

Implementation of Untouchability Offences Act

3421. **Shri Kajrolkar:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the names of the States which are fully utilising grants sanctioned for implementation of Untouchability Offences Act 1955?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): The responsibility for enforcement of the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 is that of the State Governments. No grants are given for implementation of the Act.

Geological Survey of Kangra District

3422. { **Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether any geological survey has been undertaken of Kangra District recently;

(b) if so, whether silver has been found in the area; and

(c) details of the items discovered?

The Deputy Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri R. M. Hajarnavis): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Old mines for silver ore were recorded at Uchich in Parbati valley in Kangra district. Detailed investigation of the area is in progress and the results will be known after the investigation is completed.

12.07 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

FIRING BY PAKISTANI ARMED POLICE ON EVACUEES FROM RAJSHAHI DISTRICT—contd.

Mr. Speaker: We shall now proceed with the calling attention notice by Shri Hem Barua and others, which had been held over on 16-6-62, for today.

1105(Ai) LSD—5.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I had made a statement on 4th June on the unfortunate communal incidents in West Bengal and East Pakistan in the months of March and April. I had, in this, referred to the Pakistan Government's reply to our protest Note of 12th May, which had as good as admitted that there had been very serious disturbances in East Pakistan.

There has inevitably been some excitement and a certain amount of tension on our side of the border, mainly in the second week of May, after the stories of the happenings in the East Pakistan districts had trickled through. There have been stray incidents in West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, but the State authorities had been warned to be vigilant and they have handled the situation with the necessary degree of firmness.

We had no reports of any serious trouble in East Pakistan after the last week of April and there was every reason to believe that in the month of May, generally, tension had decreased and the movement of the people between West Bengal and East Pakistan had become almost normal. Unfortunately, there has been a recrudescence of serious trouble again in Rajshahi district in East Pakistan. But before I come to this, I wish to place before the House certain facts and figures for the whole of the month of May which were not available when I made the statement on June 4.

Earlier in May, some 4,000 intending migrants had been interviewed by our Rajshahi office (Assistant High Commission). The latest figures that we have now received show that the demand for migration certificates in the month of May was not abnormally high. The number of applications received by our Deputy High Commission in Dacca in May totalled 606 covering 1793 persons. By way

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

of comparison, 1312 persons had applied for migration in April and 1530 had applied in March. Our Dacca office has granted migration certificates to 1015 persons in May, as against 952 in April and 1080 in March. I am furnishing these figures to show that the statistics for May are not abnormally high.

Apart from the migration certificates, the figures of the normal traffic through the Immigration Check Posts in West Bengal are even more interesting. In April, 11,664 Hindus had come into West Bengal and 13,015 had left West Bengal for East Pakistan. In April 14,776 Muslims had come into West Bengal and 14,264 (only 500 less) had gone from West Bengal to East Pakistan. These are the figures for the month of April, when the Pakistan Press was shouting about massacres in Malda and the migration of thousands of Muslims from West Bengal to East Pakistan. The May figures are still more significant—12,827 Hindus have come from East Pakistan, and 8,408 have gone across. The Muslim traffic figures show that 13,053 Muslims have left West Bengal for East Pakistan in the month of May, but as many as 12,720 have come across from East Pakistan to West Bengal. This should amply falsify Pakistan's propaganda that thousands of Muslims had fled across the Indian border because of tension in India. This being the position in May, it is all the more regrettable that there should have been trouble again in Rajshahi district of East Pakistan. The reports we have received from West Bengal Government say that on 15th June, at about 03:00 hours in the middle of the night while about 600 Hindus, Pakistan nationals, mostly santhals and Rajbanshis of villages Gopalpur, Joka, Sonamasha, Manchalpara and Ekrampur were about to cross the border at Barabila, Police Station Gomostapur (East Pakistan), without travel documents, Pakistan Armed Forces suddenly opened fire on them. As a result of this firing, a one year old female

child and another girl of fourteen were killed on the spot and two men and six women were injured. About, 300 persons are reported to have crossed over into India. The rest are reported to have been rounded up by the Pakistan forces. Of the eight injured persons, one adult male and a girl of eight years is reported to have died on the way to Malda hospital.

Strong action has been taken by the district authorities to ensure that there are no repercussions following these unfortunate events on our side of the border in Malda district.

