

Total Settlement of East Bengal Refugees in West Bengal

623. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether total settlement of East Bengal refugees who came and settled in West Bengal in 1950, 1952, and upto 1965 has not been completed so far; and

(b) if so steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) About 41.17 lakh persons upto 31-3-1958 and about 11.14 lakh persons from 1-1-64 to 25-3-1971 migrated from former East Pakistan to India. Of these, 31.32 lakhs persons from the first category called 'old migrants' and about 6 lakhs persons of the latter category called 'new migrants' stayed on in West Bengal. In the case of 'new migrants', it was decided that necessary rehabilitation assistance would be provided to only those who were prepared to move to camps outside West Bengal for resettlement.

(b) A wide range of rehabilitation steps were undertaken for the resettlement of migrants in West Bengal. This included agricultural schemes, industrial schemes rehabilitation loans for small trade, housing etc., development of colonies and provision for educational and medical facilities. The nature and size of residuary problem of rehabilitation in West Bengal was assessed from time to time in consultation with the State Government, the last of such assessment was undertaken in 1975-76 by the working Group set up by the Government of India. Based on the recommendations of the working Group, as accepted by the Government, various schemes were sanctioned. The schemes for medical facilities for old and new migrants have already been implemented. The work relating to the development of d.p. colonies in West Bengal is being dealt with in the Ministry of Works and Housing. Schemes for acquisition of land for Government sponsored and approved squatters, colonies, *ex-camp* site families and rehabilitation of families from Indian Enclaves in

former East Pakistan are in the process of being implemented. These schemes are being implemented by the State Government with funds provided by the Central Government. Powers have also been delegated to the State Government for total remission of "Type" loans i.e. loans for non-contributory house-building, homestead 1 land, agricultural land and small trade given to displaced persons before 31st March, 1964. The question of remission/write off loans advanced upto 31-3-1984 to the State Governments for relending to displaced persons for their resettlement is under consideration.

Cases Registered Under Arms Act

624. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases registered under the Arms Act in the country giving State-wise position during the last three years with year-wise break-up;

(b) action taken by Government to check the sale and purchase of unauthorised Arms; and

(c) the number of factories manufacturing unauthorised arms which have been unearthed during the last three years giving State-wise and year-wise break-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) These figures are not collected and maintained by the Central Government.

(b) The State Governments have been requested from time to time to take sustained and effective measures to unearth unlicensed weapons and to check the manufacture, sale and possession of illicit arms. The Arms Act, 1959 was amended in 1983 and under the amended provisions of the Act, punishment for offences involving manufacture, sale and possession of illicit arms has been enhanced in order to act as a deterrent against such offences.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.