

Friday, 30th March, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

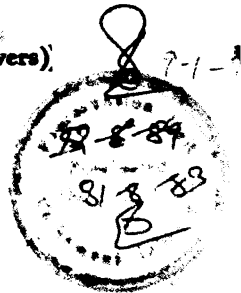
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VI, 1951



(5th February to 31st March, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

CONTENTS

Volume VI—from 5th February, to 31st March, 1951

	<i>Columns.</i>
Monday, 5th February, 1951	
Oral Answers to Questions	1137—1170
Written Answers to Questions	1170—1174
Tuesday, 6th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1175—1203
Written Answers to Questions	1203—1218
Wednesday, 7th February, 1951—	
Member Sworn	1219
Oral Answers to Questions	1219—1246
Written Answers to Questions	1246—1258
Thursday, 8th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1259—1285
Written Answers to Questions	1285—1292
Friday, 9th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1293—1319
Written Answers to Questions	1319—1332
Monday, 12th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1333—1364
Written Answers to Questions	1364—1373
Tuesday, 13th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1373—1399
Written Answers to Questions	1399—1408
Wednesday, 14th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1409—1438
Written Answers to Questions	1438—1454
Thursday, 15th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1455—1487
Written Answers to Questions	1487—1490
Friday, 16th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1491—1522
Written Answers to Questions	1522—1526
Monday, 19th February, 1951—	
Written Answers to Questions	1527—1556
Tuesday, 20th February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1557—1586
Written Answers to Questions	1586—1596
Wednesday, 21st February, 1951—	
Oral Answers to Questions	1597—1631
Written Answers to Questions	1631—1638
234 P.S.D.	

(ii)

Thursday, 22nd February, 1951—		<i>Of hours</i>
Oral Answers to Questions		1639—1667
Written Answers to Questions		1667—1678
Friday, 23rd February, 1951—		
Member Sworn		1679
Oral Answers to Questions		1679—1704
Written Answers to Questions		1705—1712
Monday, 26th February, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1713—1739
Written Answers to Questions		1739—1750
Tuesday, 27th February, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1751—1783
Written Answers to Questions		1783—1802
Wednesday, 28th February, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1803—1830
Written Answers to Questions		1830—1838
Thursday, 1st March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1839—1865
Written Answers to Questions		1865—1874
Friday, 2nd March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1875—1901
Written Answers to Questions		1902—1914
Monday, 5th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1915—1949
Written Answers to Questions		1949—1956
Wednesday, 7th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1957—1987
Written Answers to Questions		1987—1996
Thursday, 8th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		1997—2042
Written Answers to Questions		2042—2058
Friday, 9th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		2059—2085
Written Answers to Questions		2085—2096
Saturday, 10th March, 1951—		
Member Sworn		2097
Oral Answers to Questions		2097—2131
Written Answers to Questions		2131—2314
Monday, 12th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		2135—2166
Written Answers to Questions		2166—2186
Tuesday, 13th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		2187—2217
Written Answers to Questions		2217—2224
Wednesday, 14th March, 1951—		
Oral Answers to Questions		2225—2254
Written Answers to Questions		2254—2222

(iii)

						<i>Columns</i>
Thursday, 15th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2263—2295
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2295—2308
Friday, 16th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2309—2340
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2340—234
Monday, 19th March, 1951—						
Member Sworn	.	.	.	.	.	2343
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2343—2371
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2371—2386
Tuesday, 20th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2387—2416
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2416—2444
Wednesday, 21st March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2445—2474
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2474—2484
Saturday, 24th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2485—2518
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2518—2526
Monday, 26th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2527—2461
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2561—2576
Tuesday, 27th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2577—2606
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2606—2618
Wednesday, 28th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2619—2651
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2651—2658
Friday, 30th March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2659—2688
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2688—2698
Saturday, 31st March, 1951—						
Oral Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2699—2732
Written Answers to Questions	.	.	.	.	.	2733—2750

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

2659

2660

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Friday, 30th March, 1951.

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

SUGAR FOR CANNED AND BOTTLED FOODS

*2657. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state.

(a) the annual total quantity of canned and bottled foods manufactured in India;

(b) the total number of manufacturers who manufacture this class of goods;

(c) whether they get enough quantity of sugar for the production; and

(d) how many concerns have been closed down for want of sugar?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 4083.5 tons in 1949 and 6550.5 tons in 1950.

(b) 327 in 1949 and 404 in 1950.

(c) Every effort is made to allot reasonable quota of sugar to all fruits product manufacturers consistent with the supply position. Due to shortage of sugar, however it is not possible to meet their demand in full. Henceforward it has been decided that the State Governments will allot sugar to such concerns. As originally the reply was given, it stated, "This arrangement is considered more satisfactory." But, after this answer was drafted and submitted, complaints have been received that the new arrangement does not work satisfactorily. The matter is under examination.

(d) Four in 1949 in Punjab and none in 1950.

4 P.S.

Shri Sidhva: Of these concerns which have been closed down, as stated just now by the hon. Minister in reply to part (d) of the question, may I know how many have been re-opened, and whether sugar was supplied to them, particularly?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The only question was, as I said, four small concerns were reported to have closed down in Punjab in 1949 for want of sugar. But, the total number of licence holders in the State increased from 45 in 1948 to 70 in 1949 and 91 in 1950.

Shri Sidhva: My question was how many have been reopened after they were closed down for want of sugar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have no information on that point.

Shri Sidhva: Out of the licences, how many work with power and how many work on a small scale cottage industry basis?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice.

Dr. Deshmukh: Now that stocks of sugar are sufficient, is it a fact that every one of these concerns will receive the quotas that they require?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Now there is no difficulty because there is the open market from which they can purchase and manufacture any quantity they like.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know what quantity or proportion of sugar is given to these manufacturers out of the rationed quantity available for general consumption?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The quantity that was given during 1950, is unfortunately in pounds. It is 1,46,73,132 pounds. I will have to work this out into maunds and tons.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister stated that since answering his question, he has received complaints

that the arrangement made is not satisfactory. May I know whether these complaints were from Bombay or from somewhere else, if they are, not from Bombay, and what was the complaint?

Shri K. M. Munshi: A deputation of representatives of several provinces waited upon me; my impression is that one of them was from Bombay.

Shri Kamath: Have any cases been reported to the Minister, of sugar having been sanctioned for non-existent factories—not in the Minister's time perhaps, but before he assumed office—and what action was taken in such cases?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not know whether any sugar was issued to any non-existing firms except one in Delhi. That is my impression. I think some steps were going to be taken; I am not quite sure of that.

Shri Kamath: Going to be taken?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Or have been taken: I am not quite sure. I had come across those papers at some time.

PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS

*2658. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the demand for phosphatic fertilizers in our country?

(b) What are the sources from which super-phosphate can be obtained?

(c) Are the sources of supply adequate to meet the demand?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) For the calendar year 1951, the estimated demand for single super-phosphate is 80,000 tons and that for bonemeal is 20,000 tons.

(b) and (c). India has 13 factories which can manufacture all the super-phosphate for which there is demand. There is however shortage of sulphur which they need and though every effort is being made to arrange adequate supplies of sulphur, it is uncertain whether the requisite quantity will be manufactured this year.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether phosphate used in India is from bones or from rocks and which is superior?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As regards superiority, I am not a competent scientist to say anything about it. I understand that the raw materials are sulphur for the preparation of sulphuric acid and rock phosphate.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Do we export any quantity of this phosphate?

Shri K. M. Munshi: We want all the phosphate produced in this country.

Shri Chaliha: May I know if any enquiry has been made whether Chilean nitrates have been imported and whether they are as useful as superphosphates?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would like to have notice.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether production in the Travancore Fertilisers Ltd., has been stopped because of non-availability of sulphur?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have no information for the present.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any delay in the arrangement for Exchange for purchasing sulphur for the Travancore Fertilisers Ltd.?

Shri K. M. Munshi: If the hon. Member gives notice with regard to Travancore Fertilisers, I shall have it ascertained.

Shri R. Velayudhan: It is very important, 'Sir.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I agree with you that it is extremely important; but I am ignorant for the moment, that's all.

Shri Jnani Ram: May I know what are the agencies for the distribution of these fertilisers?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These are sources of demand; he wants sources of distribution. The hon. Member will put down another question. Next question.

CUSTOMS BARRIERS

*2659. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs barriers which existed between the different States now integrated into a single unit like Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, P.E.P.S.U. are still existing;

(b) if so, to what extent and the reasons for such continuance; and

(c) by which date and what stages the existing barriers inside the said Unions are likely to be eliminated?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):

(a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Dwivedi: When customs barriers are supposed to have gone, where is the need for the hurdles between Uttar Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh?

Shri Gopalaswami: One is a Part B State and the other is a Part A State. The question relates to the abolition of internal barriers with the States.

Shri A. H. S. Ali: When so many other taxes have been imposed upon the people of Hyderabad, like the Sales Tax, Profession Tax, Income-tax, when does the hon. Minister think that the customs barriers in Hyderabad will be lifted?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That does not arise out of this question.

Shri Kamath: Did the hon. Minister state that Vindhya Pradesh has become a Part B State now?

Shri Gopalaswami: It is a Part C State. The same principles apply to Part C States as well.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether all the customs barriers between old Princely States and the Indian States have been removed and if so whether all the staff has also been retrenched?

Shri Gopalaswami: The barriers between the old Indian States and the States which were previously British provinces have not yet been removed. They will be removed in the course of the next few years.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Within the States, whether they are Part A or Part C States, the barriers have been removed. But between one State and another, the barriers will be removed in the course of two years.

Thakur Lal Singh: Sir, Bhopal is in Part C and Madhya Bharat is a Part B State. There are no customs barriers in Bhopal, but there are such barriers in Madhya Bharat. What will happen to Bhopal when it is merged into the other State? Will the barriers be re-imposed?

Shri Gopalaswami: When Bhopal gets merged, then the barriers will be removed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is further a hypothetical question.

SEEDS MULTIPLICATION FARMS

*2660. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seed multiplication farms established by Government for the increased production of jute and mesta seeds;

(b) the average expenditure on each farm and the average quantity of seeds produced by each farm during 1950-51;

(c) the demand of jute and mesta seeds in the country for 1951-52 and how Government propose to meet them; and

(d) the quantity of jute and mesta seeds exported annually to Pakistan?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No such farm has yet been established by the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The overall demand of jute seeds in the country for 1951-52 would be about two lakh maunds. This is expected to be met by seeds produced by the cultivators themselves. In those areas where local seed production is inadequate, the demand is expected to be met through normal trade channels. Certain quantities of improved seeds, produced mostly by the registered growers, will be distributed by the Jute Development Sections of West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar. The demand for mesta seeds would be roughly 1,05,000 maunds, which the cultivators themselves should be able to meet. About 10,000 maunds of seeds grown in U.P. will be available for distribution in deficit areas, as also in areas where mesta cultivation will be taken up for the first time.

(d) Jute and mesta seeds are not exported to Pakistan, at present.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the seeds supplied by the Central Government to West Bengal during 1950 had germination percentage of only 35 per cent. and whether the West Bengal Government complained about this matter?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The seeds provided last year were found to be inadequate for the purposes of germination. I have not got the exact figure of percentage of how much of these proved useful; but an enquiry is being conducted on that matter.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, what compensation have Government given to the cultivators who used these seeds and who incurred a loss by preparing the land for cultivation of jute, and what action have Government taken or contemplate to take against the firm which supplied these seeds and the officers who purchased these seeds?

Shri K. M. Munshi: No question of compensation would arise and none is in contemplation of Government. As regards the failure of certain

officers to secure the proper kind of jute seeds, the officers are under suspension and the matter is under enquiry.

Dr. M. M. Das: I wanted to know, Sir, whether an enquiry has been made against the officers and the firm that supplied these seeds?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Enquiry has been first made against the officers and the officers have been suspended; and further enquiry is taking place.

Dr. M. M. Das: What is the number of officers who were punished?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Well, two I think.

Shri Sidhva: Is it the position that the seeds supplied were of inferior quality and therefore the yield was less and therefore, from that point of view these officers have been suspended? And the hon. Minister said that some of them have been punished. May I know what was the punishment given?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They have not been punished.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister said so.

Shri K. M. Munshi: If I said that, it was either a slip or perhaps the hon. Member did not hear me correctly. Anyway, what I stated was or what I intend to say is that there is a suspicion or more than a suspicion that there has been some misconduct in purchasing these seeds, and therefore, two officers concerned have been suspended and an enquiry is being conducted into their conduct, or is going to be conducted.

Shri Sidhva: May I know, Sir, whether a charge-sheet has been given to the suspended officers and their explanation obtained?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The enquiry is still to be held.

Shri Bharati: Sir, what is the amount involved?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The amount is the price of the seed and that is very little. But the real loss is that instead of growing jute as it should have been grown, we grew jute to a lower extent than expected.

Shri Bharati: Yes, and what I wanted to know is the loss incurred thereby.

Shri K. M. Munshi: That no one can say. We cannot say how much would have been grown if the proper jute seeds had been supplied or how much

would have been realised, or if there had been no refugee movements what would have happened and so on and so forth. They are all hypothetical questions?

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any enquiry conducted into the conduct of the firm which supplied the seeds?

Shri K. M. Munshi: First of all we are making an enquiry into the conduct of the officers, and that would show whether they were guilty of buying the bad seed or whether some firm cheated them into giving it. The hon. Member is going to a further stage; he should exercise some patience in this matter.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, I have another question and...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought he had put a sufficient number of questions. Well, all right.

Dr. M. M. Das: Is it a fact that our supplies of jute and mesta seeds are inadequate and therefore our "grow more jute campaign" has suffered considerably for want of adequate seeds?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There are two questions now. First of all as we are not self-sufficient in jute, we are trying to increase the quantity of jute to 45-6 lakhs bales in this country next year, i.e., 1951-1952. The loss of food grains thereby would be comparatively very little.

Dr. M. M. Das: What I wanted to know was whether the production of jute seeds is sufficient to meet the demands in our country.

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is quite sufficient.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: Considering that more jute is to be grown and there is not sufficient seed stock with Government, do Government consider the opening of more farms for producing these seeds?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The supply of seeds is quite sufficient says the Minister.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: No, the seeds have to be purchased from private farms.

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far no State Government except the Government of Uttar Pradesh has set up any such Government farm. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have opened a farm at Gogra Ghat.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS

*2661. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Telephone Operators in the Calcutta Telephones;

(b) whether there are any male Telephone Operators and if so, their number;

(c) their monthly pay including D.A. and other allowances, if any;

(d) the average daily number of calls handled by an operator in normal hours of duty; and

(e) the number of working hours per week?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) 767.

(b) Yes. 48.

(c) The operators who have been recruited under the ex-Bengal Telephone Corporation terms and conditions of service draw pay in the scale of Rs. 70—10—140. Those recruited on P. & T. terms and conditions draw pay in the scale of Rs. 60—4—120—E.B.—5—170. All the operators get dearness allowance, house rent allowance and city compensatory allowance at different rates according to pay groups.

(d) 915.

(e) 45 hours, including three hours meal relief.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, may I know whether it is a fact that the present scales of pay of the telephone operators in Calcutta are less than what they used to get when the concern was under private ownership?

Shri Kidwai: In my reply I have given both the terms—what they were getting under the company and what they are getting under our terms.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether many amenities like free meals during duty hours, tea etc. which they were getting before have been discontinued now?

Shri Kidwai: To which group does the hon. Member refer?

Dr. M. M. Das: I refer to the telephone operators of Calcutta.

Shri Kidwai: There are two groups—one recruited by the ex-company under its own terms of employment and the others are those who are employed by the P. & T. under Government service.

Dr. M. M. Das: Is it a fact that the sleeping accommodation provided for these operators who terminate their duty in the dead of night is insufficient and sometimes some of these operators have to keep awake during the rest of the night due to want of sleeping accommodation?

Shri Kidwai: That is not my information. When I was last there I saw that the beds were available to the operators who served in the night and were relieved in the night.

Shri J. N. Hazarika: Is the hon. Minister aware that the telephone exchange operation in Calcutta is the most inefficient? If so, what steps are Government taking to improve it?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, it is most inefficient and I have my sympathy with the Calcutta people for paying higher rates for this inefficient service. We are starting a new telephone exchange there.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know how our expenditure on and revenue from the Calcutta telephone operation have been affected since the unit has been taken over by the Government.

Shri Kidwai: Both expenditure and revenue have increased.

Shri A. C. Guha: By what proportion?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figures here.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Sir, this lamp in front of the Chair, hides your vision and we do not get an opportunity to catch your eye. It may be removed or placed on the other side.

Shri Chaliha: It is also a cause of disturbance to us.

INDIAN SHIPPING TRADE

***2662. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what amount of Indian shipping trade is still carried on by foreign companies?

(b) Are all the Indian shipping companies private companies or is any of them a Government-owned company?

(c) Has the Shipping Corporation been set up and if so, what shipping services does it control?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given to part (a) of starred question No. 2270 asked by him on the 16th March 1951.

(b) All the Indian shipping companies engaged in the coastal trade have private capital, while, of the three Indian companies engaged in the overseas trades, one, the Eastern Shipping Corporation Limited, is a partially owned Government concern, in which the Government of India hold 74 per cent. of the capital and

have majority control, and the balance, 26 per cent., is held by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Limited, who are also the managing agents.

(c) The Eastern Shipping Corporation was registered on the 24th March 1950 and participates at present in the following trades:

India/Australia with two owned cargo ships.

India/Malaya with one chartered cargo-cum-passenger ship.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether this Corporation consists of a number of companies or it is only one company having a number of ships?

Shri Santhanam: The Eastern Shipping Corporation is only one in which there are two shareholders: one is the Government of India and the other is the Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

Shri Veerabahu: To whom does the chartered vessel belong?

Shri Santhanam: I have not got the information handy.

Shri Veerabahu: Is the charter on a bare boat basis or time-charter basis?

Shri Santhanam: I would like to have notice of the question.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that some of the ships which are Government-owned are being run by these private shipping companies by arrangement?

Shri Santhanam: There are none: except these two vessels and one chartered vessel there are no Government-owned vessels at all.

RESERVED POSTS IN RAILWAYS

*2663. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of class IV, class III and class II posts among the 15,000 posts in the Railways arising out of the Adjudicator's award and reserved for the displaced persons;

(b) the number of each class of the posts so far filled up; and

(c) the number of reserved posts filled up by persons other than displaced persons, if any?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Out of the vacancies expected to arise due to the implementation of the Adjudicator's Award, 15,000 were

reserved for displaced persons, as under:

Class IV posts	10,500
Class III posts	4,500
Class II posts	Nil

Although reservation of posts for displaced persons has been subsequently held to be *ultra vires* of Article 16(1) of the Constitution, the total number of 15,000 originally reserved for displaced persons was completed by giving preference to them over others provided other things were equal. Due to paucity of suitable candidates for certain categories and in certain areas, shortage in the Adjudicator's Award vacancies were made up by recruitment in vacancies arising out of normal wastage.

(b) The information available up to end of January, 1951 is furnished below:

Class IV posts	... 10,839
Class III posts	... 3,197
Class II posts	... Nil
Total.	... 14,036

The figures include recruitment against normal vacancies also.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri A. C. Guha: Was the matter referred to any court? If so, which court declared it *ultra vires*?

Shri Santhanam: It was considered by our Law Ministry.

Shri A. C. Guha: Without any reference to any court?

Shri Santhanam: There was no question of going to court in this case of a Government department recruiting people and this was the opinion of the Law Ministry. A Government department does not go to a court against other departments.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Was it considered by the Law Ministry that these displaced persons constituted a backward class?

Shri Santhanam: They were not considered to be a backward class and therefore there is no question of reservation.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it a fact that the term 'backward' has not been defined so far under section 16(1)?

Shri Santhanam: It is a matter of legal interpretation, in which I can give no further information to the hon. Member.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Is it true that the interpretation of the Constitution is left to the courts and not to Ministries?

Shri Santhanam: In the initial stages one has to act on one's own interpretation.

Shri Sidhva: Will the hon. Minister lay on the Table the opinion of the Law Minister?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): Why not put the question to the Law Minister?

Shri Santhanam: So far as this question is concerned we have discharged the promise of absorbing 15,000 men.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it true that the Adjudicator functioned something like a judicial tribunal?

Shri Santhanam: It is no tribunal. The Adjudicator gave an award regarding hours of employment and other matters. We are carrying out that award and in the course of that a considerable number of displaced persons have been employed.

HANGARS

***2664. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the rental charged from air companies for using hangars in aerodromes; and

(b) the basis for such charges and the total collection?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) For housing aircraft in hangar, a "housing charge" is levied per aircraft according to the rates prescribed in Section B, Schedule V to the Indian Aircraft Rules. When a whole hangar, or a specified portion of a hangar is rented out, rent is charged at a flat rate of Rs. 10/- per 100 sq. ft. per mensem or the standard rent of the accommodation, whichever is higher.

(b) The charges have been so fixed in both cases that if the hangars are fully occupied there will be a return of about 6 per cent. on the capital expenditure incurred on the hangar, after meeting the cost of maintenance. The total collection for the period 1st April, 1950, to 31st December 1950, amounted to Rs. 9.86 lakhs (namely, Rs. 4.16 lakhs as "housing charges"

and Rs. 5.70 lakhs as rent of hangars or parts of hangars).

Shri A. C. Guha: Has there been any increase in these charges recently?

Shri Kidwai: I do not think so; but I have got no definite information.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has the Air Transport Enquiry Committee made any recommendation on this matter?

Shri Kidwai: That Committee's report is coming before the House for discussion. It has been circulated to hon. Members and they can find from it whether the Committee has made any such recommendation.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if any new hangars have been constructed by the Government recently, and, if so, is there any difference between the rent charged for the new hangars and the rent charged for hangars which were constructed by the military during the war period?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice of that question, but if the standard rent is 6 per cent. of the expenditure then I think there must be some difference.

Shri Sidhva: May I know the total capital invested in these hangars?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly see that the Minister cannot have an encyclopaedic knowledge and have all these figures at his fingers' ends. The question relates to rentals.

WHEAT FROM ARGENTINA

***2665. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have entered into a contract to barter jute for wheat from Argentina?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it a fact that the Government of India have contracted to barter Indian jute with Argentine wheat although they had previously declined to enter into a similar agreement with the U.S.A. for exchanging Indian jute with American foodstuffs?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is not correct.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government of the United States had expressed a desire to enter into an agreement with the Government of India for exchanging American foodstuffs with Indian jute?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Barter with U.S.A.? I would like to have notice of that question. I have got no idea that no such offer has come, but I speak subject to correction.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the terms of the agreement which has been entered into with Argentina for bartering Indian jute with Argentine wheat?

