

his small audience, consisting of *no* more than five or six people, and said quietly and firmly:

You know I once composed a song, Sarthaka janama Mago janmechi ei dcshe/Sarthaka janama Mago tomay bhalobeshe. (Fulfilled am I that I was born in this country/Thankful am, I, Mother, to have loved you.) You know, before I die, I shall score out those two lines with my own hand,

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It was, again, for a session of the

Congress in Calcutta that he specially composed a song, of which a free and prose translation is offered below with all its imperfections :

Do not, please, do not ask me to sing. Is all this only fun, mere merry-making, all lies and deception? It (the Congress session) is a torrent of tears, the sigh of the disconsolate, a tale of shame and the hope of the hungry; a deep anguish that the heart cannot contain.

Is this just fun and games, a carnival or a fete, all lies and deception? Have I come hither only to seek

fame, collect cheers, with my wring of words, mostly lies? Are my nights to be content with hollow fame and wasteful dreaming ?

Who is waking today, who working? Who feels compelled to dispel Mother's shame? Who is ready, with his piteous tears, to lay at Mother's feet all his life's desires? Is all this fun, mere merry-making, all lies and deception?

The song does not seem all that dated, does it? But it was not among the songs sung at Bhubaneswar. Alas, none even missed it.

## Weekly Notes

### **E Pakistan Riots**

BY a perverse logic which is no longer strange, having been made familiar by many repetitions, the theft of the sacred relic from Hasratbal in Kashmir has been followed by large scale outbreak of anti-Hindu riots in East Pakistan. It is wrong to call them riots in the sense of spontaneous outbreak of violence and disorder. What has followed is engineered attacks on the minority, in selected pockets, resulting in loss of lives, destruction of property and atrocities too gruesome to contemplate, the extent of which can only be judged by the trickle of refugees who have so far been lucky enough to escape to West Bengal, though in a state of utmost misery. The Pakistan press being heavily censored, not much of news gets through, but the official announcement that the military had to be called at Khulna to quell the riots and restore order gives an inkling of the ravages caused.

The missing relic has been found and there has been universal jubilation not only in Kashmir but among the Hindus and Muslims all over North India. But either the news has not reached East Pakistan yet or, having served its purpose of initiating the depredations, it no longer matters. The depredations, having gathered momentum, have been going on unabated, judging from what news leaks out from across the border. This is not the first time that the East Pakistan minority has been made to suffer for no fault of its own. Unfortunately, it is not going to be the last time either.

The recent outbreaks show a fixed pattern and a clear motivation: that of concentrated attack on those

who have some land so that there is ready profit in pushing them out. But as people all the world over cling to their land and would not be easily dispossessed, the degree of force applied and the tearfulness of the onslaught have been all the greater. AM these came out very prominently last year.

The Indian press, by and large, does not play up the news of these disturbances. On the contrary, it deliberately maintains reticence and observes restraint so as not to create or add to tension on this side of the border. The Government of India watches, deplores and occasionally even protests. The spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry has, as usual, expressed the serious concern of the Government of India over these occurrences and also the hope that the Pakistan Government would take immediate and energetic measures to restore law and order to protect the life and property of the minority community. The Government is seriously concerned, we have been told, and "has been carefully watching the situation". But what action is it going to take? "Any action we take will depend on what happens in the future". What makes the External Affairs hope that tomorrow would be any better than it is today, or that the day after that all this will pass?

### **Tragedy of Inaction**

FAST Pakistan disturbances figured in the discussions of the Subjects Committee of the Congress. Shri Morarji Desai brought it up while moving the resolution on international affairs and Shri Krishna Menon spoke about it while seconding the resolution. While expressing the hope that Pakistan would take the

necessary steps to curb these incidents lest they should lead to "more serious consequences", Shri Morarji said that the manner in which some people in Pakistan were trying to exploit the unhappy incident in Kashmir was an example of the manner in which Pakistan exploited every possible opportunity to "create difficulties for India". What difficulties, he did not spell out. Could it be that of maintaining communal peace inside her own border?

No official approach has been made yet, but it has been unofficially proposed that one way to reassure the minority and restore normal conditions could be for the representatives of India and Pakistan to tour the affected areas, as provided for by the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact. But that pact died with Liaquat Ali if not earlier and the same authorities in East Pakistani who provoked the disturbances in the first instance by their inflammatory statements and egged on the Pakistani press to follow it up, can hardly be expected to be in a mood to revive the long-forgotten pact.

The tragedy of inaction on the part of the Government in a situation like this is the inevitability of wrong action and by the wrong people. Pakistani Bengalis who have come after the disturbances maintain that it is the non-Bengali Muslims who are not only the instigators but are also the perpetrators of these atrocities. This is also by now a familiar story and is corroborated on the present occasion by the Hindu refugees who have escaped. Not that all Bengali Muslims are equally non-communal but even those who are, have no voice of authority in their own home State and no power of collective or effective action.

