

Hunger Strike in Bagjola Camp

*513. **Shri Bimal Ghose:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of refugees have gone on hunger-strike in Bagjola camp near Calcutta;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether refugees were originally taken to Bagjola for resettlement there;

(d) whether they are going to be settled in Bagjola; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Rehabilitation and Minority Affairs (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (e). The West Bengal Government have reported that 14 inmates of the Bagjola camp went on hunger-strike on 4th and 5th February, 1960, which was given up by them on the 11th February, 1960. The reasons for starting the hunger-strike were the demands of these persons for the release of one Shri J. N. Mondal who had been arrested and detained by the State Government, and restoration of doles stopped by Government either to those who had been found ineligible or those who had refused the offer of rehabilitation made by Government.

The displaced persons were taken to Bagjola camp with a view to rehabilitate them in the vicinity for which purpose the State Government had formulated a scheme for acquiring the necessary land. After the acquisition proceedings were started, there was considerable local agitation against settlement of displaced persons in the area on the ground that the said land should be given to the local cultivators. Taking all factors into consideration, the State Government did not proceed with the original scheme. It is proposed to rehabilitate the inmates of Bagjola camp under some other rehabilitation schemes like other camp families.

Sodium Sulphate

*514. **Shri Damani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a pilot plant for the recovery of sodium sulphate from the brine of saline lakes is proposed to be established in the public sector in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign exchange that will be released every year during the installation of the Plant by the Centre?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The Hindustan Salt Co. Ltd. has under consideration a scheme for putting up a plant for the washing of 1,000 tons of salt every day and recovery of 10,000 tons of sodium sulphate from the salt washings and also from the bitterns at Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Government has also decided to instal a sodium sulphate recovery plant at Didwana estimated to cost Rs. 26 lakhs with a production capacity of 5,000 tons per annum.

(c) The details of the cost of the scheme at Sambhar and its foreign exchange component are not yet available. The foreign exchange component of the scheme at Didwana is Rs. 9.90 lakhs, out of which a release order for Rs. 9.80 lakhs has been issued.

Indians in Burma

*515. **Shri N. R. Muniswamy:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indians residing in Burma are victims of raids, arrests and harassments;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter;

(c) how far the immigration agreements now existing between the In-

dian and Burmese Governments are affecting the Indians adversely; and

(d) how many Indians are in jails in Burma as a result of non-payment of heavy fee for registration as foreigners and for its renewal each year?

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

(a) Due to intensified enforcement of the Burmese laws relating to immigration, the registration of foreigners and foreign exchange, there have been a considerable number of arrests of Indian nationals. 141 are in jail pending deportation for non-possession or non-renewal of Foreigners Registration Certificates and 11 as illegal immigrants. These arrests have however taken place in enforcement of the law and there has been no discriminatory action against Indians as such.

(b) The case of each arrested person is screened by the Indian Embassy through its officers and the authorities concerned are approached for redress in genuine cases. The Embassy has already initiated action in respect of 87 cases.

(c) No specific agreement between the Governments of India and Burma in relation to immigration is in force.

(d) 141 at the end of January, 1960.

Woollen Hosiery Yarn Distribution Scheme

*516. { Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:
Ch. Ranbir Singh:
Shri Achint Ram:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Ajit Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Padam Dev:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have interdicted the private sale of Woollen Hosiery Yarn and promulgated the "Woollen Hosiery

Yarn Distribution Scheme" which provided for the sale of woollen hosiery yarn through the Hosiery Federation with effect from the 1st January, 1960 and assured the hosiery industry of getting yarn at reasonable rates and in adequate quantities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Spinner Federation have not sold any yarn to the Hosiery Federation so far and as a result thereof 900 Hosiery factories and about 80,000 employees directly and indirectly employed in the industry have been thrown out of work and the industry is suffering a great loss and is in distress;

(c) what are the obstacles in the way of Government securing the sale of adequate quantities of hosiery yarn at fair and reasonable rates; and

(d) by what time do Government propose to relieve the distress and restore the industry to its normal working?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (d). Government received several complaints from small hosiery units in 1959 that they were unable to obtain adequate quantities of hosiery yarn of the right qualities.

Government arranged for representatives of the hosiery industry and the woollen spinning industry to meet together in a common forum to resolve these difficulties. The Hosiery Federation organised itself so as to bring under its fold most of the hosiery units. It collected necessary data from the units regarding qualities and quantities of yarn required. On the basis of this data, spinning mills have planned their production within the foreign exchange available. It was also arranged that deliveries of yarn would be made directly to the Federation for distribution to the units.

All this progress was made as a result of several meetings between the spinners' representatives and the