Shri K. M. Munshi: 60,000 metric tons of jute-manufactured articles are to be bartered for 468,000 metric tons of wheat, the exchange ratio being 7.8 tons of wheat for one ton of jute goods.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the quantity of wheat which has so far arrived and the quantity of jute which has been sent so far?

Shri K. M. Munshi: So far as that is concerned I must require notice.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether we purchase any wheat from Argentina over and above the barter amount?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I don't think so, but I again speak subject to correction.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is it a fact that the American Government is prepared to supply us foodgrains in lieu of iron ore?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise? The question relates to Argentina.

Shri Chaliha: May I know, when there was an acute shortage of jute in West Bengal, the Government entered into a contract with Brazil for supply of jute, and if so, whether the jute can now be diverted to Argentina for wheat?

Shri Hussain Imam: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the jute manufactures have already been purchased or will have to be purchased at the present high prices?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The jute goods which are to be delivered by the Government of India under the contracts which had been made up to the date of decontrol, are to be purchased at the old rate.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether our agreement with Argentina for Argentine wheat has been adversely interpreted by the American State Department?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have no such information at my disposal—I don't know how my hon. friend gets all this.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know when we will be receiving wheat from Argentina on the basis of this contract?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think some is already in the process of arriving.

Shri K. C. Sharma: What would be the probable price of this wheat from Argentina in terms of the prices prevailing here?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Notice.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: On a point of order, Sir. May I know how a Minister can pass such a reflection as to say that an hon. Member may be possessing more information than the Minister concerned?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is not a reflection. I said, what is the source of this information?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is there? In certain matters hon. Members may know something more than an hon. Minister.

CIVIL AVIATION TRAINING

*2666. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of help or assistance given by Government to private Flying Clubs for Civil Aviation training schemes; and

(b) how many private trainees schemes are at work in India and how many are run by the Government?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) I place on the Table a statement showing the scale of assistance granted by the Central Government to flying clubs, whether private or controlled by State Governments. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 1.]

(b) Nine flying clubs and two gliding clubs are private limited companies; two flying training institutions namely, the Mysore Flying Training School, Bangalore, and the Hyderabad State Aero Club, Begumpet, are run by State Governments all of which receive subsidies from the Central Government; besides them, there is the Civil Aviation Training Centre, Allahabad, of the Central Government.

Shri Rathnaswamy: How many aircrafts have been loaned by the Government so far to the various flying clubs and which is the flying club that has been given the maximum number of aircrafts?

Shri Kidwai: I have no information on it here.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know what is the total subsidy given to the various flying clubs during 1950-51, and also whether there is any check maintained to see whether the subsidies given by Government to the various flying clubs are properly utilised?

Shri Kidwai: The subsidies are related to the performance. Every flying club gets an annual grant of Rs. 30,000/-. Besides that flying clubs get a grant for training according to the flying hours each trainee has flown. Then they get a further grant per licence that is granted to trainees of that flying club.

Shri Rathnaswamy: How many flying clubs have erected their own hangars?

Shri Kidwai: The question does not relate to hangars, but still I may say most of the flying clubs are using our hangars.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: My hon. friend, Mr. Rathnaswamy asked which flying club has got the maximum number of aircraft. May I know whether any maximum is fixed for any flying club?

Shri Kidwai: No.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: How many flying clubs exist in U.P. having training schemes, and who is the officer in charge?

Shri Kidwai: We don't appoint anybody to be in charge of flying clubs—they are private clubs. In U.P. so far as I remember, there is only one flying club known as the Hind Flying Club. It has got training centres at Allahabad, Kanpur and Lucknow. Besides, there is a Government Training Centre at Allahabad.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: May I know how many flying clubs are run exclusively by Princes and how many of them are subsidised by the Government of India?

Shri Kidwai: No club exclusively run by Princes is being subsidised by the Government of India.

Shri Jainarain Vyas: How many of them are run by Princes?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: None. He said none is exclusively run by the Princes.

Shri Kidwai: I did not say none is exclusively run by the Princes. I said no club exclusively run by Princes is subsidised.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether any stipends or scholarships are given to the trainees for the flying clubs?

Shri Kidwai: I understand some of the State Governments are giving some scholarships, but none is given by the Central Government.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: What is the difference between the cost of training by a flying club and the cost of training by the Government?

Shri Kidwai: I think it comes to about the same.

DEPOSITS IN INDIAN POST OFFICES

***2667. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total amount of deposits held at the Indian Post Offices on the 15th August 1947 and on the 15th August 1950?

(b) Are there Savings Banks at the village post offices also?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) The amounts of deposit held in P.O. Savings Bank and Defence Savings Bank on the 15th August, 1947 were Rs. 1,17,23,85,272/- and Rs. 5,95,13,652/- respectively. The figures for the 15th August, 1950 were not maintained. The amounts of deposit held in P.O. Savings Bank and P.O. Defence Savings Bank on the 31st March, 1950 were however Rs. 1,67,19,34,364 and Rs. 1,50,32,299 respectively.

(b) Yes. About 30 per cent. Village Post Offices are authorised to do Savings Bank work.

श्री किशोरीमोहन त्रिपाठी : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन् १९५० में देहात के क्षेत्रों में कितनी रकम जमा हुई ?

[**Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the amount of deposits made in the rural areas during 1950?]

श्री किदवाई : वह इस वक्त बतलाना मुश्किल है ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** It is difficult to give the figures just now.]

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know the present amount in these two accounts?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice for that.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know whether the latter figure includes the deposits in the Travancore-Cochin Anjal offices also?

Shri Kidwai: No.

श्री द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देहातों में नेशनल सेविंग सर्टिफिकेट्स खरीदने के लिए क्या प्रबन्ध है और यदि कोई प्रबन्ध है तो क्या जो लोग एजेन्ट्स का काम करते हैं उन को उस पर कोई कमिशन दिया जाता है ।

[**Shri Dwivedi:** I want to know as to what arrangements have been made in the villages regarding the purchase of National Savings Certificates and if any arrangement exists, whether those persons who act as agents get any commission for that?]

श्री किडवाई : मैं समझता हूँ कई रोज़ हुए फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने इस का जवाब दे दिया है । अगर आप कोई मज़ीद इन्फार्मेशन चाहते हैं तो फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर इस का जवाब दे सकते हैं ।

[**Shri Kidwai:** I think, some days ago, the hon. Minister of Finance gave a reply to such a question. If some more information is required the hon. Minister of Finance can furnish that.]

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know what is the amount of interest that Government had to pay on these deposits in 1950?

Shri Kidwai: It is difficult for me to say but the rate of interest is well known and can be calculated.

Shri Sonavane: How many Savings Bank sections were opened in rural post offices last year and what is the criterion for opening such Savings Bank Section in rural post offices?

Shri Kidwai: Wherever there is demand, we try to open Savings Bank accounts there.

Shri Sonavane: How many were opened during last year?

Shri Kidwai: I require notice for that.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that in Rohtak district many ex-military retired officers who get pensions, feel the

need of rural Savings Banks and if so, is he prepared to open there, as there will be a success?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member will send me a suggestion, I will see what can be done.

Shri Joachim Alva: How many cases of defalcation have occurred or been detected after this matter was raised through interpellations in this House during the last Session in respect of Savings Bank accounts?

Shri Kidwai: I think there is a question immediately after this on this subject.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Do Government propose to start mobile Post Office Savings Banks for Rohtak District?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has stated that a letter may be written and Government will look into this.

May I say at this stage that in order to facilitate the answer of questions, hon. Ministers may kindly consider whether it is not desirable and possible to answer all questions relating to the same matter together. It may be that questions may have been put by different Members and they may in some form or other be inter-related. In such cases a single answer to all these questions may be useful and may save time.

Shri Kidwai: The next question is generally about post offices and not about Savings Bank accounts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This was the practice some time ago. In respect of questions relating to a particular subject, the answer may be given together.

POSTAL EMPLOYEES (CORRUPTION)

*2668. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Postal employees who were prosecuted and punished during 1949 and 1950 on the following charges: (i) misappropriation of money receipts; and (ii) taking bribes or illegal gratification?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): The number of postal (including Railway Mail Service) employees prosecuted and punished for misappropriation of money were 158 during 1949 and 160 during 1950, while the corresponding number for taking bribes or illegal gratification were 2 during 1949 and 4 during 1950.

श्री किशोरीमोहन त्रिपाठी : इनमें से कितने मामलों में सजा दी गई है अदालतों में और कितनों में नहीं ?

[Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: In how many cases prosecution proceedings were started and punishments awarded by courts and in how many not?]

Shri Kidwai: In some cases the prosecution is still pending.

Shri Juani Ram: May I know the amount of misappropriation during this period?

Shri Kidwai: It will be a long statement, but I can furnish the hon. Member with the information.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know how many misappropriation cases were in connection with M.O's., how many were in connection with Postal Savings Certificates and how many were in connection with other cases of refund of war loans?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member will put a question, he will get all the information.

AIR CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS AND GOODS

*2669. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of passengers and quantity of goods carried by inland airways of India during the years 1949 and 1950?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): The number of passengers carried by Indian companies on air services within India and between India, Burma, Ceylon and Pakistan was 400,312 during 1949 and 506,685 during 1950, and the quantity of goods was 19,776 tons and 95,718 tons respectively.

श्री किशोरीमोहन त्रिपाठी : सन् १९५० में मुसाफिरों और माल का जो किराया बाया उसकी रकम कितनी है ?

[Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What is the amount of money obtained by way of fares and freight from the passengers and the goods carried during 1950?]

श्री किडवाई : इस वक्त तो मुझे इस की कोई इतला नहीं है ।

[Shri Kidwai: At present I have no information on the point.]

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that there is no

insurance on goods carried by these airways?

Shri Kidwai: I would refer the hon. Member to the Indian Aircraft Rules.

Shri Chaliha: May I know the quantity of goods carried by inland airways from Assam to Calcutta and vice versa?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the separate figures.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What steps have Government taken to popularise air travel in India?

Shri Kidwai: Well, the Air Companies advertised for the carriage of passengers and goods on their routes.

FORCED-LANDING OF MADHYA PRADESH FLYING CLUB PLANE

*2670. Shri Rathnaswamy: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plane belonging to the Madhya Pradesh Flying Club forced-landed at Khandwa on the 13th February and if so, what were the causes that led to its forced-landing;

(b) whether there were any casualties or any damage as a result of this; and

(c) whether this plane was insured?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir; the forced landing was due to minor engine trouble, the exact nature of which is at present under investigation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know whether Government compensates the loss sustained by Flying Clubs whenever any Flying Club plane is involved in accidents of this kind?

Shri Kidwai: Government has supplied to most of the Flying Clubs a number of aeroplanes free of cost and the Flying Clubs have insured them. If there is any loss; then the money that they get from the Insurance Companies is there to enable them to purchase a new plane.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know whether any enquiry has been instituted in order to find out the causes of these accidents?

Shri Kidwai: That is what I stated in my reply.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that during recent times a good number of accidents have happened to the

Flying Club planes and if so have any steps been taken by Government to prevent such frequent accidents?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, it is true. Therefore, the Department is examining what further check it should place on the persons handling these aircrafts.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know whether the number of accidents involving Flying Club planes is on the increase and if so, what are the reasons for it?

Shri Kidwai: It is on the increase for this reason that more and more people are being trained. The number of aircraft in operation has increased and proportionately the number of accidents also has increased. I think the accidents have been due to the recklessness of the trainees and in some cases due to the failure of engines. We are revising the rules, so that we may have a greater check on these aeroplanes.

CONSTITUTION HOUSE POST OFFICE

*2671. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether any complaint has been received regarding irregular clearance of letters from the Post Box in the Constitution House, New Delhi?

(b) If so, has any enquiry been made?

(c) What is the average number of articles posted at the Constitution House Post Office?

(d) Is it a fact that the Russian Embassy's post (news and pamphlets) is registered for posting at this post office?

(e) If so, what is the number of articles posted by them every month?

(f) What is the accommodation of this Post Office and the strength of the staff employed?

(g) Has any representation been made for additional accommodation and extra staff to cope with the increased work, and if so, with what result?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) About 9.260 daily.

(d) Yes.

(e) About 2 lakhs.

(f) The accommodation of this Post Office is 233 sq. ft. The staff employed consists of one Sub-Postmaster, two clerks and one packer.

(g) A representation has been received regarding one additional clerk who will be sanctioned shortly. No representation has been received regard-

ing inadequate accommodation. The accommodation in the Post Office is adequate according to the Departmental standards.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know, Sir, the number of telegrams that is handled by this Post Office on an average per day?

Shri Kidwai: I have no information in my records.

Shri Lakshmanan: May I know whether Government propose to convert this post office into a telegraph office also?

Shri Kidwai: Recently one of the Members had complained that telegraphs which were registered for the convenience of Members took time to be sent to the Central Telegraph Office. Therefore it has been decided that such messages should be sent to the telegraph office by telephone.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister replied to all my questions in the affirmative and said that nearly two lakh articles are handled by this post office. In view of this does he still hold that there is no necessity for increasing the accommodation of this post office, and whether it is in conformity with the rules?

Shri Kidwai: That is what I have stated.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know why Members of Parliament who live in Constitution House are given the facility of free telephones?

Shri Kidwai: I do not think they are given the facility of free telephones.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether persons other than residents of the Constitution House can register their letters in the Constitution House Post Office?

Shri Kidwai: Everybody can register his letters in this post office.

Dr. Parmar: What is the amount of money orders handled by this post office?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All the allowances received by Members.

Shri Lakshmanan: On a point of information, Sir. When a question is put to an hon. Minister is it open to the Chair to reply?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Occasionally.

RAILWAY STATION AT NEPA

*2672. **Shri B. L. Tiwari:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision to build a Railway

Station at Nepa, near Nepa Mills in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) When was the decision taken?

(c) Why is it that the Station has not been built so far?

(d) When do Government expect to complete building the said Railway Station at Nepa?

(e) Is it a fact that, near Nepa, for want of a Station, the trains are generally slowed down in speed to allow passengers to get on and get down and that this involves loss of revenue to Government and risks of accidents?

(f) How many accidents, as referred to in part (e) above, have come to the notice of Government?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) The decision was taken in August, 1950.

(c) The delay is due to the question of the authority to whom the cost is chargeable being under examination with the Madhya Pradesh Government.

(d) As soon as the question of responsibility for cost is settled, the work will be taken in hand and completed within two months.

(e) Certain trains are slowed down near Nepa to set down and pick up railway cabin staff employed there. Trains also slow down on account of an engineering speed restriction. The Train Checking staff deal with passengers who try to make use of the halt for entraining or detraining in an unauthorised manner.

(f) None.

Shri R. L. Malviya: In view of the answer given to part (e) of the question will Government consider the desirability of opening a flag station at Nepa?

Shri Santhanam: No, Sir. The original agreement was that the Provincial Government concerned would pay the cost, on which the railways will open the station. As soon as they pay the cost we will open the station.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: What are the difficulties in the way of arriving at a decision for fixing the responsibility of the cost of the station?

Shri Santhanam: It requires two parties to settle it.

Shri Kamath: What exactly are the points in dispute and what is the share which the Madhya Pradesh Government has been asked to bear?

Shri Santhanam: It was agreed that the station should be put up at the cost of the Nepa Mills. The Madhya Pradesh Government hold a majority of shares in these mills. Therefore negotiations are being carried on with the Madhya Pradesh Government.

MONOPOLY SYSTEM IN RAILWAY CATERING

*2673. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Central Advisory Council for Railways to do away with the system of monopoly in respect of Railway Catering in its meeting on 19th—22nd March 1950, have been implemented; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) and (b). The Central Advisory Council for Railways at their meeting held on 19th and 23rd December 1950, reconsidered their earlier recommendations and recommended that the method of disposal of contracts for Refreshment Rooms, Vendors' stalls etc. should be left entirely in the hands of the Railway Board to be dealt with in the best interests of the public, the only criterion being the quality of service. The matter is under review in the light of this recommendation.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, what system of catering will be adopted in the Southern Zone that has been recently formed out of the integration of the M. and S.M., S.I., and Mysore Railways?

Shri Santhanam: Most of the refreshment rooms in the S.I.R. and M. and S.M. are now under departmental management. Naturally these will be continued under departmental management. Vending contracts will go on as before.

Shri Sidhva: How many contracts have more than one stall and more than one refreshment room?

Shri Santhanam: Throughout all the railways?

Shri Sidhva: Yes.

Shri Santhanam: I think the hon. Member should put down a question on that matter.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the maximum number of stalls held by one contractor?

Shri Santhanam: I have not got the information here.

Shri J. E. Kapoor: May I know, Sir, whether the Railway Board will continue to pursue the old policy of giving preference to displaced persons from Pakistan, other things being equal, in the matter of allotting vending contracts?

Shri Santhanam: The instructions are, that other things being equal they should be given some preference.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF MONEY IN HYDERABAD

*2674. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an embezzlement of Rupees sixty crores from the Reserve Fund of the Hyderabad State has been alleged;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the truth of the said allegation has been admitted publicly by the Revenue Minister of the said State; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):

(a) No.

(b) The Revenue Minister of Hyderabad made a statement some time ago that the pre-Police Action Government in Hyderabad squandered away large sums of money and an amount of Rs. 65 crores was mentioned.

(c) The Laik Ali Ministry squandered large sums of money before the Police Action on propaganda and war-like preparations. No action is possible by the Government of India against persons responsible for incurring this expenditure before the Police Action.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know what was the basis for the allegation made by the Revenue Minister that a sum of Rs. 65 lakhs was squandered away or embezzled?

Shri Gopalaswami: It was, I think, a kind of a guess based upon such information as the Revenue Minister had.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know what is the fact established after the case?

Shri Gopalaswami: It is not possible to ascertain the details of sums spent in this way. For instance, we have been able to verify that a total amount of 9 crores and 15 lakhs of sikka rupees was spent by the Laik Ali Ministry on war preparations and propaganda. From the stand point of public interest, it is not possible to disclose the details of these.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know, Sir, whether officers who are responsible for this embezzlement are still there?

Shri Gopalaswami: I am afraid the more important of those persons have migrated from Hyderabad to territories outside India.

Short Notice Question and Answer AVAILABILITY OF RICE FROM BURMA

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement of Shri Mathiah Chettiar, Leader of the Opposition in the Madras Legislative Assembly, stating that 7 lakh tons of paddy is available for sale in Burma at £40 or £42 per ton.

(b) whether it is a fact that such quantity is available and at such rates and if so, what are the difficulties in the matter of importing the same.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information that the quantity mentioned in the statement is available at the rates mentioned.

Shri Bharati: May I know whether Government have made enquiries from Mathiah Chettiar asking for any definite information regarding the availabilities in Burma and, if they have made enquiries, with what result?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Government sent a telegram to Mr. Chettiar asking him to give them the facts with regard to the statements made by him in the Madras Legislative Assembly. He has replied to say that he took this information from a Ceylon newspaper. Then he said with regard to the rates—the words are: “I presume that the rates will be between £40 and £45 per ton.” So one is hearsay evidence and the second is presumption.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the Ceylon Government has entered into a deal with the Government of Burma in regard to the rice which was made available to India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not think that any arrangement has been made in respect of rice which was available to India. So far as India is concerned negotiations with Burma are going on.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: Apart from the statement, have our Government made any enquiries in Burma and satisfied themselves that there is no surplus available there?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, negotiations are going on and the Prime Minister of Burma has assured our Prime Minister that 1,20,000 tons of rice will be available, and very

shortly a delegation is proceeding to Burma in order to negotiate a trade agreement.

Shri Bharati: What is the total quantity for which we have entered into an agreement till now to purchase rice from Burma?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Well, it may be 200,000 or 300,000 tons, I am not sure.

Shri Bharati: At what price?

Shri K. M. Munshi: At one time the price was £40.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: Are private transactions permissible between Burma and India?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, private transactions are permissible in the sense that any merchant can make an offer to us. But so far as Burma is concerned there is State dealing of rice. So far as we are concerned we purchase rice for distribution in this country.

Shri Bharati: Is it a fact that a Madras food official contacted Mr. Mathiah Chettiar personally and asked for his help and Mr. Mathiah Chettiar was not willing to offer it?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have no personal information about it.

Shri Rathnaswamy: If private agencies are in a position to get rice from foreign countries at lesser prices than what Government can do, will the Government consider the desirability of allowing such private agencies to import rice from foreign countries?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Government is very willing to deal with merchants who are willing to sell those commodities even at the rate at which the Government of the other countries gives. But as I have told the House more than once, what happens is that merchants come here to the Food Ministry, then suddenly send a number of wires to the other countries with the result that they put up the prices and we have, between government and government, to pay a higher price. This has happened more than once.

Shri Bharati: Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report in a leading Madras paper that the agitation of Mr. Mathiah Chettiar is more with a view to put up prices in Burma rather than to secure rice?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The experience of the Food Ministry is that whenever merchants intervene, the other country

puts up the prices and the government-to-government deal becomes difficult or costly.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there was any proposal from the Burmese Government at any time for a contract for the bulk purchase of rice for a ten year period and India refused it?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The negotiations are going on for a term contract.

Shri Bharati: Are Government aware that Mr. Mathiah Chettiar has more than a lakh of acres in Burma?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Sir, I do not know the personal affairs of Mr. Chettiar.

Shri Veerabahu: When Ceylon has already concluded a rice deal with Burma may I know what is the difficulty so far as India is concerned?

Shri K. M. Munshi: For the last several months we have been pressing the Burma Government for a trade agreement and, as I pointed out, now a delegation is going from here.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: If any person puts in a specific application for import licence stating that he is prepared to sell rice at government rates in India, getting all the other facilities himself, will the Government issue a licence?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have said more than once that if any such merchant comes, his offer will be welcome. But so far no one has come.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FOOD PROCUREMENT

***2675. Shri Sivaprakasam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have sent any directions to the Madras State to give up procurement of foodgrains in deficit areas where Rural Rationing was abolished?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The discontinuance of procurement in the derationed areas of deficit districts is an integral part of the Madras Government Scheme which has been approved by the Government of India.

INDO-PACIFIC FISHERIES COUNCIL

***2676. Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the main decisions arrived at in the annual meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council recently held?

(b) What were the participating countries?

(c) Is any scheme laid out for the "Grow More" "Catch More" campaign to be worked out in common?

(d) What are the financial implications of the scheme, if any?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 2.]