At a back drop to the fruitless and pointless discussion of these incidents in the Subjects Committee of the Congress comes the news as we go to the press of curfew being imposed in a West Bengal town bordering East Pakistan and of a number of stray incidents in Calcutta city and suburbs, following an attack by a crowd on a students' procession in protest against the atrocities in Khulna and Jessore.

### Professor Satyen fiose — Science in Bengali

AT the Convocation of the Delhi University when the honorary degree of Doctor of Science was conferred on Professor Satyendranath Dose, the citation mentioned only his contributions to science through research. Satyendranath attained world wide recognition as the author of Bose-Kineston statistics when he was only 30. Since then, he has become sonic thing of a legend in the world of science. His contributions to science are not confined, however, only to quantum physics and explorations of the abstruse. Pursuit of research alone could not fulfil the humanist in him. It has also been his life's endeavour to make his countrymen science-minded, to open their minds to the light of science so that science may change their lives and promote their welfare, not only of a minority hut of the whole of society. It has been his life long conviction that this can only be done by the dissemination of science through the mother tongue. And to this thankless and unrewarding task he has devoted himself for decades.

Years ago when still at the Decca University, Satyen Bose sponsored the publication of a Bengali bi-monthly "Vignan Parichaya" in order to bring science to the reach of the common people. After independence, with renewed enthusiasm and 'new life, he set up the Bengal Vignan Parishad for the wider dissemination of science through the medium of Bengali. The Parishad has been running a regular monthly Journal in Bengali; it has also been producing scientific literature in Bengali.

On his 70th birthday which fell on the New Year's day a great reception was given to him, attended by ministers, scientists and admirers. But his life long service to the cause

of education in science through the Bengali language was also honoured and in a manner which he would, perhaps, like best: the foundation-stone was laid on this day for the building which will house the Bangiya Vignan Parishad.

A teacher of science all his life who has made contributions of the highest order in many fields of science, Satyendranath firmly believes that if people are to be made science-minded and if a genuine scientific outlook is to permeate the community, the knowledge of science has to be imparted through the medium of the mother tongue. There is no other way. Yes, it may be possible to turn out a handful of scientists even of high technical competence, through the medium of a foreign tongue. But that restricts science only to a few. It will not open up the minds of the mass of people to the light of science.

### Private Sector in Industry

IT is understandable that the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry should want to focus attention on the contribution of private sector industries in the Plans. The Planning Commission has published a reappraisal of the Third Plan in which, at least in industries, the emphasis is on the performance of tire public sector. Besides, the debate on socialism in the Congress has rivetted public attention to the roles of the two sectors in future development. The F I C C Ps pamphlet, just released, is restrained, only too obviously conscious of the tactical need not to sound too strident. The result is a rather prosaic catalogue of the increase of production in the more important private industries during the last ten years or so.

Under the Industrial Policy Resolution a very extensive field of activity has been left open to private enterprise. And even the large programme of public investment in the Plans has contributed materially to the growth of the private sector — both directly, through the building up of overheads, and indirectly, through stimulating demand. The stringent restrictions on imports have reserved the major part of this growing demand for the domestic industry. This is the setting in which the private sector has operated since 1950-51. During the

period of the two Plans, the F I C C I study estimates, the contribution of organised private industry and mining to national income increased from 5.8 per cent to 10.5 per cent. At the end of the Second Plan the contribution of the private sector to total industrial production was almost 95 per cent.

These and other statistics establish the predominant position of the private sector. But once the F I C C I moves on to qualitative judgments, it is on questionable grounds. It is stated, for instance, that "in the first two plans the whole of the private sector undertook about 50 per cent of the national investment and produced more than 80 per cent of the additional income in that period. *Judging from tin's experience it can he said that private sector has secured the most efficient use of resources and directed them to those branches of production as are most desired by society itself*" (italics added). Does the qualitative judgment contained in the second sentence follow from the facts mentioned in the first, ? If private investment has produced a proportionately higher share of national output, the reason must be that it has gone into quick-yielding activities and into industries with lower capital-output ratios. This is hardly surprising, considering the broad distribution of private and public, investments.

For judging whether private investment has been directed into activities "most desired by society", the priorities laid down in the Plan should be the criterion. Unless there has been a total aberration in the Third Plan, the experience of the last two years is relevant to this question. According to the Planning Commission's Mid-term Appraisal, "in the private sector, judging from data relating to capital issues, bank and other institutional credit to industry, imports of capital goods, etc, aggregate investment in the first two years, *though not the pattern*, seems more or less in time with the amounts envisaged for the five-year period" (italics added). As a result progress in such crucial sectors as steel castings and forgings, special steels, aluminium, machine tools, cement and fertilisers has lagged behind targets. High priority projects have faced difficulties in ar-