On Saturday, June 16, the Commonwealth Secretary has brought all this to the notice of the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi. He has protested against this reported conduct of the Pakistan authorities and has expressed concern on behalf of the Government of India that the East Pakistan authorities should take such strong measures to physically prevent members of the minority community from crossing over into India, when they were doing this in some obvious panic as a result of lack of confidence in the authorities.

The West Bengal Government have already lodged a protest with East Bengal authorities and our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca is seeing the Governor of East Pakistan today.

I might add that this morning the Pakistan High Commissioner saw the Commonwealth Secretary here in Delhi and he gave the Pakistan Government's version of this incident which amounts to this. The East Pakistan Government's version is that on the 14th/15th night police outpost at Charal Panga got the information that a large mob was proceeding towards the frontier. Police station Gomostapur was alerted and a small police patrol was sent out to investigate. The mob of people would be an

unlawful assembly in law as it stands in this region. At 2.30 A.M. the police party contacted the mob and challenged them and were immediately attacked with bows and arrows. The police fired 14 rounds, in self-defence and one person, an aboriginal, was apparently killed. The police succeeded in rounding up 225 aboriginals. They have no information of any other casualties.

Mr. Hilaly said that he had been expressly informed that the communal situation in the area has been completely peaceful after the incidents in the last week of April. There was no communal background to the present incident, in that neither this group of Santhals nor any of their villages had been attacked by anybody. The authorities allege that they do not know why the Santhals were trying to go over the border. Mr. Hilaly said that the East Pakistan Government looked upon this as a normal border incident.

I am told that two days ago when this matter came up before this House some concern was expressed and some situation in the area has been comm- Deputy High Commissioner in East Pakistan was doing when this was happening. I have really been quite unable to understand why this criticism is made. The Deputy High Commissioner lives in Dacca. This was at Rajshahi the border to India. There is an Assistant High Commissioner in Rajshahi headquarters. Even he could not know and did not know till much later what has happened. The only persons who could know were the West Bengal Government because they have their border police, etc. and the East Pakistan Government. The West Bengal Government communicated to us immediately and we got . . .

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): That is not so. The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, pointed out the other day. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The West Bengal Government sent us a message almost immediately, the same day, and later, that is, after this, along with the report. What I mean to say is that the Deputy High Commissioner or the Assistant High Commissioner could not possibly get to know; it is physically not possible to get to know what has happened on the border unless the Pakistan Government inform them. We could not, in the short time, within a day, know it, because the border is rather a remote place and this thing happened in the middle of the night, at 3 a.m.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): Does the Prime Minister know that for the last three days, from Friday onwards, there have been about a thousand evacuee refugees coming into Malda town from the border area, and may I know whether the Central Government was alerted about this even prior to the firing itself, and if that was so, whether our Deputy or Assistant High Commissioner living in Rajshahi knew nothing as to why these large numbers of people are migrating to India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think the figure of my hon. friend—1,000—is correct.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It was admitted by the West Bengal Government itself.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: People have been coming in. I think it will be a little less. Some more might have come. But how is the Deputy High Commissioner at Dacca to know. . . .

Some Hon. Members: Rajshahi.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: . . . whether this had been organised at night or not? It is, of course, illegal to come across without papers.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Are we to take it that there was actually

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty]

no basic objective or reason for these people to come across? Or, was there really some recrudescence of trouble, because about 600 to 1,000 is the number that is admitted by the West Bengal Government itself.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have already read the statement in which I said that the only reason could be that there has been a state of panic as to what might happen to them, what might happen there. I do not know. I cannot say exactly what additional thing happened except that there is a general fear in the minds of the minorities about the treatment. That is a different matter. But very recently in Rajshahi district some horrible things happened, about six weeks or a month ago. That is admitted. I do not know what happened exactly just then. My information is, the Santhals, chiefly, held meetings, rather secret meetings, deciding that many of them will come over in the middle of the night so as to escape any detection; this is one of them. They started and came away at 3 a.m. What I mean to say is, I cannot understand how the Deputy High Commissioner or the Assistant High Commissioner could have done anything in the matter on this night, when they came over.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Have they given any information today? It is quite a few days now since all this has happened. Have the Government consulted or contacted them, at least by wireless message, and got confirmation of what has happened?

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I will allow some questions to be put, one by one.

Shri Tyagi: Have they visited those places?

