

Minister and the West Bengal Rehabilitation Minister and between the officers of the two Governments, it has been urged on various occasions by the West Bengal Government that sufficient land for the rehabilitation of the agriculturist displaced persons is not available in that State. The only alternative is to re-settle large number of agriculturists outside West Bengal. Efforts to that effect have been made but these have met with only partial success mainly on account of the reluctance of displaced persons from East Pakistan to move to rehabilitation centres outside West Bengal. These efforts will continue to be made.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know, Sir, whether any estimate has been made of the cultivable fallow lands available at present in West Bengal?

Shri A. P. Jain: The West Bengal Government is trying to find out the fallow lands which can be reclaimed but I do not know of any consolidated statement which has been prepared by that Government.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know how many more agricultural families are yet to be rehabilitated in that State?

Shri A. P. Jain: As many of them as remain over. For the next year we have an estimate of settling about 25,000 families.

Shri B. K. Das: What is the number of agricultural families that has been already settled in West Bengal?

Shri A. P. Jain: 80,000.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether East Bengal refugees have refused to settle in places outside West Bengal such as PEPHU and Andamans?

Shri A. P. Jain: They were never asked to go to PEPHU. Some families numbering 430 were sent to Andamans. Most of them have settled there but a few families have returned.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: May I know whether the squatters' colonies such as Baghajatin and Vijaygarh are model townships and as such, do the Government intend to legalise them?

Shri A. P. Jain: This is a question about agriculturists.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the offer of land for purposes of settlement by Bengal refugees by an organisation called the Colonisation Society in Bihar has been refused by the Government of Bihar?

Shri A. P. Jain: I have no information about it.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether the Government of Bihar has given plenty of opportunity to the people from East Bengal and they insisted on settling in one district only?

SINDHI AS REGIONAL LANGUAGE

*842. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have received any representations from Sindhis living in different States of India, that Sindhi Language should be recognised as the 15th Language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India?

(b) Have Government received any representation from Sindhis living in Bombay State, that Sindhi Language should be recognised as the Regional Language of the Bombay State?

(c) Have Government received representations that Sindhi Language in Dev-Nagri Script should be taught in the Primary Schools to Sindhi Children, in all States where Sindhis have migrated from Pakistan?

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). Yes. Representations have been received to the effect that (i) Sindhi should be included in the list of languages contained in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and (ii) a directive be issued by the President under article 347 of the Constitution for recognition of Sindhi as a regional language in certain States including Bombay.

(c) In 1948 the Government of India had advised the State Governments to have Sindhi text-books for schools published in Devnagri script. This brought strong protests from Sindhi Associations in several places and the Government realised that since the Sindhis themselves were not of one mind on this question, it was difficult for the Government to impose its own decision on them. The Government was thus obliged to come to the decision that for the present provision should be made for text books in both the scripts, leaving the choice to local guardians in each place to decide in what script they would like their children to be taught. The Government hope that the responsible and representative Sindhi opinion will come to a common decision in this matter which the Government could adopt.

Shri Gadgil: Are Government aware that in most of the States where Sindhis have settled, Devnagri Script is used both for official and non-official purposes?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: This question refers to the representations from Sindhis. They wanted Devnagri script. Later on, there was some opposition.

Shri Gidwani: Will not two scripts retard the progress for further education? If the text-books are in two scripts students going from one State to another will be handicapped regarding their further education.

مولانا آزاد : جیسا کہ جواب میں صاف کو دیا گیا ہے سب سے پہلے یہ معاملہ سنہ ۱۹۴۸ء میں گورنمنٹ کے سامنے آیا۔ اس وقت شری جے رام داس دولت رام یہاں دستاوی میں تھے۔ میں نے ان سے مشورہ کیا۔ مشورہ کے بعد ہماری یہ رائے طے ہوئی کہ سندھی زبان کی تعلیم دیوناگری اسکریپٹ کے ذریعہ دینا مناسب ہوگا۔ اس طرح بچوں کے لئے آسان ہو جائیگا کہ وہ ہندی بھی پڑھ لیں لیکن چونہ ہی ہم نے یہ فیصلہ کیا اور پراونشل گورنمنٹوں کو لکھا یہ ایک پروپوسٹ کی ایک بارش شروع ہو گئی۔ پہلے تو تار پر تار اور خطوط آتے رہے۔ اس کے بعد بمبئی، کاتھیاوار اور راجستھان کی سندھی ایسوسی ایشنز کی طرف سے ریپریزینٹیشن آئے۔ انہوں نے اصرار کیا کہ یہ فیصلہ غلط ہوا ہے۔ اس کا نتیجہ یہ نکلیگا کہ جس قدر ہمارا پرانا لٹریچر ہے وہ ضائع ہو جائے گا اور جو نیا لٹریچر تیار ہوگا اس میں اردو پڑانے میں ایک دیوار کڑی ہو جائے گی۔ یہ حالت دیکھ کر گورنمنٹ مجبور ہو گئی اور اس نے فیصلہ کیا کہ جب تک خود سندھی اس بارے میں کوئی ایک فیصلہ نہ کر لیں