(b) Australia, Cambodia, Ceylon, France, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom, U.S.A. and Viet Nam.

(c) No specific scheme was worked out.

(d) Does not arise.

NATIONALISATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT

***2677. Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) how far nationalisation of road transport has been effected in the various Part "C" States;

(b) what is the road mileage in each Part "C" States, transport over which has since been nationalised; and

(c) what gain or loss has accrued to Government as a result of nationalisation of such transport?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) to (c). Three statements giving the information required are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 3.]

CONTRACTS FOR TUBE WELL PUMPS

***2678. Shri Biyani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay on the Table of the House the copies of the contracts entered into by the different States with the Associated Tube Wells Limited for tube-well pumps, together with the full details of the various items with their respective contract prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The documents in question relate to contracts between the State Governments and M/S. Associated Tube Wells Ltd., to which the Government of India are not a party. Furthermore, there is the aspect that the contracts affect a third private party which may have objection to their publication. I am considering the constitutional and legal aspects as regards the

propriety of my revealing these documents and will place a further answer on the Table of the House.

EXPERIMENTAL POST OFFICES

***2680. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of Experimental Post offices, existing at the beginning of the year and the number of those newly opened during the year 1950-51 in the State of Bihar?

(b) How many of them have since been made permanent?

(c) How many of those made permanent are in the charge of extra-departmental Agents?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) 601 and 380 respectively.

(b) 225.

(c) 218.

मछली पकड़ने के ठेके

*२६८१. श्री झार० एस० तिवारी :

(ए) खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश सरकार को तालाबों, नदियों तथा अन्य जलाशयों से मछली पकड़ने के ठेके देने में कितनी आय होती है ?

(बी) क्या ये ठेके बाहर के व्यक्तियों को दिये जाते हैं अथवा केवल स्थानीय ढीमरों को ?

(सी) क्या यह मछली राज्य से निर्यात की जाती है अथवा राज्य के अन्दर ही बेची जाती है ?

(डी) ऐसे ठेकों की कुल संख्या क्या है ?

CONTRACTS FOR CATCHING FISH

[*2681. Shri R. S. Tewari: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the income of Vindhya Pradesh Government derived from giving contracts for catching fish in tanks, rivers and other water reservoirs?

(b) Are these contracts given to outsiders or to local Dhimar residents alone?

(c) Are these fish exported from or sold within the State?

(d) What is the total number of such contracts?]

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The desired information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is received from Vindhya Pradesh.

STATUTORY RATIONING IN MADRAS

*2682. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the population in the State of Madras under Statutory Rationing?

(b) What is the normal requirement of this population, with regard to rice, per month?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 60.1 lakhs.

(b) 37,000 tons per month at 8 ounces per adult per day on the basis of off-take from Government stocks.

CREATION OF JOINT INDO-BRITISH SHIPPING COMPANIES

*2683. **Shri Syamnnandan Sahaya:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the reference made in the speech of Sir William Crawford Currie, G.B.E., while presiding over the 110th Annual Meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., in London on the 31st May 1950 to the proposals put before the Government of India, at their suggestion by the British India Company, towards the end of 1949 for the creation of two Joint Indo-British Shipping Companies;

(b) whether the Government of India had invited the British India Company, or any non-Indian shipping Company, to submit proposals for the creation of joint Indo-British Shipping Company, to operate ships under the Indian Flag upon the coastal trade and/or in overseas trade; and

(c) at what stage the negotiations, if any, rest?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The representatives of British Shipping interests in 1949 had occasion to discuss with the officials of the Commerce Ministry, informally and in a preliminary way, the question of participation of British capital in Indian shipping and there-

4 P.S.

after submitted certain proposals in writing for Government's consideration. No definite conclusions emerged from those discussions. With the setting up of the Eastern Shipping Corporation, a purely Indian company, and the decision to reserve the coastal trade for Indian shipping, the proposals made by British shipping interests were not pursued. No negotiations in this behalf are being carried on at present.

THEFTS IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

*2684. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports have been received about thefts in Railway workshops, particularly in Parel (G.I.P. Railway) workshop;

(b) if so, what articles have been reported to be stolen during the last twelve months; and,

(c) the steps Government have taken, or propose to take, in order to prevent such thefts?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Reports of 12 cases of thefts during the last 12 months in the railway workshops and depots have been received. Out of these only one case of theft, which occurred on 5th February 1951, relates to the Parel Mechanical Depot of the G. I. P. Railway.

(b) The articles reported to have been stolen during the last 12 months are, ball bearings Caprotti valve gear bearings, spares for Caprotti valve gear, bolts, peg-hats, screws, nails, drills, files, screw drivers and spanners, tools, electrical materials, two table fans, two sewing machines, two typewriters and 20 bars tin ingots and steel bars.

(c) The G. I. P. Railway has appointed a Departmental Committee to investigate into the theft at Parel. The matter has also been reported to the Police. Other Railway Administrations also appointed similar committees to investigate into the thefts which had occurred in their respective systems, and recommend steps to be taken to prevent similar thefts in future. In certain cases, the committees have recommended structural alterations to buildings, provision of expanded metal barriers, additional protective bars to windows and observation holes, telltale clocks for Watch and Ward staff, and police certification of a clean record of all Class IV staff. The recommendations are being implemented on one Railway, and are under consideration on other Railways.

टेलीफोन का अधिष्ठापन

*२६८५. श्री शार० एस० तिवारी : क्या संचरण-मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(ए) १९५० में लागू की जाने वाली "अपने टेलीफोन का स्वावित्व प्राप्त करो" योजना के अन्तर्गत लगाये गये टेलीफोनो की संख्या ;

(बी) कितने टेलीफोन जिनके लिये आवेदन पहले ही किया जा चुका है , लगाये जाने शेष हैं ; तथा

(सी) उन स्थानों के नाम जहां वह लगाये जा चुके हैं ?

INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONES

[*2685. **Shri R. S. Tewari:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephones that have been installed under the "Own your telephone" scheme, which was launched in 1950;

(b) how many telephones, for which requests have already been made, are yet to be installed; and

(c) the names of the places where they have been installed?]

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) 7,633 (up to 13th March 1951.)

(b) 1,823 (on 13th March 1951.)

- (c) (1) Amritsar
(2) Ahmedabad.
(3) Bombay
(4) Calcutta.
(5) Delhi.
(6) Kanpur.
(7) Madras.
(8) Nagpur.
(9) Hyderabad (Deccan).
(10) Surat.
(11) Rajkot.
(12) Meerut.
(13) Bhaḡinda (PEPSU).
(14) Indore.

MILK POWDER AND BABY FOODS

*2686. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of firms or factories manufacturing milk powder and baby foods in India;

(b) the quantities, if any, of those foods of indigenous manufacture pur-

chased by Government in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 respectively.

(c) the quantities of those foods imported from abroad in each of those years; and

(d) the landed cost per lb. of the imported articles, and the ex-factory prices of the indigenous products?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) There is one firm only in India, named M/S. National Nutrimentals Ltd., Calcutta, which manufactures milk powder. There is no firm or factory manufacturing baby foods.

(b) The Government made no such purchases during the years in question.

(c) The Government imported 4,000 cwts. of skimmed milk powder in 1948, for the Defence services. No imports were made for civil consumption by Government in 1948, 1949 and 1950. The quantity of milk powder imported into India through normal trade channels during these calendar years was as under:

Year.	Quantity in Cwts.
1948	63,253
1949	1,37,987
1950	2,14,655

The Government of India did not import any baby foods on their account. As regards commercial imports, the information is not readily available.

(d) The landed cost of skimmed milk powder imported during the year 1948 for the Defence Services came to about Annas nine per lb. Information regarding the landed cost of milk powder and baby foods imported through trade is not available. No information is available on prices of indigenous products.

SUGAR AND Gur

*2687. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what percentages of sugarcane have been diverted to Gur, making in the year 1949-50?

(b) What is the possible diversion in the year 1950-51?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) In sugar factory areas in Uttar Pradesh about 25 per cent. cane was diverted to gur making, and in Bihar about 10 per cent. Information regarding other States is not available.

(b) No information is yet available for the season 1950-51 but it is expected that there will be less diversion this year compared to last year.

SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION

***2688. Shri Chandrika Ram:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to reduce the acreage of land under the cultivation of sugar cane in the State of Bihar to increase the food-production there?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): No. The area under sugarcane in Bihar in 1949-50 was only 378,900 acres out of a cropped area of 29,131,682 acres, i.e. barely 1.3 per cent. Sugar and gur are essential food and sugarcane is a valuable crop, and the Bihar Government do not consider it desirable to reduce the acreage under this crop in order to increase food production.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SCHEME

***2689. Shri Kannamwar:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what length of road is going to be completed, after Sambalpur, in the coming year, as per National Highway Scheme?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): It is presumed the question relates to National Highway No. 6, the main Bombay—Calcutta Highway. About eight miles of new road between Sambalpur and Calcutta are expected to be completed in 1951-52.

GOODS HANDLING CONTRACTS

***2690. Shri Jagannath Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the East Indian Railway awarded Goods Handling Contracts on tender basis in the years 1949 and 1950 for a specific term;

(b) whether fresh tenders have been invited on the expiry of the term, in the case of all goods handling contracts; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the term in case of Howrah Goods Depot has been further extended without inviting fresh tenders?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) Fresh tenders were not invited as contracts were for a period of two years only. These have been extended by another year.

(c) The term of the existing contract has not yet expired.

NATIONAL HARBOUR BOARD

***2691. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether there is any scheme by the Bombay Port Trust to improve Princess and Victoria Docks?

(b) If so, what stage has it reached?

(c) Is the expansion of the harbour for providing more berths for steamers in the Madras Port Trust contemplated?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) and (b). Yes. The Port Trust has sought Government's approval to the scheme and the matter is under consideration.

(c) Yes. A scheme for constructing a wet dock capable of accommodating four big ships is under consideration.

SHIPPING RATES ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

***2692. Shri Deogirikar:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Shipping Rates Advisory Board (Konkan Coast) have completed their inquiry?

(b) If so, when will their report be published?

(c) Has the report been submitted to Government?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) to (c). The Shipping Rates Advisory Board are continuing their inquiry, taking into account the results of the operation of the Konkan steamers during 1949-50 also, as requested by Government. Their report is expected to be received by Government by the end of April 1951, when the question of its publication will be considered.

RICE FROM CHINA

***2693. Shri Krishnanand Rai:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what amount of rice has already reached India from China under the recent Barter Agreement?

(b) What amount of jute has been exported to China upto this time under the above Agreement?

(c) Taking the price of jute articles into consideration that are to be sent to China in exchange of rice, what will be the cost of rice per maund that India is receiving from China in exchange?

(d) Is it a fact that, apart from the above Barter Agreement, China has

again offered to India 3 lakh tons of rice?

(e) If so, do Government intend to take that newly offered rice and if not, what are the reasons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Arrivals of rice from China under the Barter Agreement are expected to amount to about 40,000 tons by the end of March, 1951.

(b) Upto the end of March, 1951 shipment of jute goods to China under the agreement are expected to amount to 10,500 tons.

(c) It will not be in the public interest to disclose this.

(d) China has offered for sale additional 50,000 tons.

(e) The terms of the offer are under consideration by Government.

SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAY CLAIMS

***2694. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:**

(a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Station Masters and Claims Inspectors have been authorised to deal with claims below the amount of Rs. 50 in the E. P. Railway?

(b) If so, how many such cases were dealt with by the Station Masters and Claims Inspectors out of the claims preferred in the year 1950?

(c) How many of those cases so dealt with went to Courts of Law and with what result?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) 741 during 1950.

(c) Nil.

RICE

***2436. Shri Sardar Singhji:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union of Burma has a considerable

exportable surplus of rice for the year 1951;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Burma expressed their willingness to enter into a long term agreement for the supply of rice with the Government of India; and

(c) if so, when the Government of Burma made the offer and what action the Government of India took on it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) It is understood that Burma's exportable surplus of rice in 1951 may amount to 800,000 to 1,000,000 tons.

(b) and (c). A long term trade agreement with Burma is at present under consideration. It is expected that the question of rice supplies would also be covered by the proposed agreement.

MERGER OF MANIPUR

162. Shri Saprawnga: Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the leading political parties, including hill men of Manipur States are demanding merger of Manipur into the State of Assam, and whether any representation has been received to that effect by Government; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative what Government propose to do in the matter?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) We have received representation for the merger of Manipur with Assam from two associations of Naga hill tribes.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to my statement in this House on the 16th March 1951 during the discussions on Shri Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava's resolution on Part 'C' States.

Friday, 30th March, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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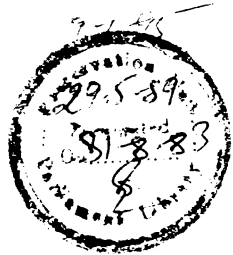
(5th March, 1951 to 30th March, 1951)

Third Session

of the

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1950-51



CONTENTS

Volume IX—from 5th March, 1951 to 30th March, 1951

Columns

MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1951—

Papers laid on the Table—

Third Report of the Estimates Committee	3936
Resolution adopted by the Kneseth re rearmament of Germany	3937—37
Indian Standards Institution (Certification Marks) Bill—Introduced	3938
Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	3938
Jhansi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	3938
Resolution for Adjournment—	
Acute Scarcity of Cloth	3938—40
Railway Budget—List of Demands	3940—4027
Demand No. 4—Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration	3946—4027
Demand No. 6—Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff	3946—4027
Demand No. 7—Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)	3946—4027
Demand No. 9A—Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare	3946—4027
Demand No. 15—Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund	3946—4027
Demand No. 16—Open Line Works—Additions	3946—4027
Demand No. 18—Open Line Works—Development Fund	3946—4027

TUESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1951—

Railway Budget—List of Demands—Concluded	4028—4117
Demand No. 1—Railway Board	4028—4114
Demand No. 2—Audit	4114
Demand No. 3—Miscellaneous Expenditure	4114
Demand No. 4—Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration	4028—4113, 4114
Demand No. 5—Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance	4114
Demand No. 6—Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff	4028—4113, 4114
Demand No. 7—Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)	4028—4113, 4115
Demand No. 8—Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel	4115
Demand No. 9—Ordinary Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses	4115
Demand No. 9A—Ordinary Working Expenses—Labour Welfare	4028—4113, 4115
Demand No. 10—Payments to Indian States and Companies	4115
Demand No. 11—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund	4115—16
Demand No. 12A—Open Line Works—(Revenue) Labour Welfare	4116
Demand No. 12B—Open Line Works—(Revenue) Other than Labour Welfare	4116
Demand No. 13—Appropriation to Development Fund	4116
Demand No. 14—Appropriation to Revenue Reserve Fund	4116
Demand No. 15—Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund	4028—4113, 4116
Demand No. 16—Open Line Works—Additions	4028—4113, 4116—4117
Demand No. 17—Open Line Works—Replacements	4117
Demand No. 18—Open Line Works—Development Fund	4028—4113, 4117

	Columns
Demand No. 19—Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Port	4117
Demand No. 20—Dividend Payable to General Revenues	4117
Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill—Introduced	4118—19
THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1951—	
Motion for Adjournment—	
Census Operations in P.E.P.S.U. and Punjab	4120—22
Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill—Passed	4122—44
Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Amendment Bill—	
Discussion on Motion to Consider—Not concluded.	4144—73
FRIDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
(i) Notification under Bombay Port Trust Act; (ii) Statement re redistribution of Seats on Port Trust Boards	4147
Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Amendment Bill—Consi-	
deration of Clauses—Not concluded	4147—97, 4198—4247
Statement re Conditions of Trade in Jute	4197—98
SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Declarations of Exemption issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939	4248
Tariff Commission Bill—Introduced	4249
General Budget—General Discussion—Not concluded	4249—4347
MONDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1951—	
Death of Raja Bahadur Harihar Prashad Narain Singh	4348
Penetration into Assam-Tibet Border by Chinese soldiers	4348—49
Point of Order re Supplementary Questions on Statements	4349—50
Procedure on Motion for Vote on Account	4350—54
General Budget—General Discussion—Not concluded	4354—4431
TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1951—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Action taken by Government on Assurances, Promises and Undertakings given during Second Session of Parliament 1950	4432
Trade Unions Bill and Labour Relations Bill—Petitions presented	4432
Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	4432
General Budget—General Discussion—Not concluded	4433—4528
WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1951—	
Motion for Adjournment—	
Scarcity of Yarn	4528—28
Papers laid on the Table—	
General Report of Geological Survey of India	4528
Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill—Introduced	4528
General Budget—General Discussion—Concluded	4528—87
Demands for Grants on Account	4587—4602
Demand No. 1—Ministry of Commerce and Industry	
Demand No. 2—Industries.	
Demand No. 3—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.	
Demand No. 4—Ministry of Communications	
Demand No. 5—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (Including Working Expenses)	
Demand No. 6—Meteorology.	
Demand No. 7—Overseas Communications Service.	

Demands for Grants on Account—contd

Demand No. 8—Aviation.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 9—Ministry of Defence	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 10—Defence Services, Effective—Army	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 11—Defence Services, Effective—Navy.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 12—Defence Services, Effective—Air Force	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 13—Defence Services—Non-Effective Charges	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 14—Ministry of Education.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 15—Archaeology.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 16—Other Scientific Departments	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 17—Education	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 18—Ministry of External Affairs	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 19—Tribal Areas	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 20—External Affairs.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 21—Ministry of Finance	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 22—Customs	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 23—Union Excise Duties	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 24—Taxes on Income Including Corporation Tax	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 25—Opium	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 26—Stamps	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 27—Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc. on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 28—Audit.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 29—Joint Stock Companies.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 30—Miscellaneous Departments.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 31—Currency	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 32—Mints.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 33—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 34—Miscellaneous	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 35—Grants-in-aid to States.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 36.—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Union and State Governments	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 37.—Resettlement and Development.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 38—Pre-partition Payments.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 39—Extraordinary Payments	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 40—Ministry of Food and Agriculture	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 41—Forest	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 42—Survey of India	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 43—Botanical Survey	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 44—Zoological Survey	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 45—Agriculture.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 46—Civil Veterinary Services	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 47—Indian Dairy Department	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 48—Ministry of Health	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 49—Medical Services	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 50—Public Health	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 51—Ministry of Home Affairs.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 52—Cabinet.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 53—Police.	.	.	.	.	.
Demand No. 54—Census	.	.	.	.	.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1951—*contd.*

Demands for Grants on Account—*contd.*

Demand No. 55—Civil Defence	
Demand No. 56—Delhi	
Demand No. 57—Ajmer	
Demand No. 58.—Andaman and Nicobar Islands	
Demand No. 59—Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	
Demand No. 60—Broadcasting	
Demand No. 61—Ministry of Labour	
Demand No. 62—Ministry of Law	
Demand No. 63—Administration of Justice	
Demand No. 64—Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research	
Demand No. 65—Irrigation (Including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (Met from Revenue)	
Demand No. 66—Geological Survey	
Demand No. 67—Mines	
Demand No. 68—Scientific Research	
Demand No. 69—Department of Parliamentary Affairs	
Demand No. 70—Ministry of Rehabilitation	
Demand No. 71—Expenditure on Displaced Persons	
Demand No. 72—Ministry of States.	
Demand No. 73—Territorial and Political Pensions	
Demand No. 74—Kutch	
Demand No. 75—Himachal Pradesh	
Demand No. 76—Bilaspur	
Demand No. 77—Bhopal	
Demand No. 78—Vindhya Pradesh	
Demand No. 79—Manipur	
Demand No. 80—Tripura	
Demand No. 81—Relations with States	
Demand No. 82—Ministry of Transport	
Demand No. 83—Ports and Pilotage	
Demand No. 84—Lighthouses and Lightships.	
Demand No. 85—Central Road Fund	
Demand No. 86—Communications (Including National Highways)	
Demand No. 87—Ministry of Works, Production and Supply	
Demand No. 88—Supplies	
Demand No. 89—Salt.	
Demand No. 90—Other Civil Works	
Demand No. 91.—Stationery and Printing	
Demand No. 92—Parliament.	
Demand No. 93—Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)	
Demand No. 94—Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)	
Demand No. 95.—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation.	
Demand No. 96—Defence Capital Outlay	
Demand No. 97—Capital Outlay on the India Security Press	
Demand No. 98—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development	
Demand No. 99—Capital Outlay on Currency	
Demand No 100—Capital Outlay on Mints.	

WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1951—*contd.*Demands for Grants on Account—*contd.*

Columns

Demand No. 101—Commuted Value of Pensions	
Demand No. 102—Payments to Retrenched Personnel	
Demand No. 103—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government trading	
Demand No. 104—Capital Outlay on Development,	
Demand No. 105—Loans and Advances by the Central Government.	
Demand No. 106—Capital Outlay on Forests.	
Demand No. 107—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting	
Demand No. 108—New Delhi Capital Outlay	
Demand No. 109—Capital Outlay on Civil Works.	
Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill—Introduced	4603

THURSDAY, 15TH MARCH, 1951—

Ruling <i>re</i> Supplementary Questions on Statements made by Ministers in answer to questions	4604—07
Paper laid on the Table—	
Statement <i>re</i> meetings of Standing Committees.	4607
Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill—Passed	4608—09
Demand for Supplementary Grant for 1950-51—Railways	4609—25
Demand No. 7—Ordinary Working Expenses Operation (Fuel)	4609—25
Taxation on Income (Investigation Commission) Amendment Bill—Passed as amended	4625—53
Requisitioned Land (Continuance of Powers) Amendment Bill—Passed	4657—67
Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control (Amendment) Bill—Discussions on motions to consider and to refer to Select Committee—Not concluded	4667—73

FRIDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1951—

Resolution <i>re</i> destitute families of political sufferers—Discussion adjourned	4674—84
Resolution <i>re</i> Elected Legislatures and popular Ministries in Part C States—Discussion not concluded	4684—4741

MONDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1951—

Leave of Absence from the House	4742
Papers Laid on the Table—	
Directions to New India Assurance Co., Ltd. <i>re</i> Certain Investments	4742
(i) Appropriation Accounts of Railways in India for 1947-48, Part I—Review	
(ii) Appropriation Accounts of Railways in India for 1947-48, Part II—Detailed Appropriation Account ; (iii) Railway Audit Report, 1949; (iv) Balance Sheets of Railway Collieries and Statements of all-in-cost of Coal etc., for 1947-48 ; and (v) Capital Statements, Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of India Govt. Railways 1947-48	4743
Election to committees	4743—61
Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	4761-62
Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	4762
Employees State Insurance (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	4762
Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on Motion to consider—Not concluded	4763—4807
Rubber Prices	4807—17

TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1951—

Papers Laid on the Table—	
Report of Delegation to Economic and Social Council of U. N.	4818
Election to Committees—	
Standing Finance Committee	4818—19
Central Advisory Council for Railways	4819
Standing Finance Committee for Railways	4819—20

TUESDAY, 1 MARCH, 1951—contd.