Shri Hem Barua: I would first refer to the Prime Minister's reference. I just remember that the Minister of

State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shrimati Lakshmi Menon, was saying the other day that when she saw this news in the newspapers she contacted that Government for the information. That shows—what a sad commentary—the way our governmental machinery functions. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru rose—

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, I have not put the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: In this particular matter, the machinery functioned with extraordinary speed and efficiency. Just look at it. The incident happened at 3 a.m. on the 15th March. The matter came up before this House on the 16th morning, that is, roughly about 26 to 27 hours later. We telephoned and we got a message—there was no other way—from West Bengal, which was the only Government to know about it, and it telephoned to us a brief message which was read out to the House here. The very next day, they sent us a long report. In answer to Shri Tyagi, the Deputy High Commissioner enquired about it from Dacca and he got a report from the Assistant High Commissioner at Rajshahi about it. And, as I stated, he is going to see the Governor today. He has reported to us. I do not see how there could have been greater speed about it. It is an extraordinary speed, I should say, considering that the thing happened....

Shri Hem Barua: I discovered this discrepancy in the two statements and I pointed it out.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: What is the discrepancy, if I may know?

Shri Hem Barua: The Prime Minister says he got the information immediately, but Shrimati Menon said she

got the information first from the newspapers and then she contacted the West Bengal Government. That is the contradiction.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: On the 16th morning, there was something in the newspapers which she saw. By that time, we got the information from the West Bengal Government; maybe an hour later, I do not know the exact time. We got it, in fact, if I remember right, on the 16th morning a little later, at about 11 o'clock. Then she came to me and said, "I have just got this from the West Bengal Government". I said, please place it before the Parliament.

Shri Hem Barua rose—

Mr. Speaker: Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.

Shri Hem Barua: I have not put my question; I only pointed out the discrepancy.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I cannot allow him to go on like that.

Shri Hem Barua: I have a legitimate right to put my question.

Mr. Speaker: That is why I gave him an opportunity.

Shri Hem Barua: I have only pointed out the discrepancy....

Mr. Speaker: If he thought that preferable, what could I do?

Shri Hem Barua: If you do not give us protection....

Mr. Speaker: I am always giving him protection. (Interruptions).

Shri Hem Barua: I have only pointed out the discrepancy; that is besides the question I wanted to put.

Mr. Speaker: He will kindly resume his seat.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (विजनौर) : अत्यक्ष महोदय, पाकिस्तान के उस भाग में लाखों की संख्या में जो हिन्दू रह रहे हैं और जो पाकिस्तानी व्यवहार से परेशान हो कर भारत की ओर आशा भरी दृष्टि से देख रहे हैं उन सबको ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से एक प्रश्न जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब नेहरू-लियाकत पैक्ट का इस समय तक कोई मुपरिणाम नहीं निकला और अब भी इस प्रकार के दुर्व्यवहार से तंग आकर हजारों की संख्या में वह भारत आने को उत्सुक हैं तो भारत सरकार इस विषय में क्या अन्तिम निर्णय लेना चाहती है जिससे कि उनको कुछ सन्तोष प्राप्त हो सके ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मैंने अभी आपको बताया है कि वाक्या यह है कि बहुत कम लोग आये हैं हालांकि उनको पूरा पूरा मौका हमारी तरफ से आने का दिया गया। हमारी तरफ से कोई रुकावट नहीं हुई। मुमकिन है पाकिस्तान की तरफ से कोई रुकावट कहीं-कहीं हुई हो मगर वह भी ज्यादा नहीं कर सकते। अब पाकिस्तान में कहा गया कि मुसलमान काफी तादाद में हिन्दुस्तान से भाग कर आये। मैंने आपको पढ़ कर सुनाया कि मुसलमान उसी जमाने में यानी मार्च, अप्रैल और मई में कितने पाकिस्तान से हिन्दुस्तान आये और इसी तरीके से हिन्दू कितने वेस्ट बंगाल से पाकिस्तान गये उसी जमाने में। यह तो जाहिर है कि उन नम्बरों में वह लोग शामिल नहीं हैं जो कि खुफिया तौर से आये हैं। उन का अंदाज करना मुश्किल है। खुफिया तौर से कुछ लोग आये हैं इसमें कोई शक नहीं है लेकिन वाक्या यह है कि बहुत ज्यादा नहीं आये हैं।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मेरा प्रश्न यह था कि भविष्य के लिये क्या व्यवस्था की जा रही है ताकि

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee (Nabadwip):

[Shri H. P. Chatterjee]

things happened in Rajshahi some time back. I have pointed out that thousands have come over here. I had received information and in my personal visit...

