

Shri Ranga: Has any effort been made in this direction? Is it the intention of the Government to make every effort to reduce the price of cement, when it is said that we are producing more and that we are no longer in need of costlier imports?

Shri Manubhai Shah: There is no such intention. As a matter of fact, if the hon. Member remembers, he will recollect that recently we put up the excise duty by Rs. 4, and this is a soare commodity. A slight amount of increased production has yet not satisfied the national demands.

Shri V. C. Shukla: May I know what is the specific nature of services which the STC renders to the consumer of cement?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The STC renders services just as the normal trading agents do. More than that, there is rationalised transport. As I said just now, wherever the factories are finding it difficult and the consumer is not getting cement in time, this particular agency, by co-ordinating the entire movement between the supplier and the purchaser, facilitates the distribution of cement very considerably.

Displaced Persons from East Pakistan

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*1518. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Muhammed Elias:
Shri Kalika Singh:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan who crossed the frontier into India during the period from 1st September, 1957 to 31st March, 1958;

(b) the number of persons who went from India to East Pakistan during the same period;

(c) whether the influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan has increased or decreased as compared to the preceding six months of 1957; and

(d) if there is an increase, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) 2602 persons migrated to India from East Pakistan during the period from September, 1957 to February, 1958. Figures for the month of March, 1958 are still awaited from the State Governments.

(b) 167.

(c) The influx of migrants from East Pakistan has decreased.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the decrease in the influx is due to the tightening in the obtaining of migration certificates?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The migration procedures have been revised, but I do not think the decrease is due to the tightening of migration certificates.

Shri Mahanty: May we know if this influx is on account of economic reasons or for communal reasons?

Mr. Speaker: A little louder.

Shri Mahanty: May I know if this migration is on account of economic hardships in East Pakistan or on account of communal reasons? If it is on account of economic hardships, may we know whether it is the policy of the Government to mitigate the economic hardships of the minorities of other countries?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I suppose it is a mixture of causes—those that the hon. Member mentioned, and may be other causes too. It is pretty difficult to analyse these psychological and economic urges in regard to groups of people.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: May I know how many applications for migration were outstanding during this period and how many were actually granted?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The number of applications pending on the 1st March, 1958, is 34,858.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: How many have been granted?

Seth Govind Das: Is the hon. Minister aware that the persons who come from East Pakistan are generally in the Sealdah station at Calcutta and their number is sometimes even up to 12,000 to 14,000, there is a big crowd there, and that there is dirtiness there? Is any effort being made to rehabilitate these persons who come from East Pakistan to Calcutta?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: May I say something about it? What the hon. Member says is largely correct. It is most unfortunate. On several occasions, in the past years, Sealdah station has been cleared and these people were taken to camps, etc. The last time it was cleared—I am not sure of the date—was, I think, in November last. Subsequently it was filled up, and then cleared. It has not been filled up again. But ever since November, the rate of refugees coming from Pakistan is relatively low. I should think that the number was much because of the others who have gone there. A census was taken one, some kind of census, of people there. It appeared that 56 per cent of those at Sealdah station then were not refugees at all. Most of the others were refugees who had been taken away sometimes to camps, sometimes to other places, and they had come back. It is a mixture. This is the difficulty to be faced, when non-refugees come. We removed them at every time and put them in camps. So Sealdah station becomes a kind of way, a camp, for doles for all kinds of people, even for those who are not refugees. This is the difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: Shri D. C. Sharma.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know from the hon. Prime Minister—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member must observe the rules of procedure here.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any meetings at ministerial level have been held in order to discuss this problem of exodus and, if so, when was the last meeting held?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There have been several meetings previously, but I do not think there has been a meeting in the last year and a half or more, maybe a year and nine months. But so far as the exodus question is concerned, the hon. Members would have noted that the actual exodus has fallen much below the previous figures.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: Is the hon. Prime Minister aware—

Mr. Speaker: Next question. I have allowed a number of questions on this.

Shri Jadhav: It is very difficult to catch your eye on this side.

Mr. Speaker: A number of Members catch my eye on this side also.

Government Hostels

*1519. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large amount of rent due from the residents of the Government hostels maintained in New Delhi is in arrears since long;

(b) if so, the extent of such arrears;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps that have been taken by Government to realize them?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) and (b). The amount due for recovery at the end of December 1957 was Rs. 96,994. As the average of monthly assessment totals Rs. 41,045 and the dues for one month are recovered in the succeeding month, the real arrears may be reckoned as Rs. 55,949. Arrears to the extent of Rs. 39,299 relate to the years 1955-56 and 1956-57 and the rest to earlier years.

(c) The bulk of the arrears are in fact paper arrears because intimation of recovery by the Accounts Officers of the respective Government allottees have not been received by the Estate Office.