Election to Committees—contd.

Standing Committee for Roads	4820
Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara Rent Control (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amend- ed	4821—76
Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Motion to consider—Not concluded	4878—95

WEDNESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1951—

Election to Committees—

Public Accounts Committee	4896—97
Estimates Committee	4897—99
Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—Not concluded	4900—73
Loan to Exchange Bank of India and Africa	4973—85

SATURDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1951—

Papers Laid on the Table—

Fourth Report of Estimates Committee	4986
Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	4986—5036
Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on motion to consider—Not concluded	5036—38
Demands for Supplementary Grant for 1950-51—Railways	5039—57
Demand No. 7—Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)	5039—57
Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill—Passed	5057—59

MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 1951—

Elections to Committees—

Standing Committees for the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Com- munications, Defence and Education	5060—61
Parliament Prevention of Disqualification Bill—Introduced	5061
General Budget—List of Demands	5062—5125
Demand No. 9—Ministry of Defence	5066—5124
Demand No. 10—Defence Services, Effective—Army	5066—5124
Demand No. 11—Defence Services, Effective—Navy	5067—5129
Demand No. 12—Defence Services, Effective—Air Force	5067—5125
Demand No. 13—Defence Services, Non-Effective Charges	5067—5125
Demand No. 96—Defence Capital Outlay	5067—5125
Purchase of Tractors and Ploughs	5125—35

TUESDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1951—

Paper Laid on the Table—

Statement re Fertilizer Transactions	5136
--	------

Election to Committees—

Standing Committees for the Ministries of External Affairs, Food and Agricul- ture, Health and Home Affairs	5136—38
General Budget—List of Demands	5138—5249
Demand No. 14—Ministry of Education	5144—5206
Demand No. 15—Archaeology	5144—5206
Demand No. 16—Other Scientific Departments	5144—5206
Demand No. 17—Education	5144—5206
Demand No. 48—Ministry of Health	5207—48
Demand No. 49—Medical Services	5207—49
Demand No. 50—Public Health	5207—49

WEDNESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1951—

General Budget—List of Demands	5250—5323
Demand No. 18—Ministry of External Affairs	5250—5323
Demand No. 19—Tribal Areas	5250—5323
Demand No. 20—External Affairs	5250—5323
Business of the House	5323—25

THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1951—

Business of the House	5326
Statement re Post of Jute Controller	5323—27
Election to Committees—	

Standing Committees for the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Labour, Law and Natural Resources and Scientific Research . . . 5327—29

Papers laid on the Table—

First Report of Public Accounts Committee . . . 5329—30

General Budget—List of Demands	5378—5445
Demand No. 87—Ministry of Works, Production and Supply	5330—77, 5378—5403
Demand No. 88—Supplies	5330—77, 5378—5403
Demand No. 89—Salt	5330—77, 5378—5403
Demand No. 90—Other Civil Works	5331—77, 5378—5404
Demand No. 91—Stationery and Printing	5331—77, 5378—5404
Demand No. 108—New Delhi Capital Outlay	5331—77, 5378—5404
Demand No. 109—Capital Outlay on Civil Works	5331—77, 5378—5404
Demand No. 64—Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research	5404—45
Demand No. 65—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works —(Met from Revenue)	5404—45
Demand No. 66—Geological Survey	5405—45
Demand No. 67—Mines	5405—45
Demand No. 68—Scientific Research	5405—45
Vapour caused over Delhi by Foreign Aircraft	5377

FRIDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1951—

Motions for Adjournment—

Unidentified aeroplane over Delhi	5446—48
Leave of Absence from the House	5448—49
General Budget—List of Demands	5449—5563
Demand No. 70—Ministry of Rehabilitation	5449—5563
Demand No. 71—Expenditure on Displaced Persons	5449—5563

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

5446

5447

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Friday, 30th March, 1951

*The House met at a Quarter to
Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-52 A.M.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

**UNIDENTIFIED AEROPLANE OVER
DELHI**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received notice of two adjournment motions, one from Prof. K. T. Shah and the other from Mr. Kamath. I shall read them.

Prof. Shah's motion reads:

"I beg to give notice of my intention to move today that the House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely:

"The appearance in the sky over Delhi yesterday morning of a vaporized trail of a foreign aeroplane, and the inability of our Air Force to identify or check the unauthorised foreign aircraft flying over the Capital."

The other one, which is from Mr. Kamath, is to the same effect, "for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely:

"The appearance of an unidentified foreign plane over Delhi on the morning of Thursday, the 29th March, arousing misgivings and apprehensions in the public mind at a time when the fear of war is holding humanity in its grip."

24 PS

I find that yesterday, at 2-30 P.M. in answer to a question by Mr. Sidhva, the Deputy Minister of Defence made a statement. I would like to know if he has anything to add to it.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major-General Himatsinghji): It is plain that it was a plane and therefore I do not see any reason for an adjournment motion. However, I will give a little more explanation on the episode.

I gave information yesterday that it was an unidentified foreign plane flying over India without permission. Owing to atmospheric conditions, it gave out vapour trail. It was flying, when circling, at about 17,000 feet and it observed radio silence. Three of our jet planes were manoeuvring at low level at that time and were immediately ordered by radio to investigate and identify the plane. This radio message might have been picked up by the foreign aircraft which at once climbed up to an estimated height of over 30,000 feet. By the time our aircraft reached the height of 25,000 feet, the other aircraft had disappeared in the south-east direction. According to the speed and the method of climbing it seems to be a single-engine, possibly, jet aircraft fitted with long-range tanks to do long distance flying, which our aircraft were not fitted with at the time and therefore could not pursue for long in the direction in which the aircraft had disappeared. The vapour trail was due to atmospheric conditions and depends on the size, speed and type of exhaust fume.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): May I submit that this raises the vital question of the adequacy of our air defences and the measures that have been taken or are being taken by Government for the safety and protection of the civil population against air raids in the event of war?

Major-General Himatsinhji: Any aircraft of any country.....

Shri Bharati (Madras): May I know whether it is in the public interest to put such questions and get answers...

Shri Bharati (Madras): May I know Bharati's question is a point of order.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Is it your wish that this House should discuss the air defences of this country in answer to this motion?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, it is not that. I cannot prevent any hon. Member from getting up. I thought that the Deputy Minister of Defence was trying to say something.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Because the hon. Member made a reference to the air defences of this country, are we supposed to deal in answer to such questions with these intricate and difficult problems?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Normally it is open to any Member to say that with respect to a serious matter the steps that have been taken by Government have not been adequate. It is for Government to explain as to how they have been adequate and in this particular case after a question was put by Mr. Kamath, I was looking to these benches and I thought the Deputy Minister was about to rise in his seat. I did not call upon him to answer. In view of the question that was raised yesterday and the answer that was given by the Deputy Minister and the statement of all the information that is now available and the steps that have been taken immediately to check, I do not think that any purpose will be served by pursuing this matter. I further find here that there are two short notice questions that have been tabled and I am sure that as soon as further information is available, they will be accepted and sufficient material will be placed before the House. Therefore, I do not allow these adjournment motions to be moved.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before the House proceeds with any other business, I would like to inform hon. Members that Durbar Gopaldas A. Desai has requested for leave of absence under article 101 (4) of the Constitution till the end of the current session as he is unwell.

Is it the pleasure of the House to grant him leave?

Hon. Members: Yes, yes.

Leave was granted.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

SECOND STAGE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now the House will proceed to the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

DEMAND NO. 70—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000, be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

DEMAND NO. 71—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,00,69,000, be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons'."

लाला अचितं राम : माननीय डिप्टी-स्पीकर साहब, मैं आप का बड़ा शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ कि आप ने मुझे इस मौके पर बोलने की इजाजत दी है।

आज का दिन रोहैबिलिटेशन मिनिस्ट्री (Rehabilitation Ministry) के मुतालिक जांच करने का है और यह खुशी की बात है कि इस वक्त हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) साहब भी हमारे दरम्यान बैठे हैं, जो आम तौर पर बैठे नहीं होते हैं। यह मिनिस्ट्री सन् १९४७ में वजूद में आई थी जब कि मुक्त पर बड़ी मसीबत थी।

लाखों आदमी पार्टीशन (Partition) की वजह से पाकिस्तान से चल कर यहां आये थे। उन को भूख से तकलीफ थी, कपड़े की तकलीफ थी और वह हर तरह से मुर्तबत में थे। गवर्नमेंट (Government) ने अपने फ्रज का अहसास करते हुए इस मिनिस्ट्री को कायम किया। इस का नाम उस वक्त रीहैबिलिटेशन और रिलीफ मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry of Rehabilitation and Relief) रखा गया। उस वक्त जो पहले मिनिस्टर साहब सुकर्रर हुए उन का नाम नियोगी साहब ह। उन्होंने बड़ी तनद्विही से काम किया और वह लाखों आदमियों को बहुत जल्द पाकिस्तान से इस तरफ लाये। जिस तेजो के साथ और जिस तनद्विही से उन्होंने काम किया मैं समझता हूं कि तिरुं इपी मुल्क के नहीं बल्कि दूसरे मुल्कों के आदमी भी उन की तारीफ करेंगे और उन की दाद देंगे। मेरा सर उन के सामने झुकता है उस हृदयी और मुहब्बत को देख कर जो कि उन्होंने रिफ्यूजीज की तरफ दिखलाई है। उन के बाद हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने मोहन लाल सक्सेना साहब को इस काम के लिए मुकर्रर किया। जब नियोगी साहब इस ओरुदे से मुद्रुतदोश हो गये तो उन के बाद सक्सेना साहब ने इस का चार्ज (charge) लिया। यह बात सब तस्लीम करेंगे कि सक्सेना साहब ने भी निहायत जांफिशानी से अपने काम को अंजाम दिया। मेरी आंखों के सामने उन का वह नक़्शा है कि किस तरह वह तमाम मुल्क के अन्दर मारे मारे करते थे और रिफ्यूजीज (Refugees) को इमदाद करते थे और आज मुझे इस बात का अक़सोस है कि कि ऐसा हमदर्द आदमी देश के लिये मुनोद नहीं हो रहा है। लेकिन साथ ही

मुझे इस बात का भी फ़ख्र है कि जो ऐसा मुफ़ीद इन्सान है आज वह गवर्नमेंट के पास ह और हर वक्त भी वह मुल्क के काम आ सकता है। यह ठीक है कि हालात से मज़बूर हो कर उन्होंने इस्तीफ़ा दे दिया। नियोगी साहब भी अपने काम से सुबुकदोश हो गये क्योंकि उन को भी मज़बूर होना पड़ा था। अब तीसरे मिनिस्टर साहब नौ महीने से मुकर्रर किये गये हैं। यह खुली हुई बात है कि उन्होंने भी इस नौ महीने में काम किया है। वह आसाम गये, अहमदाबाद गये, बम्बई गये मध्यप्रदेश गये और तमाम देश में फैले हुये रिफ्यूजीज की मदद करने की कोशिश की। उन को अभी नौ महीने का अर्सा ही हुआ है और आहिस्ता आहिस्ता उन को तजर्बी हो जायेगा, लेकिन यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि इस नौ महीने के अन्दर उन्होंने काम नहीं किया। उन्होंने बहुत काम किया है। इस बात से कोई इन्कार नहीं कर सकता कि इस वक्त लाखों शरणार्थी भाई गांवों में गये हुये हैं, यह बात भी साफ़ है कि उन के लिये गवर्नमेंट ने ७० हजार मकान बनवाये हैं और उन में तीन चार लाख रिफ्यूजीज भाई बस रहे हैं। इस बात से भी कोई इन्कार नहीं कर सकता कि इस वक्त गवर्नमेंट ने डेढ़ लाख आदमियों को नौकरी मुहय्या की हुई है। इस बात से भी इन्कार नहीं हो सकता कि डेढ़ लाख के करीब आदमियों को गवर्नमेंट ने कर्जा दिया है, और न इस बात से इन्कार किया जा सकता है कि जो चालीस हजार गरीब औरतें हैं और बच्चे हैं उन के लिये आश्रम खोले हैं। यह तमाम बातें आप के सामने हैं। जिन भाइयों ने इस के लिये काम किया है, गाडगिल साहब ने, या मेहर चन्द खन्ना साहब ने या और

[लाला अशित राम]

दूधरे आदमियों ने, और उन के लिये मकान बनाये हैं और इस आड़े वक्त में मुल्क का साथ दिया है उस के लिए उन को, और गवर्नमेंट को भी, में मुबारक-बाद देता हूँ ।

केकिन इन तमाम बातों के बावजूद जिन मक़ासिद के लिए यह मिनिस्ट्री काबम की गई थी वह मक़ासिद भी आप के सामने हैं । उस वक्त दो मक़ासिद सामने थे । पहली बात तो यह थी कि यह मारे हुए आए हैं, अपने रिस्तेदारी को बरबाद करवा के आये हैं और खुद बबाह हो कर आये हैं । यह भूखे हैं, इन के पास कपड़ा नहीं है, इन को खाना और कपड़ा दिया जाये और इन को मकान दिये जायें । दूसरा मक़सद यह था कि जो इन शरणार्थियों ने कुर्बानियां की हैं उन का फायदा उठा कर राष्ट्र को मजबूत बनाया जाय ताकि उन के दिल में यह हयाल हो कि जिस मक़सद के लिये हमने कुर्बानियां की हैं वह व्यर्थ नहीं गई हैं और उन कुर्बानियों से राष्ट्र मजबूत हुआ है और शक्तिशाली हुआ है और आगे बढ़ा है । यह दो मक़ासिद थे । इस वक्त हमें देखना यह है कि इन दो मक़ासिद में जो कि हमारा नस्बुलएन था, इस में हमें कहां तक कामयाबी हुई है । मैं इस से इन्कार नहीं करता कि किसी हद तक आप को कामयाबी हुई है । लेकिन क्या हम इस बात को भूल सकते हैं कि इस वक्त भी लाखों आदमी ऐसे पड़े हैं जिन के पास मकान नहीं हैं । गवर्नमेंट का अपना यह ऐलान है कि इस वक्त जितने आदमियों को गांवों के अन्दर ज़मीनें अलॉट (allot) हुई हैं, उन में से तीन लाख १९ हजार ऐसे फ़ैमिलीज (families) हैं, गवर्नमेंट के अपने बयान के मुताबिक जिन

के अनइकानामिक होल्डिंग (uneconomical holdings) हैं । जिन पर ज़मीनों का २५ पर सेंट (per cent.) आप ने कट (cut) लगाया है । और आज वह गांव के अन्दर क़ैदियों की तरह पड़े हैं, न बाहर जा सकते हैं, न वहां अन्दर रह सकते हैं । वह वहां पर रोटी भी नहीं कमा सकते । तीन लाख उन्नीस हज़ार का मतलब यह है कि १६ लाख आदमी देहातों के अन्दर ऐसी बेबसी की हालत में पड़े हैं, न उन के पेट में रोटी जाती है और न उन के पर हैं कि वह उड़ कर बाहर जा सकें । यह ट्रेजडी (tragedy) वहां पर है । इस के अलावा गवर्नमेंट की पालिसी (policy) से यह बात भी सही है कि ९ फ़ी सदी आदमियों को अलॉटमेंट (allotment) नहीं मिल सकी, या उन्होंने नहीं ली । अलॉटमेंट उन के सामने हैं पर वह उस को नहीं ले सकते । इसी तरह २८ फ़ी सदी आदमियों को पैप्सू में अलॉटमेंट नहीं मिल सकी । तीन लाख आदमी जो वहां जा सकते थे वह वहां नहीं जा सके । १९ लाख आदमी यह हैं । ऐसे लाखों आदमी हैं जिन को गांवों में भेज दिया गया है जहां यह हालत है कि अनइकानामिक होल्डिंग की वजह से वहां वह रोटी नहीं कमा सकते । आज गवर्नमेंट से जब कहा जाता है कि कृपा कर के वहां पर कोई वर्क सेंटर (work centre) खोलिये तो कहते हैं कि क्या करें, रुपया हमारे पास नहीं है, मजबूरी है । वहां होल्डिंग में २५ फ़ी सदी का कट कर दिया गया है, ज़मीन को कम कर दिया गया है, गांव को वह छोड़ नहीं सकते हैं और वर्क सेंटर वहां खोले नहीं जाते तो वह क्या करें ।

शहरों में आप ने कुछ मकान बनाये हैं, अच्छा किया है। लेकिन आप ने साढ़े तीन लाख आदमियों के लिए यह मकान बनाये हैं और आदमी आये हैं ८४ लाख। उन का क्या इन्तजाम है? क्या आपके पास प्रापर्टी (property) है जो आप उन को दे सकते हैं? आप ने उन को कर्जा दिया है, लेकिन कितना कर्जा दिया है, १२ करोड़ रुपया आप ने दिया है। ज़रा आप गौर फ़रमावें कि ८० लाख आदमियों में १२ करोड़ रुपया दिया गया तो पर हैड (per head) क्या आता है १५ रुपया से ज्यादा नहीं आता। क्या आप उन से तबक्को कर सकते हैं कि १५ रुपये में किसी का काम चल सकता है? एक बड़े आदमी का जो मामूली नौकर है वह भी दो दिन की खुराक के लिए यह रुपया मांगता है, लेकिन आप यहां इन भाइयों को जो सब कुछ छोड़ कर यहां आये हैं उनसे कहते हैं कि १५ रुपये कर्ज लीजिये और गुबारा कीजिये। मैं आप से अर्ज करता हूँ कि इस वक़्त हालत यह है कि इन लोगों का रहना बहुत ही मुश्किल हो गया है। इन तमाम बातों के होने के बावजूद हमारा फ़र्ज यह था कि हम इन ग़रीब भाइयों को साथ ले लें और राष्ट्र को मज़बूत बनाते। लेकिन इस पालिसी से राष्ट्र मज़बूत नहीं हो रहा है। आज आप अगर रिपूज़ी की वोट (Vote) लें तो ९० फ़ी सदी वोट रिपूज़ी की मेरे वरखिलाफ़ है। वह आज मेरे काम से खुश नहीं है, उस को मेरे काम से तसल्ली नहीं है। आज जो सलूक मैंने उस के साथ किया है, या जो इन्तजाम मैंने उस के लिए किया है उस सलूक और इन्तजाम की वजह से जो असर उस के दिमाग़ पर पड़ा है उस राष्ट्र मज़बूत नहीं हुआ है। आज मेरे

अंग मेर गले नहीं लगता है, वह मेरे गले नहीं लगना चाहता और कहता है कि मेरे साथ बुरा सलूक तुम ने किया है। इस से राष्ट्र मज़बूत नहीं हुआ है। यह सब क्यों है, इसलिए कि हम लोग अपने मक़ासिद के अन्दर कामयाबी हासिल नहीं कर रहे हैं। इस के लिए अगर आप माफ़ करें तो मैं एक दो बातें अर्ज करूंगा। असली कारण मेरे ख़याल में इस के दो तीन हैं।

म साफ़ साफ़ अर्ज कर दूँ कि मेरे दिल के अन्दर एक बात है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमारा राष्ट्र मज़बूत हो, हमारी गवर्नमेंट मज़बूत हो। लेकिन आज इस गवर्नमेंट को हम देखते हैं तो उस के पास अगर हम कहें कि मिलिटरी ताक़त है तो मिलिटरी ताक़त कोई नहीं है, न हमारे पास हवाई ताक़त है, न बहरी ताक़त है तथा न ही इस गवर्नमेंट के पास कोई और बड़ी ताक़त ही है। न इस के पास हवाई जहाज़ हैं और न इस गवर्नमेंट के पास अनाज है, न कुछ और ताक़त है। आख़िरकार मैं सोचता हूँ कि इस मुल्क के पास है क्या? चारों तरफ़ देखता हूँ तो न अनाज है, न काड़ा है न बहरी ताक़त है। आख़िर है क्या? तो ले दे कर एक ही ख़याल आता है कि हमारे पास हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) साहब हैं। उन का बिभाग, उन की लियाक़त, उन की तमाम शक्ति, बस दुनिया के अन्दर यही हमारा असासा है, यही हमारी शक्ति है। बस मैं समझता हूँ कि यही हमारा सब कुछ असासा है और इसी के बल बूते पर हम तमाम काम करते हैं। हमारे मुल्क में अनाज नहीं है, कड़ा नहीं है, कोई मिलिटरी ताक़त नहीं है। यह सब कुछ न रहते हुए भी हम सिर ऊंचा कर के दुनिया के अन्दर चलते हैं तो यह

[लाल अचिंत राम]

सिर्फ हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब की वजह से है। लेकिन आज बदकिस्मती से उन्हीं की पालिसी (policy) की मुझे नुक्ताचीनी करनी पड़ती है। मुझे उन के ऊपर गर्व है, मुझे उन पर फख्र है। लेकिन आज उन की ही नीति की वजह से रीहंबीलिटेशन मिनिस्ट्री जिस का काम है कि राष्ट्र को मजबूत बनाये, और दुखियों के दुःख को दूर करे, आज वह अपने इन मकासिद में कामयाब नहीं हो रही है। और उस का एक बड़ा कारण यह है कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब की जो नीति इस मामले में है उस से लोगों को सन्तोष नहीं है। तो आखिरकार वह नीति क्या है जिस पर हम ऐतराज करते हैं? इस नीति के लिए मैं यह कहूँ कि वह नीति दूसरे अल्फ्राड में काँग्रेस के रिजोल्यूशन (Resolution) में बतला दी गयी थी। वह नीति यह थी कि रिफ्रूजी के काम को हम तमाम गवर्नमेंट के कामों पर प्रायोरिटी (priority) देंगे, उस को नम्बर एक दर्जा देंगे। यह रिजोल्यूशन नासिक के अन्दर हम ने पास कर दिया और यह कहा कि हम ने पिछले तीन वर्षों में इस काम को प्रायोरिटी दी है। इस का मतलब यह भी था कि आगे भी हम प्रायोरिटी देंगे, उस का इम्प्लीकेशन (implication) यह था।