Mr. Speaker: He should come to his question.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: My question is, what arrangement was made by our Government to see that they could get their migration certificates in Rajshahi and not go to Dacca, because there is so much of hindrance in going to Dacca, realising money and all sorts of things? What arrangement was made by the Deputy High Commissioner at Rajshahi to give them migration certificates?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am sorry I cannot go into that. I do not know the detailed arrangements that had been made by him or might have been made by him. But the Assistant High Commissioner interviewed these people and a large number—about a thousand, as I stated—were given certificates to come over here. The rest did not come. Whether they were asked to go to Dacca, I do not know. But even if they were asked to go to Dacca and they did not come, it shows that they were not terribly keen about coming to India.

Shri H. P. Chatterjee: How ignorant is he! How ignorant is our Prime Minister!

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Sir, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points out that late on Friday night Shri K. P. Mukerjee, the Home Minister of West Bengal was contacted to find out exactly the number of people dead but he could not say anything and yet we are now told that nine dead bodies have been brought to *Mudu* on Friday for *post mortem* examination. It is a statement of fact. May I know whether the Central Government is prepared to find out exactly what the situation is, find out how

many have been killed and how many have been injured?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The Central Government cannot find out anything there except through the agency of the West Bengal Government. I have read the West Bengal Government's report on it. We sent a man there to find out what happened, two days ago or three days ago. Obviously, things must come through the West Bengal Government who has got the District Magistrate there, the government machinery there.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I am saying about his figure of one dead and the figure given here that nine dead bodies have been brought for *post mortem* examination.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Not "one dead", the figure I have given is I think "4 dead".

श्री बड़े (खारगोन) : क्या माननीय प्रधान मंत्री यह अपना कर्तव्य नहीं समझते कि पाकिस्तान में जो हिन्दू रह गये हैं उनको प्रोटेक्शन और संरक्षण दिया जाय और जितने हिन्दू वहां से इधर भारत में आना चाहते हैं उनको वहां से निकल कर आने में प्रोटेक्शन दिया जाय और जब वह बौर्डर पर जाते हैं तब उनको कुछ मिलिटरी आदि का प्रोटेक्शन दिया जाय ताकि वह सही सलामत वहां पर आ सकें ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पाकिस्तान के अन्दर ही उनको प्रोटेक्शन दिया जाय ?

श्री बड़े पाकिस्तान के बौर्डर पर प्रोटेक्शन दिया जाय । मेरा कहना है कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट इस तरह से क्यों उन बेचारों को मरवाती है और उनको प्रोटेक्शन क्यों नहीं देती है ? By some arrangement they should be escorted to our areas.

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मेरी कुछ समझ में नहीं आता कि उस जमाने में होलनाक बातें राजशाही वगैरह में हुईं और

उसी के साथ हौलनाक बातें मालदा में हुई हैं हालांकि उस कदर ज्यादा नहीं हुई । रा जशाही के बाद मुझे सब याद नहीं लेकिन कई जिलों में यह साम्प्रदायिक झगड़े हुये जिनमें कि इधर मुसलमान मारे गये । अब यह एक शर्म की बात है कि ऐसी बातें पाकिस्तान में हों या यहां हों । वहां ज्यादा होती हैं मान लिया लेकिन यह चीज महज एक तराजू में नहीं तोली जानी चाहिए कि किसने ज्यादा बदतमीजी या खराब बातें की हैं और किसने कम की हैं । हम तैयार हैं । हमने कोई रूकावट नहीं डाली वहां स लोगों के आने में लेकिन माननीय सदस्य कहते हैं कि हमें उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए या रक्षा करनी चाहिए तो हम उनकी रक्षा पाकिस्तान में जाकर नहीं कर सकते । अब जो वाक्ये हुए और पाकिस्तान के बयान आप देखें मैं ने पढ़ कर मुनाया कि रात को वहां उस जगह बोर्डर पर लोगों का जमा होना गैर कानूनी है । अब रात को वहां बोर्डर पर लोग आये और इस तरह कानून के खिलाफ बात उन्होंने की । उसके ऊपर जब पुलिस का आउट पोस्ट गया तो उन्होंने उन पर कमानों से तीर चलाये जिस पर कि पुलिस ने गोली चलाई और उसमें चार आदमी मरे । हमारी इत्तिला यह है कि दो आदमी तो उसी वक्त मरे और दो जरा बाद में मरे ।

श्री बड़े : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अब यह तीर कमान कहा गया है कि उन्होंने चलाया तो क्या

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member may resume his seat.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti .

Shri Bade: Sir, I rise to a point of order. I seek your protection on this very important question. On this important question, Sir, you are going on hurriedly. The Prime Minister was rising in his seat to reply to my question, but you asked him to sit down.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Bade: My point is that at least some time should be given to put questions on this important question, on this burning question affecting the whole of India.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Bade: Otherwise, Sir, there will be repercussions. हिन्दू मुस्लिम झग हो सकते हैं ।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Now the point of order is going the other way. He should now resume his seat.

श्री बड़े : अगर ऐसे ही यह गड़बड़ चलती रही तो हिन्दुस्तान में हिन्दू-मुस्लिम झगड़े हो सकते हैं लोगों में इससे बड़ा असन्तोष है ।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:

हिन्दू मुस्लिम झगड़े क्यों होंगे ?

This is a threat, Sir. We want to elicit information.

श्री बड़े : मेरी हाथ जोड़ कर विनती है कि इधर ध्यान दिया जाय ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप अब बैठ जायें ।

Shri Raghunath Singh (Varanasi): Please do not provoke.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is very regrettable that in spite of my requests so many times hon. Members do not resume their seats. I presumed, and I think I am right, that the hon. Prime Minister had concluded his answer to the question that has been put. The hon. Member suggested in his question that there should be police escort even in Pakistan and then on the border our police should be ready to receive them. That would create other difficulties. I have passed on to the next question. Shri P. R. Chakraverti.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): I have been trying to catch your eye.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): Would it not be better if you could kindly suspend the rule so that some more persons could put questions?

Mr. Speaker: We have already spent half an hour on this.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is a very important question.

Mr. Speaker: There are different methods in which a subject can be raised in this House to elicit information.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is going on for the last three days.

Mr. Speaker: They have received some information and they are expecting to get more information.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: By that time this session would be over.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We want to make one point clear. We did not discuss it here so that there may be repercussions among the Hindus and Muslims. That is not what we ever wanted. We do not want, like Pakistan, there should be repercussions on the minorities.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member should resume her seat.

श्री बड़े : माननीय अध्यक्ष, यह गलत बात है। मैंने इस प्रकार नहीं कहा है।
(Interruptions).

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर।

श्री बड़े : मैंने यह कहा है कि यदि हाउस में इस विषय को डिस्कस करने के लिए टाइम नहीं दिया जायेगा, तो देश में अशांति बढ़ेगी और हिन्दू मुस्लिम टेन्शन बढ़ेगा। मैंने यह नहीं कहा कि वह होना चाहिए। ऑनरेबिल मेम्बर हिन्दी नहीं समझती हैं।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Would he kindly resume his seat or not? He

now says that he never intended to say that. We should accept that. Shrimati Renu Chakravartty has made it clear as to what their intention was. Shri U. M. Trivedi has also made it clear that it was not their intention that it should have repercussions on the minorities or create some difficulties for them. So, this is over. We will now take up the next item. Is Shri P. R. Chakraverti present in the House? No. Shri Vasudevan Nair.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapuruzha): Under Rule 197,

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर आर्डर।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो महत्वपूर्ण विषय चल रहा है, उसको इस तरह से गुस्से में दबाने का यत्न किया जा रहा है। यह कहा जा रहा है कि पाकिस्तान में गड़बड़ होती है, हिन्दुस्तान में गड़बड़ होती है। क्या सरकार इसका कोई उपाय नहीं सोच सकती? आप भी बोलने न देकर "आर्डर, आर्डर" कह कर बिठा देते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब मुझे आपको बिठाना ही होगा, क्योंकि इसका यहां पर कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है।

CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTERS OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DECISION OF PROF. J. B. S. HALDANE TO QUIT THE C.S. AND I.R.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Sir, under rule 197. I call the attention of the Minister of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported decision of Prof. J. B. S. Haldane to quit the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research."