimise the importance of it; but I do submit, on the one hand it took place three months ago and, secondly, a very high level enquiry is taking place and we should await the result of that enquiry.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): In this connection, Sir, the question of minority rights is so deeply involved that the Home Minister made a rapid trek around Assam and he formulated something as a solution—that kind of thing that was discussed in the papers and all that. We here, in the Parliament, are meeting nearly 2½ months after the Home Minister made that formulation. Naturally, Sir, it is necessary for us to have some kind of an elucidation regarding this point. We cannot wait till the report of the Minority Commission comes for a perfunctory two-hour discussion. This is a matter which affects the whole country, and the Prime Minister having been very largely on the scene knows a great deal more about it than we expect and we want to know more about it from that side.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The minority question cannot be dealt with on the basis, let us say, of the firing. It is a very large matter, a very important issue. So far as Government is concerned, we are trying to deal with it in consultation with all the various interested parties concerned. I do not quite see how in an adjournment motion we can discuss the minority question and come to any conclusion.

Mr. Speaker: Now, so far as the adjournment motion is concerned I disallowed it on the ground that it is a matter of law and order. But the hon. lady Member said that it involves the bigger question of the minority problem. The hon. Prime Minister just now said that so far as this incident is concerned a High Court Judge has been appointed to look into the matter and dispose of the question relating to the firing. The larger issue relating to the mino-

urity question, as the Prime Minister rightly said, cannot be disposed of on an adjournment motion. There must be other methods of bringing the matter to the notice of the House and getting redress or offering a solution. Therefore, I am not giving my consent to this adjournment motion.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what minority question is involved in this matter? It is a question of national integrity and solidarity. What is the question of minority that is involved here? I am not able to understand. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: So there is no argument. One hon. Member has answered the question put by another hon. Member.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it a linguistic minority or a religious minority (Interruption)?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let there be no discussion across the Table.

(ii) COLLAPSE OF THE EARTHEN DAM AT PANSKET

Shri B. K. Gaikwad (Nasik): There is another adjournment motion, Sir, standing in my name.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Gaikwad has given notice of an adjournment motion about the reported statement on 24th July of the Minister of Maharashtra. Is that the adjournment motion?

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Yes.

Shri Assar (Ratnagiri): There is my adjournment motion also.

Mr. Speaker: It says:

"... that the advice of the Central Government engineers necessitated the completion of the earthen dam at Panshet near Poona one year prior of its completion schedule in 1962. The result being the dam collapsed causing immense loss to property and

human life involving use of Military personnel and immediate Central aid of some crores of rupees."

The hon. Minister has informed me that he is going to make a statement on the flood situation in general, including the flood situation in various other places also. This also was as a result of the floods.

Shri Assar: No, Sir. That was not flood.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): It is a break-down.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The hon. Minister will make a statement regarding this also.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): I will say, Sir, something about this question now itself. As far as the giving way of Panshet Dam is concerned, it has already been announced by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra that this question has been referred to a Commission and it will be enquired into by it. The result will be made out after the report is received from that Commission. Therefore, Sir, here I am not in a position to say anything as far as this question is concerned.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: Why is he not able to say something?

Shri S. A. Dange (Bombay City Central): As far as the break-down of Panshet Dam is concerned, Sir, it is not a case of ordinary floods; the question relates to the very theory of earthen dams, the question of completing it and executing it properly. Therefore, it is not a question like the other floods. The question now is, whether the Maharashtra Government stated that they took the advice of the Central Government on this problem. We want to know whether that is a fact or not. The Commission will enquire into the theory, its execution, the failures and so on. It is also alleged that it was a sort of 'political flood' and not 'natural flood', because the