

price. Again, if the cost of producers or importers exceed the standard price, payments are made to them to make up the loss. These transactions are conducted through the Equalisation Fund.

It is also proposed to utilise this Fund for the payment of repayable advances to steel producers in India in connection with their expansion programmes. The proposal is still in the consideration stage.

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Has any advance been made till now, Sir?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** If the hon. Member means to steel producers, no, not from this fund.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** With the recent increase in the price of steel, what is the position of this Equalisation fund now?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** My information, unfortunately, is only up to 30th September. The figure that I have given, 6½ crores, represents approximately the amount at the disposal of the fund on that date.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** What is the difference now between the price of indigenous steel and imported steel? May I know if there is any necessity of having any fund, now?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The prices of Continental steel vary. I think Belgian steel if imported into this country would cost somewhere about Rs. 850 per ton. U.K. steel may be a little cheaper. There is a difference still of something between 300 and 400 rupees per ton between the price of steel in India as fixed by the Government and steel that is available elsewhere in the world. I cannot definitely vouchsafe for the accuracy of any particular price because prices are fluctuating.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** What is the reason for the increase in the retail price of steel?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The increase has been due to the fact that we have given an increase in the retention price, due to increased cost of production. It is also the intention of the Government to augment the fund because of the purposes which I have mentioned in my answer.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether any applications have been received by the Steel Controller's Equalisation Fund and whether they have been considered? If so, from which concerns have the applications come?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** If my hon. friend has in his mind the idea that we dole out money from this fund, that has not been the purpose of the fund. It may be, as Government is now proposing, that any accrual of this fund may be used for development purposes. Applications come from particular industries for Government assistance: not for payment out of this or other funds.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if this increase in price has anything to do with any agreement with the International Monetary Fund or some other private funds which may come to the help of the Indian steel industry?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am in the happy position to be able to state that the action by the Government in this regard is entirely unilateral. No pressure has been put or advice has been given to them in this regard.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question, Mr. Damodaran, No. 15.

**Shri N. P. Damodaran:** May I know, Sir, why Question No. 14 has been first included and deleted later?

**Mr. Speaker:** It was included. On further consideration in the light of certain factors, it was thought proper not to allow it. It has been disallowed.

**Shri N. P. Damodaran:** Is it not likely to be answered?

**Mr. Speaker:** It has been disallowed.

#### INDIAN UNION ROAD OCCUPIED BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES

\*15. **Shri N. P. Damodaran:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether a portion of a road in the Indian Union was occupied by the French authorities in Mahe some time ago and if so, on what date?

(b) What steps have been taken by Government to reclaim the road?

(c) In whose possession is the road at present?

(d) Has the dispute regarding the land through which the road passes been finally settled?

(e) If not, how long will it take to settle the dispute and what is the present stage of the dispute?

(f) Has the police force stationed at the spot been withdrawn?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda):** (a) The French authorities in Mahe encroached on the road in question on 8th October, 1949, and started to carry out some repairs.

(b) Immediate steps were taken to assert the Indian Government's title to the area and a prohibition check-post and a barrier across the road were put up. A small body of Malabar Special Police was also posted.

(c) The road is in our possession.

(d) and (e). There can be no dispute about this area, as the road is part of Indian territory.

(f) No, Sir.

**Shri N. P. Damodaran:** May I know why the Police force is still stationed at that place if the road is in our possession?

**Mr. Speaker:** To maintain the possession. It is obvious.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I request you to take up question No. 31 along with question No. 16?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the hon. Minister agreeable?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I have no objection.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then he can answer both.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Yes, I shall answer both.

#### DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST BENGAL

\*16. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of displaced persons who arrived in India from East Bengal during the current year;

(b) their numbers according to occupational classifications;

(c) the number taken to camps;

(d) the number provided with work; and

(e) the number living on doles?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Approximately 2,78,000 in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Tripura and Assam.

(b) Not available.

(c) Approximately 89,000.

(d) Approximately 1,500.

(e) Approximately 76,000.

#### REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

\*31. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what were the decisions taken in the Conference of representatives of the Governments of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Tripura at Calcutta in September,

1952 about the rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Bengal who have come in the new influx?

(b) How many displaced persons have been rehabilitated so far in Bihar and Orissa after and before September, 1952?

(c) How many amongst these taken in are unattached persons?

(d) How much money has been spent for the rehabilitation work in Bihar and Orissa up-to-date?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The decisions taken at the Conference are enumerated in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given in the Council of States to parts (c) and (d) of Starred Question No. 43 by Shri Bimal Comar Ghose on 28th July 1952.

(c) There are no unattached persons in Orissa. In Bihar there are 654 unattached persons in Gaya Camp.

(d) Bihar—Rs. 1,03,51,000 upto May 1952.

Orissa—Rs. 1,03,20,000 upto August 1952.

#### STATEMENT

1. Displaced persons arriving with the new influx are not to be admitted in 'Relief Camps'. They will be kept in 'Transit Camps' where their stay will be for a limited period, during which efforts will be made to introduce some kind of labour for all able-bodied displaced persons.

2. In transit camps, the antecedents and occupation of displaced persons will be ascertained to achieve satisfactory rehabilitation.

3. From transit camps displaced persons will be dispersed as soon as possible, at any rate, within the maximum period laid down for the purpose. The dispersal should be either to rehabilitation or work sites where the able-bodied displaced persons will be provided with work against wages. On rehabilitation sites the displaced persons will be employed on reclamation of land, construction of roads, drains, houses etc. Work sites will be in the nature of either test works or irrigation or other works undertaken by the State Governments.

4. To relieve congestion in West Bengal it was decided to explore the possibilities of sending displaced persons from that State to Bihar, Orissa and Andamans. The representatives of Bihar and Orissa undertook to find