اس وقت تک دونوں اسکریپٹ کو رکھا جائے۔ آئریبل ممبر کو میں مشورہ دوں گا کہ اگر انہوں اس مسئلہ سے دلچسپی ہے تو وہ جلد سے جلد سندھیوں کی ایک کانفرنس بلائیں اور ایک فیصلہ کریں۔

[Maulana Azad: As has been made clear in the reply, this question came up before the Government in 1948 for the first time. Shri Jai Ram Das Daulatram, then, was a Minister in the Central Cabinet. I consulted him and after consultations we were of the opinion that it was advisable to adopt Devnagri script for Sindhi language for purposes of imparting education to the Sindhi children. It would have made their job easier because they would have learnt Hindi also side by side. But as soon as we took this decision and conveyed it to the State Governments, a storm of protest was raised by the Sindhis. To begin with, we received telegram after telegram and letter after letter; which was followed by the representations from the various Sindhi institutions of Bombay, Kathiawar and Rajasthan. They insisted that the decision of the Government was a wrong one, and as a result of it all the ancient Sindhi literature would go waste; further adding that it would create a barrier between the old and the new literatures. In view of these developments the Government had to give in and they decided to continue using both the scripts till the Sindhis themselves arrived at a unanimous decision in this matter. If the hon. Member has any interest in this matter, I would advise him to call a representative conference of the Sindhis and then to take some unanimous decision.]

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : सिंधी भाषा भाषियों की तादाद बम्बई में कितनी होगी ?

مولانا آزاد : یہ بتلانا مشکل ہے۔

[Maulana Azad: It is difficult to say.]

श्री गिडवानी : मैं बतलाऊं, पिछले सेंसस के हिसाब से पांच लाख हैं ।

مولانا آزاد : میرے ایک ساتھی نے ابھی بتلایا کہ سندھیوں کی تعداد بمبئی اسٹیٹ میں پانچ لاکھ ہے۔

[Maulana Azad: One of my friends said just now that the population of Sindhis in Bombay was five lakhs.]

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is it the policy of the Government to recognise more than one language as Regional language in all States?

مولانا آزاد : اس بارے میں انڈیپنڈنٹ ممبر کو معلوم ہے کہ کانستٹیوشن میں کیا تبدیلی اختیار کیا گیا ہے - اگر کسی علاقہ میں ایک خاص زبان کے بولنے والے بستے ہیں اور وہ اسے قائم رکھنا چاہتے ہیں تو گورنمنٹ اس پر غور کر سکتی ہے -

[Maulana Azad: The hon. Member is aware how the Constitution has dealt with issues such as this. If in a particular area a certain section of population speaks a particular language and is desirous of preserving it, the Government may consider it.]

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : सिधियों की रिफ्ट क्या है, अरबी, फारसी या और कोई ?

مولانا آزاد : عربی یا اس کو اردو کہتے -

[Maulana Azad: It is Arabic or Urdu whatever you may call it.]

Shri C. Bhatt: I have got a number of questions to ask.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the hon. Member did not rise. I have now called upon the Minister to answer the next question.

Shri C. Bhatt: I was not lucky enough to catch your eye.

AGRICULTURAL LANDS FOR INTENDING
SETTLERS IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR
ISLANDS

*843. **Shri P. T. Chacko:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether in view of the great density of population in Travancore-Cochin, Government are considering any scheme to provide lands for agriculturists from that State in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in order to encourage migration?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): The question of settling some colonists from Travancore-Cochin in the Andamans is under the consideration of Government.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether the State Government has made any representation to the Central Government regarding this question?

Shri Datar: We have not, to my knowledge, received any representation from the State Government but the Prime Minister has received a memorandum from about 100 families who desire to go and settle there.

Shri P. T. Chacko: May I know whether there is at present any machinery to encourage migration to Andamans?

Shri Datar: There is no such machinery.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I know whether families from West Bengal who migrated to Andamans have given up their lands and returned to West Bengal, and if so, what are the reasons for the same?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The question does not arise but I shall answer it. Some people did return but they have gone back with additional people and they are very happy there.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: What is the actual amount of land given to those persons who have already been settled there and whether it is given free or on long-term loan basis?

Dr. Katju: I do not quite catch the question. Ten acres of land are given to every settler. A scheme has been sanctioned which will involve a considerable sum over five years. I think about a crore of rupees or something like that. Some lands are being cleared and after their clearance, they will be delivered to the settlers.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know whether the Government have exhausted all local resources before they considered the Andamans scheme?

Dr. Katju: All the local resources?

Shri Gopala Rao: Resources of land?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise out of this?

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether Government will bring any force on the Malayalees to go to Andamans? An assurance should be given that no force will be used.