लेकिन, साहबे सदर, आखिरकार ऐसी बात कहते हुए कि हम प्रायोरिटी देंगे, फिर हुआ क्या? आखिरकार कहां कामयाबी नहीं हुई? मेरा उस का जबाब यह है कि पालिसी आप के उस रिजोल्यूशन के अन्दर लिखी गयी, लेकिन हमारे अन्दर न तो वह हीसला है, न वह शक्ति है, न वह ताकत है कि हम उस पालिसी पर बमल कर सकें। (We lack that confi-

dence and power to act up to that policy) क्योंकि जब तक हम उस पालिसी के इम्प्लीकेशन्स को पूरा नहीं कर सकते तब तक उस पालिसी से कोई फायदा नहीं है। उस के इम्प्लीकेशन्स क्या हैं? आखिरकार जब हम कहते हैं कि प्रायोरिटी इस काम को दो, इस को प्रायोरिटी देंगे तो इस का मतलब यह है कि हम दूसरे कामों के मुकाबले इस काम पर अपनी शक्ति लगायें, तमाम कामों को छोड़ कर इस काम पर ज्यादा रुपया खर्च करें और तमाम आदमी इस काम पर अपनी शक्ति लगायें। लेकिन मैं पूछता हूँ कि आज उस पालिसी पर अमल क्यों नहीं हो रहा है।

प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने ऐलान किया कि हम रिफ्रूजीज को कम्पनसेशन (compensation) अपनी गवर्नमेंट के खजाने से नहीं दे सकते। हम जो मुस्लिम प्रापर्टी है, इवैक्यूई प्रापर्टी (evacuee property) जो यहाँ है उस प्रापर्टी में से उन को कम्पनसेशन देंगे। (इस समय घंटी बजी) साहबे सदर, मुझे आप माफ़ करेंगे अगर मैं थोड़ा समय और लूँ। मैं आम तौर पर और किसी बिल पर और हर मौके पर नहीं बोलता, यह मेरा सबजेक्ट (subject) है, इसलिए आप मेरे साथ थोड़ी रियायत करेंगे और थोड़ा समय और देंगे।

तो प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने ऐसी बात कह दी कि हम रिफ्रूजीज को कम्पनसेशन नहीं देंगे गवर्नमेंट के खजाने से। लेकिन उन की कम्पनसेशन मिलेगा। कहाँ से मिलेगा? भुसलमान जो प्रापर्टी छोड़ कर गये हैं उस प्रापर्टी से मिलेगा या पाकिस्तान से मिलेगा? साहबे सदर, मैं पूछता हूँ कि इसक्रिप्स का ऐलान हजारों लाखों आदमियों के मुँह के सामने कौन कर सकता है? यह

वही कर सकता है जिस को यह ख्याल हो कि जिन के मुताल्लिक मैं ऐलान करता हूं वह मेरा कुछ नहीं बिगाड़ सकते, उन के वोट की मुझे कोई फ़िक्र नहीं है और जो समझता है कि इस पालिसी पर अमल किये बिना काम चल सकता है। वरना क्या वजह है कि जिस पालिसी का हम ने फ़ैसला किया उस पर अमल न हो? आप को पता है कि उन्होंने फ़रमाया था कि हम रिहैबिलिटेशन की जिम्मेदारी लेते हैं, हम कम्पनसेशन नहीं दे सकते। वजह क्या है? कम्पनसेशन इस वारंटे नहीं देते कि वह कहते हैं कि यह कम्पनसेशन की जो आवाज़ है it is the cry of the 'rich' refugees. ज़रा, साहबे सदर, मैं आप की खिदमत में अर्ज़ कर दूँ कि इस वक्त जो क्लेम्स (claims) हमारी गवर्नमेंट के पास आये हैं वह दस लाख के करीब हैं। पांच लाख क्लेमेन्ट (claimants) हैं लेकिन तमाम मिला कर दस लाख होते हैं। इस का मतलब यह है कि यदि सात लाख भी रखें तो ३५ लाख आदमी इस में इंटरस्टेड (interested) हैं। तो क्या आप कह सकते हैं कि यह आवाज़ रिच (rich) आदमियों की है? क्या ३५ लाख आदमी रिफ़्यूजीज में अमीर हैं? उन को इग्नोर (ignore) क्यों किया जाता है? उस की वजह यह है कि वह समझते हैं कि आज हम कम्पनसेशन की बात कहें तो वह कम्पनसेशन कहां से आये। वह यहां के अमीर आदमियों पर पड़ेगा, उन को नाराज़ करना अफ़ोर्ड (afford) नहीं कर सकते। कहते हैं कि उन से रुपया लिया गया तो इंडस्ट्री नहीं चलेगी। मैं कहता हूं कि वह रुपया तो यहां के इन्हीं लाखों आदमियों के पास जायेगा, वह इंडस्ट्री में लगा सकते हैं क्या यह रुपया नान रिफ़्यूजीज (non-

refugees) के पास हो तब तो इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट (Industrial development) अच्छा हो सकता है और रिफ़्यूजीज के पास आ जाय तो इंडस्ट्रियल डेवलपमेंट अच्छा नहीं होता? यह क्या बात है, मेरी समझ में नहीं आती। यह दलील हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ही दे सकते हैं, मैं नहीं दे सकता। दलील क्या है कि यह कम्पनसेशन कहां से मिलेगा। यह कम्पनसेशन मिलेगा इवैक्यूई प्रापर्टी से। हर रिफ़्यूजी पर ऐलान किया जाता है कि तुम यकीन करो, कम्पनसेशन तो मिलेगा, लेकिन मुस्लिम प्रापर्टी से मिलेगा। तो रिफ़्यूजी कहते हैं कि हम बेवकूफ़ हुए, हम ने ग़लती की कि हम ने बाक़ी मुसलमानों को यहां क्यों रहने दिया। हम उन को निकाल देते तो हम को कम्पनसेशन मिल जाता। अब यह बात मेरे जैसा कोई आदमी कहे तो फिर शिकायत हो सकती है कि आप यह कैसे कहते हैं, यह तो हिन्दु मुस्लिम फ़िरके की बात होती है। तो ऐसी बात कहना मैं समझता हूं आप के इंटरैस्ट के खिलाफ़ है। क्या इस से राष्ट्र मजबूत होगा?

यहां मैं समझता हूं कि जो मक़सद हम ने अपने सामने रक्खा था, उस मक़सद और उन उर्सूलों को सामने रख कर आज काम नहीं होता है और उस की वजह यह है कि हम ने जो अपनी पालिसी का ऐलान किया है, उस पालिसी पर अमल करने की उदारता नहीं रखते और ताक़त न रखने की वजह से ऐसी दलीलें पेश करते हैं जो राष्ट्र को मजबूत करने की बजाय कमज़ोर बनाती हैं। आपने ऐलान किया कि हम रिहैबिलिटेशन पर ९० करोड़ ख़र्च करेंगे। उस ९० करोड़ की रक़म में करीब ३० करोड़ के करीब रिलीफ़ वर्क (Relief work) पर ख़र्चा हुआ और तीस, बत्तीस करोड़ रुपया मकानों या

[काला अश्विंत राम]

ऋण (loan) पर खर्चा हुआ। तो जनाब सदर, श्री फ़रमाइये कि यह रुपया है जो उन पर खर्च हुआ, लेकिन यहां पर रिपयूजीज भाई हैं जो १२ सौ करोड़ रुपये की लागत की शहरी जायदाद वहां छोड़ कर आये हैं, और चार करोड़ रुपये की रुरल प्रॉपर्टी (Rural Property) छोड़ कर आये हैं और २ करोड़ रुपये की इम्मूवेबल प्रॉपर्टी (immovable property) को छोड़ कर आये हैं, उन का हम ३५ करोड़ रुपये से रिहैबिलिटेशन करेंगे और यह रुपया गवर्नमेंट बहुत मेहरबानी फ़रमा कर के उन पर खर्च करेगी और वह रकम तीन साल में जा कर उन के लिये रखी है। इस में दस करोड़ रुपया ऐसा है जिस में तीन परसेंट व्याज दिया जाता है। इस के अलावा जो उन के लिए मकानात बनाये जाते हैं, तो किराया बढ़ा होने की वजह से पुलिस आती है और उन को मकान के बाहर निकाल देती है। और अगर कहें कि हम मकान के मालिक बनते हैं, तो किस्तें ऐसी लगायेंगे जो आप की आमदनी के बाहर होंगी। तो यह जिस तरीके से आप इस ३५ करोड़ रुपये से रिहैबिलिटेशन करना चाहते हैं और उन को कम्पेनसेशन देना चाहते हैं, उस से लोगों को मायूसी हो गई और लोगों की ऐनोय (annoy) किया है और हमारे ढंग ने उन रिपयूजी भाइयों के दिलों में मायूसी भर दी है। हम उन के बसाने के काम में नाकामयाब साबित हुए हैं। ऐसी हालत में मैं पूछता हूं कि अगर शरणार्थी भाई ९० फ़ी सदी मेरे बरखिलाफ़ वोट करते हैं, तो क्या वह अपने इस स्टैंड (stand) में जस्टीफ़ाइड (justified) नहीं ह? क्या ऐसी जालिफी और ऐसे ऐलान के होते हुए

वह ऐसा करने में जस्टीफ़ाइड नहीं हैं? नियोगी साहब ने क्यों इस्तीफ़ा दिया? सक्सेना साहब ने भी इस्तीफ़ा दिया। और सक्सेना साहब बड़े फ़रासदिल थे, उन्होंने इस्तीफ़ा देते वक़्त कहा कि मैं रिपयूजीज के लिए १०० करोड़ रुपया चाहता था, और चूंकि मुझे वह रकम नहीं दी गई, इसलिए मैं अपनी जगह छोड़ता हूं। मैं पूछता हूं कि क्या इन नये मिनिस्टर को वह सौ करोड़ रुपया मिला, और सक्सेना साहब का जो स्टेटमेंट (statement) था कि मैं बज़ारत इस-लिए छोड़ता हूं कि मैं अपने वायदों को पूरा नहीं कर सका, मुझे १०० करोड़ रुपया नहीं मिला और दूसरी मिनिस्ट्रीज (Ministries) ने मेरे साथ सहयोग नहीं किया। मैं पूछता हूं कि सक्सेना साहब के इस बयान को प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब पी क्यों गये और उस का जवाब क्यों नहीं दिया और अगर आज इस देश में सच्ची डेमोक्रेसी (democracy) होती, तो क्या दस दिन भी कोई प्राइम मिनिस्टर अपनी गद्दी पर कायम रह सकता था और अपनी मिनिस्ट्री का इस्तीफ़ा दिये बग़ैर रह सकता था? लेकिन आज हमारी गवर्नमेंट समझती है कि हम सेफ (safe) हैं, हमें कोई अपनी जगह से हिला नहीं सकता है, तो मैं साहबे सदर यह कहना चाहता हूं कि यह उन की ख़ाम ख़याली है, और यह चीज़ ज्यादा दिन तक चलने वाली नहीं है।

अभी हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब बोलते हैं कि हमारा रिहैबिलिटेशन का काम बहुत अच्छा हो रहा है, अगर हम उस का मुक़ाबिला करें उस इन्तज़ाम से जो कि इंटरनेशनल रेफ्यूजी आरगनाइज़ेशन (International Refugee Organisation) कर रही

है। अक्सर यह बात मैं ने उन को कहते सुना है और उन के बयानात सुने, तो मेरे दिल में एक स्वाहिश हुई कि जा कर मैं देखू तो क्या हालत है और उस का लिटरेचर (Literature) तो पढ़ कि क्या बात है।

साहबे सदर, मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि उन की कहानी बिल्कुल जुदा है, और उन का और हमारे देश के रिफ्यूजीज समस्या का मुकाबिला नहीं हो सकता है। एक तो वह कुल सोलह लाख आदमी है और उन की देखभाल का काम यू० एन० ओ० (U. N. O.) के जिम्मे है। वह तो उस के रहम पर पड़े हैं, उन का अपना कोई मुल्क नहीं है, अपना कोई घर नहीं है, वह वहाँ जायें, लेकिन इस के वरअक्स आज हिन्दुस्तान में वह रिफ्यूजीज लोग हैं, जिन्होंने पंडित जवाहरलाल की तरफदारी की, उन का साथ दिया, और मुल्क की आजादी की जंग में उन का साथ दिया और पार्टीशन (Partition) के लिए पंडित जवाहरलाल और महात्मा गांधी का झुकम माना और पार्टीशन मंजूर किया। और इन्हीं लीडरों ने उस वक्त पार्टीशन के वक्त वायदा किया था और भरोसा दिलाया था कि तुम फ्रिक् न करो, हम तुम्हें डिफेंड (defend) करेंगे और उन्हीं लीडरों ने पार्टीशन कराया। आज भी वही लीडर मौजूद हैं, लेकिन अफसोस है कि वह अपने उन किये गये वायदों को तोड़ते हैं। तो ऐसी हालत में उन इंटरनेशनल रिफ्यूजीज के साथ इस देश के रिफ्यूजीज का कैसे मुकाबिला किया जा सकता है ?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member might not have spoken on other Bills. But how can I compensate him now? He has already taken some 15 to 20 minutes.

Lala Achint Ram: I want only just half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Half an hour? He can have another two minutes.

लाला अचिंत राम : साहबे सदर, आखिर

मैं मैं इतना ही कहूंगा कि उन इंटरनेशनल रिफ्यूजीज के साथ यहां के रिफ्यूजीज का मुकाबिला नहीं हो सकता। यहां आप को दिल्ली के अन्दर क्या हालत है रिफ्यूजीज की, उस को मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि मालवीय नगर में रिफ्यूजीज को बसाया गया है और वहां पर खन्ना साहब, दूसरे साहबान और श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन की मेहरबानी से उन के लिए मकान बनवाये गये और रिफ्यूजीज वहां पर चले गये। आप यह सुन कर हैरान होंगे कि वहां छे सौ फ़ैमिलीज (families) बैठी होंगी और जब तक वह लोग मालवीय नगर नहीं गये थे, अपनी रोटी किसी तरह कमा लेते थे, लेकिन जिस वक्त वह मालवीय नगर में गये, तो ६०० में से ५९० आदमी बेकार हो गये और बेकाम हो गये। और आदमी वहां जाकर बेकार क्यों हुए ? उस की वजह यह है कि उन्हें वैसे मालवीय नगर से दिल्ली आने को नहीं मिलती है और यह कोओपरेशन (co-operation) है बाक्री मिनिस्ट्रीज का और इसी कोओपरेशन की बिना पर सक्सेना साहब ने अपनी जगह से इस्तीफ़ा दिया।

और आज हालत यह है कि मालवीय नगर के लोग बेकार हैं, उन के पास काम नहीं है, लाजपतराय नगर के लोग भी बेकार हैं, उन के पास भी काम नहीं है और दूसरी मिनिस्ट्रीज से उन्हें कोओपरेशन नहीं मिलता।

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

मैं आप का ज़बादा वक्त नहीं लेना चाहता और आखिर में सिर्फ़ दो बातें कह कर अपनी स्पीच खत्म करूंगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह रिफ्यूजीज का जो सवाल है, वह सॉल्यूबल (soluble) है और इस के लिए दो तीन बातों की जरूरत है। जैसे मैं ने पहले कहा था और अब

[लाला अचिंत राम]

भी कहता हूँ कि खुद प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब इस मुहकमे को अपने हाथ में ले लें। उन्होंने इंटरनेशनल फ्रेयरऐस (International Affairs) में बहुत बड़े बड़े काम किये और नाम कमाया और शोहरत हासिल की, वह इस काम को अपने हाथ में लें, तभी काम चल सकता है, क्योंकि दीगर मिनिस्टरीज किसी मामूली मिनिस्टर की बात मानने वाली नहीं हैं। यह सिर्फ आप की ज़त होगी, जिस की वजह से बाक़ी मिनिस्टरीज आप के हुक्म को बिला चूँचरा मानेंगी। इसलिए मैं तो चाहूँगा कि आप इस मुहकमे का काम अपने हाथ में लें, लेकिन अगर खुदा नहवास्ता किसी वजह से आप इस मुहकमे को अपने हाथ में नहीं ले सकते, तो अस्सी लाख रिफ़्यूजीज हैं, इन में से किसी को कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर (Cabinet Minister) बनाइये और तब वह काम आगे चलेगा, लेकिन अगर फ़र्ज़ कीजिये कि आप यह भी नहीं कर सकते तो जो आज वज़ीर हैं इस मुहकमे के, उन्हीं को बनाये रखिये, लेकिन कृपा कर के इतना कीजिये कि उन को अपने मुहकमे के बारे में प्राइम मिनिस्ट्र की पावर (Power) हो और जब श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन कोई आर्डर निकालें, तो हेल्थ मिनिस्टरी, फ़ाइनेंस मिनिस्टरी, ऐंज्यूकेशन मिनिस्टरी, कोई दूसरी मिनिस्टरी उस आर्डर को ग़नोर (ignore) न कर सके। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उन के हुक्म के अन्दर वही ताक़त हो, जो आप के हुक्म के अन्दर होती है। अगर आप ऐसा कर सकें, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह काम चल सकता है। दूसरे १२५ करोड़ रुपये से १०० करोड़ रुपया इस के लिए सेट रखिये, जिस से उन के लिए मकानात बनाये जायें, वर्क सेंटर (work centres) खोले जायें।

अब यह सवाल कि इस के लिए इतना रुपया कहाँ से आयेगा? मैं कहूँगा कि उस के लिए टैक्स (Tax) लगाये जा सकते हैं। तम्बाकू पर आप ने टैक्स लगाया, और इतनी रकम वसूल कर रहे हैं दो साल पहिले तम्बाकू यहाँ था। इस के लिए भी आप टैक्स लगा सकते हैं बशर्ते कि आप को फ़िक्र हो और उन के लिए दर्द हो। उफ़सोस यह है कि आप को उन की फ़िक्र नहीं है। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि वैसे मैं साल्ट टैक्स (Salt Tax) के बरखिलाफ़ हूँ, लेकिन अगर आप इस काम के लिए साल्ट टैक्स लगायें, तो मुझे उम्मीद है कि महात्मा गांधी की दुआयें हमारे साथ होंगी कि हम ने एक अच्छा काम किया। साल्ट टैक्स लगा कर, या डेब्ट (debt) ले कर या जो इतने स्टर्लिंग बैलेंस (Sterling Balances) हमारे पास हैं, उस के जरिये हमारे पास बहुत रुपया हो सकता है, ६ लाख ऊपर के जो टैक्स देने वाले हैं, उन पर टैक्स लगा कर या डैथ ड्यूटी (Death Duty) लगा कर रुपया मिल सकता है, और अगर आप उस पर अमल करने को तैयार हों, तभी अमल हो सकता है, जहाँ तक हमारा सम्बन्ध है, हम आप के साथ हैं। इतनी बात कह कर मैं ख़तम करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Lala Achint Ram (Punjab): Sir, I am thankful to you for having allowed me to speak on this occasion.

The matters regarding the Ministry of Rehabilitation are to be examined today and it is a happy coincidence that hon. the Prime Minister, who usually does not remain here, is also among us today. This Ministry came into existence in 1947 when the country was faced with great calamities. Lacs of persons came here from Pakistan being victims of partition. They were not only starving and without clothes but also undergoing every kind of trouble. After all

Government realised their duty and formed the Ministry in question. Its name at that time was the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation. The first Minister to be appointed was Shri Neogy who worked very earnestly and managed to bring lacs of persons from that side of the country. The speed and earnestness with which he worked will be praised not only in this country but also in other countries. His sympathy and love for the refugees makes me bow my head in respect to him. He was followed by Shri Mohan Lal Saxena. When Shri Neogy was relieved of the office, Shri Saxena took over from him. There is no denying the fact that Shri Saxena too performed his duties most industriously. I still recollect how he used to go about throughout the country and help the refugees. I am sorry that such a sympathetic man is not being utilised for serving our country. All the same, I am proud of the fact that the Government have got such a valuable man at their disposal and they can still utilise his services for the sake of the country any moment. It is true that the circumstances forced him to resign. The same thing can be said in respect of Shri Neogy's resignation. Now for the last nine months a third Minister is at the helm of the affairs. It is an open secret that he has also done sufficient material work during these nine months. He visited Assam, Ahmedabad, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh and made sincere efforts to help the refugees who are scattered throughout the length and breadth of the country. Only nine months have since passed and he is bound to gain further experience gradually. It cannot be said of him that he has not done any work during this period of nine months. He has, of course, done much work. There is no getting away from the fact that lacs of the refugees have settled in the villages. It is also obvious that about three to four lacs of displaced persons have settled in the seventy thousand houses built so far by the Government. None can deny the fact that the Government have provided employment to one and a half lacs of persons. One cannot but accept the fact that the Government have given loans to one and a half lacs of persons and established Ashrams for forty thousand destitute women and children. All these things are well known. I am thankful to the Government as also to all those persons, including Shri Gadgil and Shri Meher Chand Khanna, who have rendered service to the motherland in a very difficult time by working for the benefit of the displaced persons and constructing houses for them.

Apart from all these things, let us now come to the fact as to what were the objectives before this Ministry when it came into existence. At that time there were two objectives in view. The first objective was that as the refugees had already lost everything including their relatives and were in dire need of food, clothing and accommodation, it was imperative to provide to them all these things. The second point was that the sacrifices made by these displaced persons should be taken advantage of in strengthening the nation so that they might be satisfied that their sacrifices had not gone in vain and had contributed much towards strengthening and developing the country. These were the two objectives. Now we have to see how far we have been able to achieve these aims. I do not deny that the Government have succeeded to an extent. Can we neglect the fact that still there are lacs of persons who have got no accommodations? According to the statement made by the Government, out of the total number of persons to whom land has been allotted in various villages, three lac and nineteen thousand families are such as have got uneconomic holdings. The Government have brought about 25 per cent. cut

12 Noon in the lands and there persons are confined to the villages like captives. Neither they can possibly leave the villages, nor can they remain there. They cannot earn their livelihood there. Three lac and nineteen thousand families roughly contain about sixteen lac persons in all who are killing their time in a state of utter disappointment. It is impossible for them to make both ends meet. They do not possess any possible means to fly away. Such is the tragedy with them. Besides, according to the policy of the Government it is but correct that nine per cent. persons could not get allotment of land, or say, they did not get the land allotted. They could get it but they did not like to avail of it. Similarly in Pepsu land could not be allotted to 28 per cent. persons. Three lacs of persons who could go there did not go. These are nineteen lacs in number. Thousands of persons are such who have been sent to the various villages but are unable to earn their livelihood as a result of their uneconomic holdings. The Government, when they are called upon to open certain work centres, regret their inability on the ground of paucity of funds. Their holdings have undergone a cut of 25 per cent, they can not leave the villages and the work centres are not opened there. Under these circumstances they do not know what to do.

[Lala Achint Ram]

It is good that some houses have been built in the cities; but they are only for three lac and fifty thousand persons while the total number of migrants goes upto eighty-four lacs. What arrangements have been made for them? Have the Government got any property to give to those persons? It is true that the Government have advanced loans but they amount to only twelve crores of rupees. Twelve crores of rupees have been distributed among 80 lacs of persons. On an average one individual does not get anything more than fifteen rupees. Can anyone expect him to pull on with only fifteen rupees? Even an ordinary servant of a rich person demands such an amount for only two days' meals. How can, therefore, those persons, who have come here after losing everything of their own, be asked to manage their affairs in only fifteen rupees? I may submit to the House that under the present state of affairs it has become rather impossible for them to keep body and soul together. In spite of all these facts it was our duty to take these poor fellows into our confidence and strengthen the very foundations of the nation. But the present policy is by no means contributing to the country's strength. If the votes of the refugees are taken, it will be revealed that no less than 90 per cent votes will be cast against me. They are not pleased with my work and they are not satisfied with it. The way in which I treated them and made arrangements for them left such a bad impression on their minds that it helped a little in increasing the country's strength." Today the position is this that my own kith and kin do not like to embrace me but charge me of bad treatment. This has not helped the nation to gain more strength. Why is it so? The answer is that we are not achieving any success in our aims and objects. In this connection I may, with your permission, Sir, submit one or two things. To my mind there are two or three real causes of this thing.

I may tell the house very clearly that I only wish one thing and it is that our nation as also the Government may become strong. If we look at the Government we find that neither they have got any military power—either the air force or navy—nor have they got enough foodgrains. I often wonder as to after all what the country possesses. There is scarcity of food and cloth all around. There is no strong naval power. What does this country of ours then possess?

The only idea that strikes one is that it has got our Prime Minister. His intelligence, his knowledge, his strength are the only wealth and power that we possess in this world and it is on account of only these things that we are running the whole show. In spite of the scarcity of food and cloth and the absence of any military power we hold our head high in the world and this has been possible due to our Prime Minister alone. But unfortunately I have to criticise his own policy. I am proud of him. But it is due to his policy that the Ministry of Rehabilitation, whose function is to strengthen the nation and to remove the misfortunes of the afflicted, have not been successful in their objective. An important reason for that is that the policy followed by our Prime Minister in this regard has not satisfied the people. What is, then, the policy to which we object? The policy which was to be followed was, in different words, declared in the resolution of the Congress. That policy was that the problem of refugees would be given priority number one over all other work of the Government. We passed that resolution at Nasik and declared that we have given priority to this work during the last three years, it meant that we would give priority to this in future also. That was the implication.

But, Sir, what happened to the assertion of giving priority? Where, after all, the failure occurred? My answer is that we have neither the courage nor strength nor power to work in accordance with what we laid down in that resolution. We lack that confidence and power to act up to that policy, for unless we fulfil the implications of that policy it would be a dead letter. When we profess that we would give priority to this work the implication is that we should lend comparatively greater support to this matter, that we should spend more money over it and should concentrate our entire energy towards its solution. But I have to ask why that policy is not being acted upon.

The Prime Minister declared that they could not give compensation to the refugees from the Government treasury and that they would give compensation from the Muslim property, the evacuee property left here. *(The Bell rang at this stage.)* Sir, I beg of you to give me a little more time. Usually I do not speak on every occasion and on every Bill. But this is my subject and I hope you will

kindly be a little indulgent to me and give me some more time.

So, the Prime Minister said that compensation could not be given to the refugees from the Government treasury but they will get compensation. But from where? Are they to get it from the property left behind by the Muslims or from Pakistan? Who can make such a declaration in face of thousands of persons? Only he can do it who thinks that those covered by the declaration can do no harm to him, the one who does not care for their votes and who thinks that things can go on even without acting up to this policy. Otherwise, what could be the reason for not implementing that policy? He had said that the Government took the responsibility of rehabilitation but that they could not give compensation. They do not give compensation for they say that the cry for compensation is the cry of the rich refugees. I would like to submit, Sir, that the Government have so far received some ten lakh claims. So far the number of claimants is five lakhs but the number of all the claimants would nearly be ten lakhs. Even if we put them at seven lakhs it means that nearly 35 lakhs of people are interested in it. Can one say that this is the cry of rich persons? Are all these 35 lakhs of refugees rich? Why are then they ignored? The reason is that if they decide to pay them compensation they are unable to find avenues from where they were to get that amount. That burden will fall on the rich here whom they cannot afford to annoy. The plea is given that if more money is taken from them it would adversely affect the smooth running of industry. But after all that money would go to these lakhs of people and they can re-invest that in industry. I cannot understand how that money when it is with non-refugees would help industrial development but when it is with refugees it will not help industrial development. Our Prime Minister may put forth such reasoning, at least I cannot. Question is wherefrom will this compensation be given? This compensation will come from the evacuee property. Every refugee is given assurance that compensation will be paid but from the Muslim property. So the refugees think they committed folly by allowing the rest of the Muslims to remain here. Had they turned them out *en bloc* they would have got compensation. If a man like me says such a thing, it may be objected to on the plea that it smacks of Hindu-Muslim communalism. So I think that it goes against their

interest when I say this. The nation would not be strengthened by such things.

I think we are not following today, the objects and principles which we had then placed before us, the reason being that we lack the courage to follow the policy that we have declared and because of the lack of that courage we advance such arguments that weaken the nation instead of strengthening it. The Government declared that they will spend 90 crore rupees on rehabilitation work, out of those 90 crore rupees about 30 crore rupees were spent on relief work, and thirty or thirty-two crore rupees were spent on building houses and giving loans. Sir, this is the amount which has been spent on them, but these refugees have left behind urban property worth 12 hundred crores of rupees, rural property worth four crores of rupees and the immovable property worth 2 crores of rupees. The Government will be obliging them by spending 35 crore rupees on their rehabilitation and this sum has been allotted after waiting for full three years. Out of this sum, a three per cent. interest is charged on ten crore rupees. Besides this, the rent of the houses which are constructed for them is fixed so high that they are not in a position to pay that hence the police intervention becomes necessary in evicting them. On the other hand if they choose to acquire the ownership of those houses then the instalments are fixed at so high rates as are beyond their means. The way the Government intend to rehabilitate them and compensate them has simply disappointed and annoyed them and the attitude of the Government has caused a feeling of despondency in them. The Government has failed to rehabilitate the refugees. May I know if 90 per cent. refugees under such condition were to cast vote against me, are they not justified in their stand? Are they not justified in their action in face of such policy and declaration made by the Government? Why Shri Neogy and Shri Saxena resigned? Shri Saxena was a very large hearted man and when he had tendered his resignation he had stated that he had asked for 100 crore rupees for the rehabilitation purposes of the refugees and as that amount was not sanctioned to him, he, therefore resigned. I would like to know whether the new Minister has been sanctioned that amount. I want to ask why the Prime Minister did not reply and kept mum over the statement of Shri Saxena that he gave up Ministership as he could not fulfil his promises, 100 crore rupees were

[Lala Achint Ram]

not sanctioned to him and other Ministries did not co-operate with him. If today had there been real democracy in the country, could any Prime Minister have retained his premiership even for ten days and would there have been any alternative left for him except to place his Ministry's resignation? But today our Government think that they are safe and nobody can dislodge them from office. Sir, I want to say that they are labouring under a misconception and such state of affairs would not continue for long.

Our Prime Minister has stated that our rehabilitation work is going on very smoothly and satisfactorily as compared with the arrangements made by the International Refugees Organization in this behalf. I have often heard him reiterating this statement in his speeches and I had a desire to study the details and the relevant literature about the method of working of that organisation.

Sir, I think that their story is quite different and the nature of their work cannot be compared with the refugee problem in our country. There were only sixteen lacs of people who were being looked after by the U.N.O. and this U.N.O. is responsible for their welfare. These refugees are at the mercy of the U.N.O., they have no nationality of their own, they have no homes of their own and they are quite helpless; on the other hand, there are such refugees in India who supported Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and who had stood with him in the struggle for freedom of the country and had obeyed the dictates of Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for the partition of the country, and these leaders had promised and assured them not to worry about the partition as they would defend them. Our leaders are responsible for the partition of the country. There are those very leaders even today but it is regretted that they have not kept their words. Under such circumstances how the condition of the refugees of this country can be compared with that of International refugees.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member might not have spoken on other Bills. But how can I compensate him now? He has already taken some 15 to 20 minutes.

Lala Achint Ram: I want only just half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Half an hour? He can have another two minutes.

Lala Achint Ram: Sir, in the end I would only say that the International refugees cannot be compared with the

refugees of this country. I may tell you something about the condition of refugees in Delhi. Houses were constructed in Malviya Nagar to rehabilitate them, and through the kind efforts of Shri Khanna, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain and others they have settled there. You will be surprised to learn that 600 families have been settled there. Till such time they were not settled in Malviya Nagar they somehow earned their livelihood, but ever since they went to Malviya Nagar, 590 out of 600 are out of employment and without work. Why these people are out of employment? The reason is that there are no transport facilities available to them to come to Delhi. Such is the co-operation of other Ministries. Shri Saxena resigned his post on the grounds of lack of co-operation. The present condition of those who have settled in Malviya Nagar is that they are out of employment and without any work, similar is the case of those who have settled in Lajpat Rai Nagar, and they also are not receiving any co-operation from other Ministries.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

I do not want to take much time and will finish my speech after stating only two points in the end. I think the problem of the refugees is soluble if only two or three measures are taken up. As I said earlier and still I say that the Prime Minister himself should take up the rehabilitation portfolio. He has achieved great success in International affairs and is acknowledged as a leader of the highest calibre in the International sphere. If he takes over the rehabilitation portfolio only then the rehabilitation work will run on smoothly because the other Ministries are not too inclined to carry out the wishes of an ordinary Minister. It will be on account of his personality that other Ministries will be submitting to him without any hesitation. Therefore I would like that he should take over this portfolio, and if unfortunately for any reason he is unable to do so, a Cabinet Minister out of these eighty lac refugees may be appointed and then progress will be made in this direction. But supposing even if this cannot be done then let the present Minister of this department continue, but it should be so provided that the Minister in charge of this department may enjoy the same powers as are exercised by the Prime Minister, and whenever Shri Ajit Prasad Jain issues any order it may not be possible for the Ministries of

Health, Finance and Education or any other Ministry to ignore that order. I want that his order should carry the same force as that of yours. I am of the opinion that if you are able to do that success may be achieved in rehabilitation work. Secondly a sum of 100 crore rupees out of 125 crore rupees, should be set apart so that it may be utilised for the construction of houses for them and work centres may be opened. The question is where to get this amount from? I would suggest that new taxes may be levied for this purpose. You have imposed tax on tobacco and a huge amount is being realised. This tax on tobacco could have been levied earlier. You could have levied taxes to raise funds for rehabilitation work provided you had sympathy for them. It is regretted that you have no solicitude for them. Generally I am opposed to the imposition of tax on salt but if you introduce salt tax for this purpose, I am hopeful we will be having the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi for having done a good job. We can have sufficient amount of money by resorting to salt tax or by floating loans, or from sterling balances or money can be had by imposing super-tax on those who pay more than six lacs of rupees as income-tax or by imposing death duty. But this can be given effect to only if you are prepared to do. So far we are concerned we are with you. With these words I finish.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, on a point of sanitation. The air here seems to have turned foetid, and the air outlets probably are not working properly. I request that steps may be taken to clear the air.

Mr. Chairman: But I do not feel there is anything wrong.

Shri Kamath: Probably the exhaust passages are not working well.

Mr. Chairman: There is a complaint that the air inside is not fresh. Will the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs please see what needs to be done?

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I also do not feel there is anything wrong with the air, Sir.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (Uttar Pradesh): When I rise to speak on the Rehabilitation budget I am tempted to make a general survey of the achievement of the Ministry and what remains to be done but under the strict rationing of time I would refrain from doing so and confine my remarks to a few points which I consider as important.

Of late the Ministry has been supplying us with very attractively got up reports as regards the achievements of the Ministry, so that Members can read the reports and find out facts for themselves. I have culled out a few very broad facts which I will place before the House.

According to the report in January 1951 we had over 80 lakhs of refugees in India. Of these 1.77 lakhs of East Pakistan refugees are in camps in the eastern zone; 0.73 lakhs are in camps in the western States. We have rehabilitated 31 lakhs of people from among the West Pakistan refugees on land. As regards urban rehabilitation it is rather difficult to give exact figures. They say that they have given accommodation to 20 lakhs of people in houses and developed plots. There are 17.45 lakhs in service and 55,000 under training. So altogether I can count them as 18 lakhs rehabilitated through employment. Figures regarding East Pakistan refugees are rather difficult to get. The figures I could gather from the reports were conflicting. However from the figures I could get I find that 1½ lakhs were settled in West Bengal on land mostly. Three thousand families were settled in Cachar in the tea gardens and 8,300 families in Assam. The Relief and Rehabilitation sub-committee of the Standing Finance Committee undertook a tour of the Eastern provinces during the last summer and we saw some very good work in the Golpara district, where we visited two of the rehabilitation areas. The refugees were very happy. They were satisfied though the rehabilitation facilities were not on a lavish scale but since our standard of living is so low, they were quite satisfied. But they were anxious about their future as they were all settled on Muslim evacuee land and did not know what was going to happen to them. I would like to know what is to happen to these refugees who were settled on Muslim evacuee land. Since then we have heard that a large number of Muslim evacuees have returned and they naturally have claimed their land.

We also gather from the reports that several townships are under way, some are partially completed and some are under construction and people are being resettled in these areas. This is not a very mean record of achievement and I congratulate the Ministry.

Though I am perfectly aware of the shortcomings in the administration I do not want to harp on them, as I have had occasion to refer to them on the floor of this House before. But without minimising their achievements I would like to draw their attention to a matter which has been exercising my mind at

[Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani]

least for a very long time. This is the question of the unregistered refugees. There is a vast number though I could not collect the exact figure. This categorisation of the refugees into registered and unregistered has not been done on any basis of equity. We declared certain refugees as unregistered and others as registered because it was convenient for the administration to make this distinction, not that these unregistered refugees do not deserve to get rehabilitation facilities or should not be eligible to receive them but we made this categorisation because we were making allocation of a certain number of refugees to different States and we wanted them to remain within those States. Also registration was made because we fixed a certain date and we did not want the refugees to come to India after that date. We placed a sort of time bar and expected the refugees who came within that date to be registered. It was an arbitrary categorisation or distinction.

Now what is the policy of the Government with regard to rehabilitation of the refugees? The first claim for rehabilitation was of the people who were in the camps. We can understand that, because they were the Government's responsibility and they wanted to be relieved of that responsibility as early as possible. The second lot of people who got rehabilitation facilities were the registered refugees outside the camps. And in the third category come the unregistered refugees. Who are they? Many of them are self-respecting people who decided not to enter the camps. They wanted to fend for themselves and they did their best to do so. The other category of unregistered people are those ignorant ones who did not know where to go and how to get themselves registered. So out of ignorance they are unregistered. Then there is a large number of refugees on whom you can attach blame. They went from one province to another thus upsetting the Government's arrangements. But the bulk of the unregistered refugees are as much deserving of rehabilitation facilities as registered refugees.

In the beginning I did not raise this point because I knew that the pressure of work on the Ministry was very great and that they wanted to tackle the matter on some order of priority. Now the time has come when the work of the Ministry is much less and there is time for them to devote their attention to the question of unregistered refugees. What is the Government doing in this matter?

There is a Bill pending in this House, called the Delhi Premises (Requisition

and Eviction) Bill which will affect to a very large extent these unregistered refugees. The other day I read in the papers that there is a Bill before the Assembly in West Bengal called the Squatters Eviction Bill, which will also affect the unregistered refugees. It is right that at some time or other we have to evict them, because we want the cities to get back to normal conditions. But when we remove them we have to do it in a human way, so that these poor people are not rendered refugees a second time. Once they have been displaced. And having come over on their own and having settled themselves we are displacing them a second time without any compensation. My grouse is against that and I do not want these people to be rendered refugees a second time without facilities for rehabilitation.

Here I would like to mention a small matter, on which many of us have felt very great resentment. And that relates to Delhi itself. The Delhi Premises (Requisition and Eviction) Bill was referred to a Select Committee. The Select Committee appointed a small sub-committee to deal with the various branches of Government concerned, such as the Rehabilitation Ministry, the W. M. P. Ministry and the Delhi Administration. There was an understanding that during the pendency of negotiations nothing would be done and none would be evicted. But refugees were evicted and their houses were demolished. Mr. Kamath tried to raise the question in the House. Then we were given a reply by one of the hon. Ministers that in only one area, Dandama, some houses were demolished—they were 30 or 40—and they were such as had been built in the course of the previous three months and that they were not old houses. It was also said that these people were given alternative accommodation plus financial assistance. After this statement was made on the floor of this House some of us went to the site itself, that is to Najafgarh where these people had been removed. We found not 30 but 80 families had been removed. Where the houses had been demolished was the area where in 1949 during the rains I had gone and rendered relief. So I could verify the fact from my personal knowledge. They were not new houses which had come into existence within three months but most of them were old houses. Now what is the alternative accommodation given to these people? We saw a field where there were two tents for 80 families. At that time there were 62 families and 7 families were inside the tents and the rest had to put up their shelter with tarpaulin, durries or charpois and improvise some sort of a roof over

their head. What financial assistance had been given? Seven families—I do not know how Government categorises and makes the distinction—these seven families who were very fortunate to get the shelter of the tent have been given at the rate of Rs. 45 to 50. This wonderful financial assistance and the tent accommodation provided was the great assistance about which statement was made on the floor of the House! Well, after that we straightaway went to the hon. Minister, Mr. Jain, to our friend, Mr. Mehr Chand Khanna, and to everybody else, and we tried to impress upon them the fact that the whole thing has been done in a most inhuman fashion, that this is not the way to deal with people, that something must be done immediately, and that some interim assistance at least should be given. But to my regret I find nothing has been done. I understand as a measure of compensation for them houses are going to be built, but till the houses are built and these people go there I do not know what will happen to them. I have requested that in the interim period they should get some temporary shelter and some financial assistance so that they may carry on, but my suspicion is that there is a conflict going on between the authorities of the Rehabilitation Ministry and the Delhi Administration. It seems to be a question of prestige for the Delhi Administration which has handled the matter. I would very much like to uphold the prestige of the Government, but I think the time is gone when the Indian Empire lived on prestige and was sustained on prestige. The prestige of the Government can be very much better upheld by a solid piece of work done—not by this false sense of prestige.

So, I would request the Government that once for all they should realise that Departments are not to work as water-tight compartments. It is one whole integrated Government. Rehabilitation is the work of the Rehabilitation Minister. I was surprised to learn from the Minister that for the first time he came to learn about this eviction through the newspapers. Maybe it is the duty of the Delhi Administration to remove these people from there, maybe the land belongs to the Ministry of Works, Production and Supply but if you are dealing with refugees the first man to be informed is the Rehabilitation Minister. No refugee should be evicted without his knowledge. Therefore, we want an integrated method of working, an integrated plan; otherwise Government cannot function properly. Working in this fashion we merely exasperate the people, we rouse their feelings.

24 PS

It is also necessary for the Government to define their policy with regard to unregistered refugees, what they want to do with them and how they want to tackle their problem. And I want to say with all the emphasis at my command that I for one do not see any reasonable distinction between a registered and an unregistered refugee. Unregistered refugees have as much claim to Government rehabilitation facilities as the registered refugees.

I would like to say a few words about the relief and rehabilitation that is going on in the Eastern zone. I know Members from West Bengal, Assam and Orissa will speak, so I do not want to go into details. I just want to say a few words because as members of the sub-committee, when we toured those regions some time back, we came across certain things which made us very unhappy. We found the rehabilitation work was not at all going on in a satisfactory fashion. There was lack of funds and confusion in administration. In the relief camps we visited we heard all kinds of complaints, for instance, complaints of irregular supply of food, inadequate supply of cloth and medicine. We found a high rate of child mortality in those camps. Some of the camps were situated in the most out of the way places. I remember a camp in Assam in the midst of a jungle with mosquitoes swarming all round. I could not imagine how they could have thought of sending women and children to go and live there, and they were all suffering. The authorities had ultimately to remove them from that camp. Other complaints are the inordinate delays in giving rehabilitation facilities and in giving them loans so that people could settle down soon. I know the State Governments have their difficulties, particularly in the Eastern zone because the influx has been continuing, but what made us most unhappy was—I am very reluctant to mention it but I have to mention it because it is a fact—what made us most unhappy was the unhelpful attitude, sometimes of the State Government, sometimes of the people belonging to the State and the politics that was getting involved in the question of relief and rehabilitation. That stands in the way of rehabilitation that alienates the sympathy of the local people and frustrates all our efforts to resettle the refugees. In this connection I would like to mention a curious fact that I came across while I was reading the figures of expenditure of the different States. In Assam, for instance, we have spent last year Rs. 49 lakhs on relief and rehabilitation. Of this, Rs. 21 lakhs have been spent as loans to evacuees, that is the Mussalmans returning. Another Rs. 2.5 lakhs have

[Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani]

been spent as grants to these evacuees. The rest of the money apparently has been spent on refugees, but I do not know how much of it has been spent as loans or for rehabilitation, and how much for relief. I also came to learn that after a certain stage the issue of loans to refugees was stopped on some plea, paucity of funds or what, I do not know—but why was it stopped? Under whose direction, if it was stopped at all? The result was that a large number of refugees who should have got loans in proper time did not get them and they have not got them. What was the consequence? They started going back. Government of late has been glibly giving us figures of people who have been going back to Pakistan. I know why they go back, they do not go back for the love of being citizens of Pakistan. They go back when they despair of getting rehabilitation facilities here, they go back desperate. They go back with the determination to become Mussalmans and live there. That is why we have to be very careful. We have to see that anybody who comes to us for succour after such harassment gets it. The Central Government is anxious to rehabilitate them, the Central Government gives money, I know, but we must also see how that money is spent and how rehabilitation is carried on in the States.

As the time is short I will mention only one fact *re*: wastefulness in expenditure. During the course of the sub-committee's work, we came across certain curious wastefulness on the part of the State Governments. I do not say this with any idea to run down any State Government because whether it is a State Government or the Central Government it is all our work and we have to do it in a rational fashion. I know the money placed at the disposal of the Rehabilitation Ministry is not adequate; it may appear adequate but to my mind it is not adequate. That being so, whatever little money we get we should attempt to spend it as wisely as possible and avoid waste as much as possible. We came across cases of highly wasteful expenditure. I only want to give you one instance of such wastefulness, may be done quite unintentionally, but if greater scrutiny is exercised by the Centre such wastefulness can be avoided. I will read a paragraph from the report we have submitted. I do not know what has happened to the report—probably it has gone to the waste-paper basket.....

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): No, no.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: ...but I take the opportunity to bring it out from the waste-paper basket and shed light on one aspect of this report.

Shri A. P. Jain: May I remind the hon. Member that I have more than once discussed the report with her.....

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: What have you done about it?

Shri A. P. Jain:and we have taken action on it.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Well, this report is about West Bengal. I will read out a paragraph:

"As money for relief and rehabilitation is found by the Central Government, there exists an attitude of indifference towards economy in expenditure. For example, during the heavy rush of refugees, that is about March and April, when the refugees were coming, two ships and one flat were rented for accommodating refugees. The cost of this experiment is Rs. 13,000 per month for sheltering 500 refugees. We have gone into the details of this. It may have been justified during the first months when the ships were also used for bringing people but the arrangements must not have been subsequently continued. We came across other cases of this type. The Central Government should exercise greater scrutiny."

The irony of fate is that we have little money and we must make every penny go as far as possible. Rs. 13,000 per month has been spent on sheltering 500 people. With this amount, we could have very well rehabilitated these 500 people. That is the sad part of it. So, it is but right that the Central Government should exercise greater scrutiny over the expenditure and see that the work is carried on properly and efficiently.

One more word and I have done. I think we should change our outlook towards the whole question. We should not think of the refugees as extraneous people who have come here, who are a burden on us, and for whom we have to do something to appease them. We should look upon them as Indian citizens. We should try our best to integrate them with the local people and the economy of the country. If that is done, the country will benefit by their coming and they would not be a burden but an asset for the country.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee (West Bengal): Of all the problems that confront the country today, obviously rehabilitation is the most difficult and the most complex. It is of an unprecedented character. I do not envy any hon. Minister who may be in charge of this portfolio for the time being. I know that the present Minister is a man of great energy and he has honestly attempted

to tackle a problem which sometimes seems to be almost incapable of solution.

The previous speaker gave some idea of the total number of persons who have to be rehabilitated and also of the work which has been done by the Ministry. I do not wish to cover the same ground because the time at our disposal is short. 81 lakhs of people, according to the figures given in the papers circulated to us, have to be rehabilitated. Of course, I do not accept the accuracy of these figures. They are based on certain statistics which are not quite reliable in character. But even supposing we take this figure, of these 81 lakhs, 50 lakhs have come from West Pakistan and 31 lakhs from East Pakistan. Up till now, from the calculations that I have been able to make, about 35 lakhs of people have been helped—I will not say rehabilitated—in some way or other. So far as persons coming from East Bengal are concerned, who are in West Bengal or in Assam or in other places, out of 31 lakhs the number of the people helped comes to about three lakhs and 50 thousand only. That gives us an idea of the complexity and magnitude of the problem that has yet to be tackled. In other words, according to Government's own figures, about 27 or 28 lakhs of people are still there who have not yet been helped.

With regard to the money which has been spent, namely, about Rs. 107 crores, up to 1950-51 deducting the amount which has been spent on evacuation, office expenditure and relief, you are left with only about Rs. 50 crores which have been spent for rehabilitation or grant of loans, and if you divide that by the number of people that have been helped, the amount comes to the magnificent sum of about Rs. four or five per head, which of course is but very inadequate for rehabilitation.

So far as these people who have come are concerned, they are capable of being utilised to the advantage of the country provided they get a chance to renew their lives in this country. They have come here for no fault of their own. I need not repeat the circumstances under which they have come away to this country. The country was partitioned without their consent and when they found it impossible to live in Pakistan they have come to this country. They are not refugees. They are not strangers. They have as much claim to every inch of Indian territory as any one of us born in India and living in India has.

There must be an integrated plan of rehabilitation. I have pressed this

point before Government previously, especially a year ago. I suggested then that this is one of the matters which the Planning Commission should take up. It is not a question of giving some temporary help to these people alone, but of seeing how to develop a plan of economic reconstruction which will absorb these people in useful occupations along with opportunities which will be held out to people who are residents of India and who are not refugees.

I have witnessed with some concern a growing tension between people who have come as refugees and the local people. I need not go into the cause of it, but it is mostly of an economic character and unless we take good care to see that there is a properly integrated plan of rehabilitation the consequences would be disastrous. Already I see signs of deep frustration, anger and despair. People of course do get desperate when they are hungry; and when they feel that they are hungry and they are poor not on account of their own fault but because of somebody else's bungling, then naturally they get more angry. So the problem has to be treated with great speed and not by merely sending out people from camps. That is an aspect of rehabilitation which has to be borne in mind constantly. You should not merely try to see that somehow the camps are liquidated, and some sort of shelter is found for these people. That is not rehabilitation. I have direct contact with thousands of people and more who are in different parts of the country, and although they may have been housed in some place or other they do not know how to make both ends meet. Their doles have been stopped and literally they are starving.

The question of accommodation of refugees who are now occupying unauthorised land came before this House some time ago and the Bill is now under discussion in a Select Committee. A Bill of a similar nature is also now before the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. I have made it clear on several occasions that the approach to this problem is completely and fundamentally wrong. Here are lakhs of people who have undoubtedly occupied land in an unauthorised manner, but why did they do it? Leave aside the small percentage among these people who may not be bona fide refugees, but the bulk of them are bona fide refugees and because they did not get the assistance and the shelter which they expected from Government they somehow managed to build some sort of structure on land which did not belong to them, in many places developing the land out of their own labours, and they are some-

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

how eking out their existence. We should not bring forward any Bill to evict them but the Bill should really be to rehabilitate them. I see no reason why many of these areas of land cannot be acquired by Government on suitable terms and then leased out or sold to the refugees on equitable basis, so that they may not be turned out of these places and become refugees for a second time. No amount of force will enable any Government, however powerful it may feel, to turn out people from houses which they are occupying today. It will lead to a most chaotic condition which it should be the anxiety of any Government to avoid. I would like an all-India policy to be accepted on this proposition and not allow any particular State Government to proceed in such a way as it considers fit and proper.

With regard to the evacuee properties and compensation for properties left in Pakistan, this matter has been kept undecided for a long, long time. Today we read in the newspapers an announcement made by a Pakistan Minister. He has stated categorically that the Pakistan Government will never accept the proposal made by Government of India that there should be a settlement of this question between Government and Government. That is the only way in which settlement can be made. I need not go into details, but I know from personal knowledge that there are many people who have come away from Pakistan leaving properties there who are anxious to sell their properties; if, as the Pakistan Government says, the only offer that can be made to them is that they can sell their properties by private negotiations, they will not get any buyers at all and this would mean practically that they will have to make a present of properties worth hundreds, if not several of thousands crores of rupees to Pakistan. Today the refusal has come from Pakistan Government. How long, I ask, is our Government going to wait? What is the attitude that the Government is going to adopt on every such matter where a reasonable proposal is made to Pakistan Government and refusal comes from that quarter? We have got into the habit of pleading complete helplessness and saying that we cannot do anything because Pakistan has the last word on the subject. This is a matter in which I had expected that Government would take a firm stand because it will have the approval of people coming from all parts of the country.

With regard to the condition of the refugees today—I am talking of people who have come from East Bengal—

very few of them have actually been rehabilitated. Some accommodation may have been found for them; some loans might have been given to some. But their condition is deplorable. I would, in this connection, specially refer to the condition in Cachar because that is the direct responsibility of my hon. friend the Minister of State for Rehabilitation.

In Cachar a special arrangement was made with the Indian Tea Association for keeping about 3,500 families who were to be given 70,000 acres of land in the tea gardens. The total cost of this scheme was Rs. 17,45,000. The whole scheme is enunciated in the Government memorandum which has been circulated to the House. Now already ten lakhs of rupees have been paid to the Indian Tea Association. The full report which I have received about conditions in Cachar, which I shall duly hand over to the hon. Minister, indicate a most deplorable and alarming state of affairs in that area. It appears that none has got the minimum of three acres of land which was promised by the Government of India and mentioned in this memorandum. Out of about 14,000 people that were sent there, more than 2,500 have been forced to run away; 600 have died during the last few months suffering from preventable diseases, malnutrition and other circumstances. The picture which I got about the conditions in Cachar, especially the way in which this scheme of rehabilitation in the tea estates is being worked out, for which every penny is being found by the Government of India, certainly indicates a most alarming state of affairs. I would request the hon. Minister to pay his personal attention to this matter. I know he went there in January last and I have before me extracts of comments he has made about the unsatisfactory nature of things there. But two months have since passed and things have further deteriorated.

Similarly, with regard to other conditions of rehabilitation in that area, charges of corruption and nepotism had been made in a welcome address which was presented to the Minister himself. I do not know what action the Minister took. But the allegations are of a serious nature and the matter cannot be left there. I regret that such allegations are being made not in Cachar alone, but in various other places outside Assam. Applicants are harassed. Charges of bribery, delay and all sorts of allegations are made against people whose res-

ponsibility it is to disperse funds. Now we are spending crores of rupees for keeping up a very big administrative machinery to do this work and if such allegations are made against our own men, it is a matter of deep regret and humiliation undoubtedly.

One other matter to which I should like to refer is about giving rights of citizenship to the refugees. Now this is a matter on which I know Members of the House feel very strongly and more than one hundred Members belonging to all sections had sent a letter to the Prime Minister a few months ago requesting that rights of citizenship, as also voting rights should be given to these refugees. Broadly speaking, the position is this. At present only those who came from East Bengal before 18th July 1949 were entitled to become citizens. I had a personal discussion with the Law Minister and also Prime Minister and we worked out a scheme and gave it to Government. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that if Government genuinely intended to give these facilities to the refugees there was no practical or insuperable difficulty in their way. The elections would not have been postponed and the whole thing would have gone through. The House would have accepted such a Bill without any hesitation and almost without discussion. It is not yet too late, because the House is still in session and we strongly urge upon Government that this question of giving citizenship rights and voting rights to eligible refugees who had come to India after 18th July 1949 and have no intention of going back to Pakistan should be taken in hand. This will have a tremendous psychological change in the mind of these sufferers. What is their position today? They are not going back to Pakistan. They are here; they have been here for the last two years, and yet they are not considered Indian citizens. It is not a satisfactory state of things. I hope the Government will be able to take up this matter in hand in right earnest.

Lastly, let me sound a note of warning. I know that the Government have spent about Rs. 107 crores. Including Rs. 35 crores provided this year, the total amount spent will come to about Rs. 142 crores. It is not a small sum considering the financial position of the Government. But it is a paltry sum considering the magnitude of the problem that has to be tackled. Where is this money to come from? Some of us had suggested that there may be a special rehabilitation tax imposed. We had even suggested that

the question of imposing a capital levy should be seriously examined by Government. A suggestion was made that we may even re-impose the salt duty, if necessary, for the purpose of raising money for tackling this problem. It is not a mere social problem; it is not merely an economic problem—it is a big political problem, a human problem, and the moral responsibility of the Government is there. The leaders who adorn the benches of the Government today and also Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had given a definite assurance to people living in Pakistan that if they were compelled to come away for any sufficient cause, they would not be let down and they would be rehabilitated. This is a responsibility which the people of India have to face. What about demanding compensation from Pakistan? Why should we not be able to make it an international issue? At every time the Pakistan Government accuses us of doing something wrong. But here is a Government which fails to give protection to millions of its citizens who were compelled to come away to India in utter violation of the spirit of partition. You cannot allow Pakistan to take full advantage of this situation and become richer at the cost of these sufferers. So, the money has to be raised: either it has to be found from Pakistan or it has to be raised by taxation. But there must be a big approach made by Government; the money which has been provided for will be utterly inadequate to meet the needs of the situation which is bound to worsen if the present unsatisfactory state of affairs continues for some time longer.

The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): It is now over three and a half years that the problem of relief and rehabilitation presented itself. Though during all this period great efforts have been made, honest and sincere efforts, to effectively solve this problem, yet even after the lapse of this long period we are far away from a complete solution of this problem. Nevertheless, a good deal has been done. Sincere efforts have been made, as I said, to solve this problem. Huge amounts of money have been spent and very splendid work in its own way has been done. But a very great deal still remains to be

[Shri J. R. Kapoor]

done. Though I hold this view, that very much yet remains to be done and that only a fringe of the problem has been touched, I do not agree with my hon. friend Lala Achint Ram that the refugees are feeling so much desperate that about 90 per cent. of them have become against the Government or the Congress. I would join issue with him when he holds that view. I have had occasion to be with the refugees, I have mixed with them freely. I know that many of them are bitter against the Government. I know that their grievances are genuine. I know they feel, and feel very strongly and rightly too, that as much as should have been done has not been done. But yet they are practical people. They take a realistic view of things. They are men of strong commonsense and they realize it full well that even what has been done already could be done only by this Government and none else. I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that when the next General Elections come, realistic people as the refugees are, they will lend whole-hearted support to the candidates who are put up by the Congress, though at the same time they will urge on them that they should espouse their cause more and more.

This problem has been tackled during these three and a half years by three successive Ministers each putting the best in him to solve this problem. Even then if it has not been satisfactorily solved it is not because of any lack of earnestness on their part or lack of earnestness on the part of the devoted assistants and workers in the Ministry but because of the vastness and the complexity of the problem which defies easy and rapid solution. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena made a bold bid when he accepted this portfolio with optimism and determination to liquidate the problem within the short space of two years. After the period of two years when he found that he was a little too optimistic and that he could not liquidate this problem he resigned and set a very high standard of public life. Knowing him and his work as we do, that he devoted himself very sincerely and earnestly to this problem, I am sure all of us have nothing but admiration for the good and great work that he did. He acquired a great deal of experience and I still hope and trust that the experience which he had gained and his services will still be available to the refugees. I have had occasion to look into a report which he submitted to the hon. the Prime Minister, and therein he has

given very valuable suggestions as to how this work should further be proceeded with, and I hope the hon. Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain will spend some time in going through these recommendations and will profit by them.

After Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena this portfolio has been taken over by our friend Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain about whom I would say that he has taken very great courage in accepting this office, for it is an office which is not a bed of roses but a bed of thorns and every Rehabilitation Minister should expect more criticism, even condemnation and abuses, rather than appreciation of his work, because, in the very nature of things, in the very nature of the problem it is such that it is almost impossible to give complete satisfaction to the displaced persons. Their sufferings have been so great and their losses have been so tremendous that it is impossible to rehabilitate them in their old positions. But nevertheless we hope and trust that greater success will attend the efforts of Mr. Ajit Prasad Jain than was achieved by his predecessors. From what we have seen of him during the last eight or nine months and what we have seen of his work we feel encouraged to entertain this hope and belief.

This problem of rehabilitation, vast and complex as it was, was made still more difficult during the last year by the influx of a very large number of displaced persons from East Bengal. At one time it appeared that we were going to be faced with another problem of the same magnitude as faced us...

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): Of a greater magnitude.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Or of a greater magnitude, as my hon. friend Mr. Hussain Imam says, than the problem with which we were faced in the year 1947. And it is a matter of very great satisfaction and relief to us that the very wise step which our hon. Prime Minister took in entering into what is now called the Nehru-Liaquat Pact was taken whereby for the present that catastrophe has been avoided. I use the expression 'for the present' because we know that the hostility of the Pakistan Government against the Hindus is of such an acute nature that we do not know at what particular moment this catastrophe might virtually be revived. We must therefore be always on our guard. As a matter of fact, this exodus from East Pakistan has been going on ever since the time of partition and about the end of 1949 we had so many as about 20 lakhs of refugees already coming over to India and thereafter, during this year, we

and according to the statement given to us that about 36 lakhs of refugees came from there, though a good many lakhs returned, and the ultimate figures according to the report are that about 31 lakhs of refugees are still in India from East Pakistan. I am inclined to think that this is an under-estimate, for if up to the end of 1949 20 lakhs had come and 18 lakhs more have now come I do not see why we should not put this figure at about 40 lakhs. But whether it is 31 or 40 lakhs the figure is big enough. Whatever the figure it shows that the problem of refugees from East Bengal is an acute one, and a very acute one. Yet we hear so little of it. Why is it? The first reason is that Bengal is so far away from Delhi and the people there have not had the advantage of the ear of the Government as the refugees from West Pakistan have. The second reason is it must be said to their credit that they are suffering in silence in Bengal. There is yet another reason why we do not hear so much of them, and that is that the attitude of the Bengal Government and the attitude of the neighbouring States that is, Assam and Orissa Governments has not been very sympathetic. Those State Governments try to minimize the problem as much as they can. In so far as Assam is concerned we find that they are not prepared to rehabilitate as many refugees from East Pakistan as they are capable of rehabilitating. A lot of land is lying fallow there which is not allotted to the refugees. We find almost the same position in West Bengal. The whole problem is a problem of politics and they are mixing up the question of rehabilitation of refugees with political considerations. They are afraid that if more refugees from East Bengal are rehabilitated there they will have an upper hand in the political situation of the Province. It is a thousand pities that these political considerations are allowed to stand in the way of this humanitarian work.

I find that so far as relief in camps in West Bengal is concerned, a paltry expenditure of about Rs. three per week per person is spent and in the case of a child Rs. two per head is spent. I am sure that the House would agree that it is too small and it must necessarily be increased. So far as the allotment of land in West Bengal to the East Pakistan refugees is concerned, I find that only about 9½ lakhs of refugees have been allotted land. I understand that about 80 to 85 per cent. of the refugees coming from East Pakistan are agriculturists and I see no reason why more land should

not be allotted to them, particularly in the State of Assam.

So far as the housing problem of those refugees is concerned, I find that only about 1½ lakhs of persons are being given accommodation either in Bihar, Orissa or Assam and that about 22 lakhs of refugees are still without any suitable accommodation. My suggestions in this connection are, that the Central Government firstly should devote more attention to this problem and secondly, they must persuade the State Government of West Bengal and the neighbouring States to spend more money and take greater care of the refugees within their States and I would also suggest that a very senior officer should be deputed in West Bengal to look after this problem. I know that a branch Secretariat has been established there. I would suggest very senior officers should be appointed there and if possible, a Deputy Minister may be appointed there. (Interruption). It is not for me to say what are the functions of that branch office. My hon. friend might put that question to the hon. Minister. In this connection, I would particularly draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State for Rehabilitation to the very unsatisfactory state of affairs that prevail in the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. I have two grievances against that. Firstly, that it is moving.....

Shri A. P. Jain: On a point of order, Sir, I have to inform my hon. friend that the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is under the Ministry of Finance and I am not in a position to answer the charges that my hon. friend may choose to level against it. He will have an opportunity to speak on the Rehabilitation Finance Administration when the budget of the Finance Ministry comes up.

Shri J. E. Kapoor: I am amazed at my hon. friend taking refuge under the plea that it is not under his Ministry.

An Hon. Member: He is a refugee Minister and therefore he takes refuge.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's time is nearly up. He has got one minute more. If he replies to this aspect of the matter, he will not have time to deal with the more important points which he may wish to bring out.

Shri J. E. Kapoor: I will not then waste more of my time in dealing with the Rehabilitation Finance Administration but will draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing, that is, he should try to bring this

[Shri J. R. Kapoor]

Administration under his Ministry so that he may be effectively able to deal with the question of the grant of loans by this Administration to the refugees. I make this suggestion, particularly because of two reasons. There is a very great delay in the disbursement of loans and the expense ratio is very heavy. About 2½ crores have been disbursed, though it was excepted to grant loans to the extent of Rs. ten crores, and if it goes at this speed, **it will take two or three years to disburse all that amount.** We have in

Hindi a proverb: "का बरसा जब कृषि सुखाने" "Of what avail is the rain when the crops have dried up?" Of what avail will all this amount of rupees ten crores be, if it is disbursed after two or three years?

I would crave your indulgence for two minutes for enumerating two or three points. One is with regard to services. I find from the report that 15,000 posts were reserved for the refugees in the Railways but actually only about 7,000 posts have been given to the displaced persons. I see no reason why the balance of 8,000 posts should not be filled by these persons. It is no use again my hon. friend saying that he does not deal with the Railway administration. But if he wants to take credit for all the persons who have been taken in the Railways in this report, I see no reason why he should not see to it that all the displaced persons get what is their rightful due. After all the Government is one united Government and there is joint responsibility.

With regard to services, I have one more point to urge on the hon. Minister and that is that those permanent Government servants who were under the Central Government during the pre-partition days have been permanently fixed up and almost everybody who was in the State Government service in the Punjab has been given permanent post either in East Punjab or under the Central Government, but those permanent Government servants who have come from Sind, N.W.F.P. or Bahawalpur have not yet been offered permanent posts. It is no use saying that it is the responsibility of the Home Minister. I would submit that this is as much the responsibility of the Rehabilitation Ministry because theirs is the responsibility to see that every displaced person is properly rehabilitated.

The last thing that I have to say is with regard to the claims and the question of compensation. I find from this report that it is proposed to appoint about 200 claims officers so

that the claims may be more speedily disposed of. I submit we have already spent a good deal of time and so far a very small number of applications have been disposed of and I wonder why it did not strike the hon. Rehabilitation Minister to appoint 200 officers or even more officers earlier. Even if 200 officers are appointed, I am sure it will take about two years' time to adjudicate their claims. I would suggest that about 400 or 500 or even more officers may be appointed so that this whole question may be settled as expeditiously as possible. I do not think that there would be much difficulty in securing the services of a large number of suitable claims officers; and side by side, I would suggest that the question of evaluating the evacuee property should also be taken in hand because after all, ultimately it is from the money that we get from the evacuee property that compensation will have to be paid and if we take up that question after all the claims and the applications have been adjudicated, then it will mean another year or two. I therefore, submit that the question should go hand in hand so that if at any stage the Government is so disposed as to grant any compensation, that question may be easily disposed of. I have only the last word to say.....

Mr. Chairman: May I just remind the hon. Member that he has taken almost 20 minutes and there are many other hon. Members anxious to speak?

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Then, I close, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): If I say a few words of criticism about the activities of the Government in tackling this problem, it would not be in a spirit of carping criticism. I know the enormity of the problem. I know what they have done. I know of no State which has, at its birth, been faced with such a huge problem. It may also be said that any other party forming a Government in India would not have been able to do anything better than what this Government have done. But, at the same time, I know that there are many things yet to be done. The money that has been spent, I should say, has not been spent wisely and prudently and economically. Much has been wasted on secretariat and establishment charges; much has been wasted simply by way of giving temporary relief without making any arrangements for permanent rehabilitation. All these have added to the miseries of these people. I should like to limit my observations to as far as the displaced persons from East Bengal are concerned.

Their number has been given here as 31 lakhs. We have been told in some of the Government publications that 50 lakhs from Western Pakistan and 49 lakhs from Eastern Pakistan was the number of refugees coming to India. Out of these 49 lakhs, Government has calculated that 18 lakhs have gone back. I do not know how the Government has arrived at this calculation. I have been observing the statistics published in the papers weekly of the coming and going of Hindus and Muslims. I have also taken figures from the Government. I have been able to see that on an average about 700 or 800 persons have been going to East Bengal in excess of the persons coming from East Bengal to India, I mean amongst the Hindus. This process has been going on since October, for the last six months. Even taking the figure to be one thousand a day, it means 30,000 a month and in six months, we would get hardly two lakhs or 1,80,000 to be more precise. I do not know how the Government has arrived at the figure of 18 lakhs. I would not have dragged this mathematical puzzle before this House; but I have done this only because I have a suspicion in my mind that consciously or unconsciously Government's mind is working in a way to minimise the enormity of the problem. It may not be a conscious process. It may be simply something like a reflex action, unconsciously recoiling before something horrible and terrible. But this ostrich-like attitude can lead only to disaster and more failures. If we do not take a correct estimate of the problem, then, all our estimates must fall short of the requirements, our steps would be wrong and they would only add to the injury and misery of these people.

This returning of Hindu migrants from West Bengal to East Bengal, or even of Muslims returning from East Bengal to West Bengal, has been cited here as evidence of the success of the Delhi Pact. Our Government has been feeling somewhat satisfied. But, this is only a sort of political sadism that has taken possession of this Government. They do not count the human suffering that is involved in this process, as if they are no human beings; as if they have no sense of their own, have no sentiment or feeling, of their own and have no sense of suffering. Forty-nine lakhs of people, uprooted, coming from that side and then again being pushed out to the other side: is it a pleasant picture? Throughout my life I have been averse to thinking in terms of communities or denominational religions. I feel as much for the suffering of the Hindus

as for the Muslims who have been undergoing this ordeal, by our taking this way of a political experiment. I wish the Government should make up its mind and take a definite step in this matter. It is a deliberate process of purging out these unfortunate refugees, making conditions impossible and intolerable for them so that they may go away. I would beg of this Government to disabuse their minds of this habit. The other day, the Prime Minister said in this House that we have accepted Partition. We have accepted Partition on the basis of two religions. It is no use denying that fact. We should take the responsibility boldly and courageously.

As far as the refugees from East Bengal are concerned, what has been done for them? Out of 107 crores so far spent, only last year, 14 crores were spent for the East Bengal refugees. Before that, there was practically no expenditure on their account. Up to the middle of 1948, Government have been persistently denying the existence of any such problem. That was also due to their political experimenting or due to their automatic reflex action of their mind to avoid the problem. These East Bengal refugees have now naturally become a drag on the Government. When refugees came from West Pakistan, the financial condition of the country was much better and there was a store of political enthusiasm and a store of goodwill for them. But, now, there has been frustration, political and economic, and there has been a complete setback in our economic conditions. So, that store of goodwill and sympathy is lacking when the East Bengal refugees have come over to this side. This is particularly to be seen in the treatment that is being meted out to them by the neighbouring States.

I may recall that when the West Pakistan refugees came over, some eastern provinces were kept apart and these refugees were not brought to these eastern States so that if any refugees should come from East Pakistan, those States might be reserved for them. Among these States are Assam, Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. Assam has now 179 lakhs acres of culturable waste land, Bihar 51 lakhs acres, Orissa 35 lakh acres and West Bengal 25 lakhs acres. In all, 265 lakh acres of culturable fallow land are available in these four provinces. Even if ten per cent. of this land is reserved for these refugees, it would come to 26.5 lakh acres. I think that would be tolerably sufficient for these refugees. But, due to some political misapprehension, due to some lingui-

[Shri A. C. Guha]

tic controversy, practically these East Bengal refugees have no other place to go except West Bengal. I would beg of the Members coming from other provinces to consider this question. I think none in Bengal would raise the question now of linguistic redistribution of the country. Personally speaking, I am averse to that controversy. India is one unit, a composite nation. Eleven languages have been recognised in our Constitution. So each State may have more than one language within its boundary.

3 P.M.

So I feel that there should not be any linguistic distribution of the country. But this assurance can be given to the neighbouring provinces that at least on the score of these refugees coming over to those States no such demand or question would be raised. If any question of linguistic distribution on an all-India basis comes before the House or before the Government that will be a separate question. But I would beg of the other provinces, particularly those three to which I have made reference that the refugees of East Bengal deserve better treatment from them. Most of these refugees coming from East Bengal—or I should say a good portion of them—belong to the middle-class Hindus and if anybody would care to go into the history of our national struggle for independence during the last fifty years, he would see that no other community or no other section of the people of India have suffered more than these people of East Bengal, these East Bengal middle-class Hindu families, for the political liberation of our country. And even now they continue to suffer and keep on struggling, simply because they accepted partition of India, knowing full well from their experiences during ten years of Muslim League rule there what lot would await them. Yet they accepted the partition of India so that the rest of India might be free. I hope this vicarious sacrifice on the part of these refugees would appeal to our neighbouring provinces and induce them to give the help that these refugees need so much.

I would next touch upon one or two particular grievances of the refugees. The Government reports show that there are only two townships for East Bengal refugees, one is at Habra and the other at Fulia. Government can hardly claim Habra as a township set up by the Government. It is a case of automatic growth without

any plan or scheme and without even any Government help; and even up till now Government has done almost nothing to give it the characteristics of a township. There is no municipality, no dispensary and not even communication with Calcutta. They have been trying for just a bus-service to Calcutta and also a dispensary and a municipality, but these have yet to come. If Government want this to be a township, at least these things should be afforded.

The refugees in Silcher are a direct responsibility of the Government and my predecessor Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee also referred to them. During the last so many days I have been in touch with the hon. Minister of State for Rehabilitation and I have received some twenty telegrams and some letters depicting the horrible lot of these refugees. The Minister himself spoke at some interview or press conference on 11th January, 1951 about them, and said that the work done by the Tea Association was wholly unsatisfactory. Three acres of land were to be given to the refugees, but all that was done was to give about one acre and that too in most hilly and uncultivable places, even though there was good land available. I would ask the hon. Minister to give authority to the Controller to acquire land and to see that the right sort of land is acquired and given to the refugees. There has been no proper scheme for a township there. The Government figures are that in 1950 there have been 3,63,000 refugees in Assam, excluding 1,05,000 who have gone back. Before 1950 there were at least three to four lakhs of refugees from East Bengal who had come to Assam. And so in all there must be at least five or six lakhs of refugees in Assam and a lot of them are in Cachar. Therefore there is the greatest need to develop proper townships there with all the amenities that have been provided for the other fifteen or sixteen townships that have been opened by the Government for the West Punjab refugees.

And now I will make a brief reference to what appeared in two local newspapers of Cachar—*Janashakti* and *Purbachal* about things in Ghungur camp and Ramkrishnagar camp. Certain things are reported about these camps to which I would not have referred, but for the fact that these have been published in those local papers. I would request the hon. Minister to make a thorough enquiry into these allegations as the honour of our womenfolk is involved in these allegations.

Lastly let me just point out—for there is not time enough—that in Cachar there are a large number of fishermen and there is very great scope for starting fisheries there. But nothing has yet been done. Something should be done in this direction soon.

Previous speakers have mentioned the fact that three Ministers have one after another come and taken over this Department. I do not know if the two predecessors have left office sadder and wiser too, so that they should not again rush into such a position into which the present incumbent Shri Ajit Prasad Jain has rushed.

Mr. Chairman: Sardar Hukam Singh.

Sardar Hukam Singh (Punjab): Sir.....

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभापती जी,
अपनी दृष्टि को उधर से इधर भी जाने दीजिये ।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar): Sir, kindly let your eyes also move from there to here.]

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member is not entitled to make that reflection on the Chair. The Chair has to look to the fact that the debate is as full as possible and that all sections of the House are given opportunities. This is a direct reflection on the Chair.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : जी हाँ, यह तो सदस्यों को मालूम होगा कि उन को कहने का भी हक है और आप को उन की सुनना भी चाहिये ।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Yes Sir, the Members are aware of the fact that they have a right to speak and you should also listen to them.]

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member made a remark and I have not asked him even to withdraw that remark; but I must say, he should not have made this remark now.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : मालूम होगा तो हज़ूर कहना ही होगा ।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Certainly Sir, if we know it, we shall speak it out.]

Sardar Hukam Singh: How I feel at this moment when taking up this subject has been aptly described in a few lines by a Persian poet. It has been translated as: "There is such anguish in my heart that if I utter it, it will blister my tongue; were I to suppress it, I fear it will burn up the very marrow of my bones." Therefore,

there is conflict within myself whether I should allow my tongue to blister or permit my bones to be burnt. It certainly is a painful subject and I need not go into the details of this case. Really it has been discussed so many times here that perhaps some hon. Members might even feel that it is a waste of time going over the same story again and again. But it is not a question of whether this has been done and whether that has been left undone. I am not accusing any particular official or Minister here at this stage. I have every praise for our Minister of State for Rehabilitation and I know that he is doing his very best. I do realise that he has his handicaps and difficulties. But what I wonder is why Government has not been able so far during the last three and a half years to decide what is to be done for these refugees. That is the root cause of all the trouble. The Government is not clear in its own mind what steps are to be taken. There has always been controversy about one thing or the other. Schemes have been devised and given up subsequently, promises have been made and broken ultimately. *(Interruption).* But this section of the nation which was uprooted for no fault of theirs came here with certain hopes and now feel within themselves that they have been sacrificed for winning the freedom in the larger interests of the country. They thought that they would get solace and comfort which they needed at that hour and I do not deny that there was sufficient consideration in the beginning, when they were embraced and given relief, alms or charity. They are thankful to the country for that but what has been agitating them most is the question what is going to be their ultimate fate. If they had been told from the very beginning that they would get the rehabilitation that is being given now perhaps they would not have grumbled so much. If I may be permitted to say so, rehabilitation has meant to a large extent liquidation of camps and people have been driven out from one camp to another in the hope that they would be given some refuge or shelter or rehabilitation at a different place. When adequate arrangements are not provided they have only to find for themselves in the other place. Some people were accommodated at these places but others had to roam about.

Within the limited time at my disposal I can only say that this Government should make up its mind whether there is to be rehabilitation of the kind that we find in Delhi and in other provinces or whether it is to be rural rehabilitation with 90 per cent of the people settled on uneconomic hold-

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

ings. It is said that about three lakhs of people have refused to go to the villages and are hovering about in towns trying to find labour to maintain themselves and their children. Is this to be the rehabilitation that they have to get ultimately or there is to be some compensation for the losses that they have suffered for the sake of their country. This question has been before this Government and our leaders from the very beginning. But their policy on that point has been vacillating, conflicting, wavering and indecisive. Even in March 1949 there was a resolution passed by the All India Refugees Association that compensation should be paid and some method should be devised whereby funds can be raised so that these unfortunate or unlucky people might be compensated to some extent. That resolution was sent to our hon. and worthy Prime Minister but that time the reply came that it was doubtful or open to question whether these refugees were entitled, morally or legally, to any kind of compensation. There was then a stir in the minds of the refugees and there was an uproar and cry. The Government therefore set itself to the task of solving this problem of evacuee property with the Pakistan Government. Six conferences were held and ultimately in June 1949 they came to the conclusion that there was no hope of getting anything out of Pakistan, who had grabbed all the property left behind by us. The only course left was to convene a conference here at Delhi and there were certain non-official representatives also there. Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, the hon. Minister, I should say our super-Minister, gave us a definite undertaking that compensation would be paid. He said that nobody denied that responsibility but that it was a different question whether it would be in the form which would be to the liking of the displaced persons. He further said that it can be made up of three parts: (1) the evacuee property left behind by the Muslims. (2) the sum that we can get out of Pakistan, and (3) the contribution that this Government would make towards that fund. It was so clear that no doubt was left. And subsequently too, these assurances were given by that Minister as well as the Rehabilitation Minister on many occasions.

Then on the 9th February 1950 a private Member's resolution was moved here that some kind of taxation might be levied, so that funds may be raised and at least 50 per cent of these

losses might be made good. The House would not agree to it and it was turned down. Then an assurance was given that compensation would be paid and that our attempt would be to get it out of Pakistan, that these refugees should have to wait patiently and that the Government was trying its utmost in the matter. This liability was not denied even at that moment.

Since then we have been waiting for something to materialise out of these assurances but all our hopes have been shattered by the recent statement of the Prime Minister during this Refugee Ministers conference. He has said that nobody should even talk of this word compensation: it was not congenial to his ears. He said that he had the strongest objection to the use of the word compensation in this connection except in the sense of compensation with the property left in India by Muslim evacuees and what India might possibly get from Pakistan in future in a Government to Government settlement. He had made himself very clear in these terms and it was quoted in the *Hindustan Times* of the 12th November.

And now, as was referred to by my hon. friend Dr. Mookerjee, we have seen in the papers that Mr. Qureshi, the Pakistan Minister for Rehabilitation, has made it clear that Pakistan can never agree to a Government to Government settlement. So this is out of the question now and I may further add that this has been the attitude of Pakistan from the very beginning. There was no doubt about it and we have been deceiving ourselves, our leaders have been trying to deceive others perhaps or deceive themselves that they ever depended on the hope that they would be able to get something out of Pakistan. We have been crying here and I myself have said it so many times, that there is no hope of getting anything out of Pakistan.

War, we are not prepared to wage on that issue. That has been made clear. We are a very peaceful and docile people and naturally we do not want war. Quite good. Our negotiations have failed. We have tried to sit around tables and we have been assured that if we had the opportunity to sit around a table we would be able to get something out of them. But every time the representatives of that other country sat across the table with their feet planted on the table against us that nothing has come out of them. (An Hon. Member: Literally?) Yes exactly. So when nothing has come

out of these conferences the position is now made clear by this morning's news that the only solution is that the people might be allowed to sell or exchange their own properties. What fate this would meet or what we can get out of it need not be discussed further. Already the value has been decreased by Pakistan. They are very practical people. They have also said that they are not charging any rent from the properties. We are assured that we have a title to 80 per cent. of the property. Nothing is charged on them and 20 per cent. of the value shown in the registers goes towards collection charges. So there is nothing left for us so far as rent of lands is concerned that also is remitted and it was made clear by their Rehabilitation Minister that rent could not be charged because the people have no capacity to pay more than the land revenue. So we have absolutely no chance of getting anything out of them. Compensation we cannot get from Pakistan. Capital levy we have already been refused though that was the only remedy. No taxes to be imposed, capital levy not to be considered, we cannot get anything out of Pakistan, we have no funds with ourselves. What is left, as was pointed out by Panditji, is that with the evacuee property these refugees can be compensated. But my complaint is that the evacuee property is being reduced by and by so that as little as possible may be left for these refugees—we are very generous in that regard.

If compensation is not to come and if we have to get only rehabilitation, what sort of rehabilitation do we get? That can be illustrated by many instances, but I will take only one. It has been said that so many centres have been opened. Certainly we are grateful to the Government; people have been trained. But I asked a question on it some time ago asking whether it was followed up, whether those who got training were able to get themselves fixed in some business, whether any loan was advanced, whether they were helped to import machinery for industry, in short whether they have been fixed up. But that has not been found out and no answer came as regards that. If I take one instance nearer home, Rajendernagar, then also it will be clear as to how they are rehabilitated. There were 1964 two-roomed tenements and 384 single-roomed tenements built there. About Rs. 55 lakhs were spent and the refugees were told that it had cost Government Rs. 2400 and that if they wanted to buy them they shall have to pay an additional Rs. 375 for overheads and another Rs. 645 as

interest added to it—this is rehabilitation—bringing the total to Rs. 3420 for each tenement. And the very first monsoon rains that came after building resulted in the coming down of several of these tenements. Most of them were damaged, all leaked, and an enquiry was instituted the result of which showed that they were sub-standard tenements intended to be for three years. Now that should be borne in mind. The first intention of the Government was that it would be sending us back to Pakistan, and therefore, even though the war-time hutments which were temporary had a life of ten years, these constructions were made (simply with the idea that they would be able to send us back within three years) to last for about three years! There was no foundation, no plinth at all. It was found on enquiry that the contractors had cheated the Government, that there had been neglect on the part of officials of Government, but no action was taken against the contractors. Government is not prepared to suffer any loss, therefore the neglect of Government officials and the fraud of the contractors has to be borne by the refugee himself.

I would be grateful if I am permitted to continue for a minute or so.

Mr. Chairman: Yes, he may continue for one minute more.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Thank you, Sir. It was suggested that they can buy these on a hire-purchase system and pay all this amount within ten years. The rent that is being charged at present is Rs. 27 for one tenement. This is very noteworthy that these tenements on which Rs. 55 lakhs was spent are not likely to last for more than a couple of years even after proper care is taken—if they are neglected I am sure they would fall at the next heavy rains. Government are prepared to suffer the loss of that Rs. 55 lakhs if these tenements tumble down, but they are not prepared to show any concession to the refugees which would enable these people to look to their interests and maintain these tenements so that they may last at least for some years. But this Government would not do. That is the rehabilitation, that is the approach, that is the sympathy that is being shown. This is not the case in Rajindernagar alone. Such instances can be multiplied by mentioning other colonies as well. The rents charged are very high and when the people find it very difficult to pay and are actually unable to pay, what treatment they get is known to everybody. And we are

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

having a Bill here in the next few days which would make my point very clear. This is how these people are being compensated. My submission, my most humble submission, is that the approach from the beginning has been wrong. We have not been treated as if we were citizens of this country. We have not been accorded that treatment which ought to have been given to us. Sometimes we are unauthorised occupiers, somewhere we are refugees, somewhere we are this and somewhere that. That is the approach, that is the difference. Unless there is a change in the approach I do not think this section of the people who are victims of that partition which was secured in the larger interests of the country can ever feel contented, and unless this section also feels contented I think we should not feel complacent.

Dr. Tek Chand (Punjab): Within the few minutes that I have at my disposal, I can just touch a few points only which require consideration by the House. The first point that I have to draw attention to is that in the report which the Ministry has circulated—printed on very good paper and bound in an attractive cover—there is one word which has been given, if I may say so, an erroneous meaning. With regard to the displaced persons from urban areas it has been stated that so many lakhs have been “rehabilitated”. With the greatest deference to the hon. Minister who presides over the Rehabilitation Ministry, I venture to say that the use of this expression is not happy; it is really a mis-nomer. If he had said that so many persons have been “given shelter”—that they are not shelterless now as many of them were before—one would accept his figure as correct. But to say that so many lakhs of urban displaced persons have been “rehabilitated” is, to say the least, not only an inexactitude of expression but a great exaggeration. Take, for instance, Delhi, where in the city it is stated that over a lakh of displaced persons have been “rehabilitated”. What has been done, however, is that these persons have merely received roofed shelter in evacuee houses. If you go to several of these houses, you will find fifteen or twenty persons huddled in one room. Many of them have got no gainful occupation yet. They are eking out a miserable existence. Several have spent whatever they were able to bring from Pakistan. Others have sold the ornaments and jewellery of their women to maintain themselves and their families. Can you call this rehabilitation? Therefore, this part of the report

should be taken with this qualification. The problem of urban rehabilitation, I venture to say, has really not been tackled so far by Government in a systematic manner as has been pointed by Sardar Hukam Singh. There is no definite plan with regard to the rehabilitation of these persons and this is a matter which requires urgent and immediate attention of the Government.

I fully support the suggestion made by my respected sister, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani, that the distinction between “registered” and “unregistered” refugees should be discontinued. This was, perhaps, necessary when it was introduced, because at that time Government had to supply free rations to many displaced persons who were coming in large numbers, particularly to Delhi. The conditions in East Punjab and other parts of the country were such that Delhi was considered a comparatively safe place. The Ministry, therefore, fixed the 10th of December 1947 as the last date for registration of persons who had come to Delhi from West Punjab and the 28th of February 1948 for persons who came from the N.W.F.P., Baluchistan etc. That was the position at that time, but there is no justification to maintain this distinction at this stage when there is no large scale influx of refugees here. If you go to many parts of the city you will find unregistered refugees whom no kind of assistance has been given during all these years. I may mention only one or two instances. There is a certain place called Mandi Harphool Singh in Delhi. If you go there you will find that in small godowns fifty to sixty persons huddled together in a space which is hardly sufficient to accommodate six or seven persons. It is worse than the Black Hole. But what can those people do? There is no other place for them to go to and, therefore, they are living there. In another place, 400 persons are living in a room, 409 square feet in area! There is no ventilation; no arrangement for sanitary purposes, no baths, nor other amenities. These people are supposed to have been “rehabilitated” in Delhi, and are included in the number given in the report. I ask the hon. Minister whether this is “rehabilitation”. Has he sent any of his men to this place? Is he taking any steps to provide accommodation for such persons, much less gainful employment?

Then there is another place, near Karol Bagh, called Teg Nagar. It is a small hillock on which 300 to 400 refugee families are living in huts and small houses. They have not been assisted or looked after in any way. Some time ago, my hon. friend Lala

Achint Ram received information that several persons living there were ill and without any medical aid. He sent a refugee doctor to examine them and he reported that out of the 37 patients 20 were suffering from T.B.! Our honoured Minister of Health is talking of relief for T.B. patients. But here are these refugees, who have lost their hearths and homes, who have been in Delhi for over three years in this miserable condition uncared, unprovided and unlooked after because they are "unregistered". Can you call this rehabilitation of the urban people? I submit that this distinction of "registered" and "unregistered" should be done away with without delay, as being unnecessary, and arbitrary. The Rehabilitation Ministry should take upon itself the responsibility of supplying accommodation to these persons and rehabilitate them in the real sense of the term.

Then there is a large number of persons who have been living in *dharmashalas* in Delhi. They came here but could not find accommodation except in *dharmashalas*. Many of them came after the fixed date. The managers of the *dharmashalas* took pity on them in the beginning and gave them shelter, but now, with the lapse of time, their sympathy has disappeared and in several places even water and light are denied to them. But they have no place to go to and you will find that in one room 20, 15 or 10 persons are living in most abject conditions. They are all very good citizens fairly well-to-do middle-class people from West Punjab and N.W.F. Province. Nothing has been done for them. I ask the hon. Minister to look after these persons also. The problem of urban rehabilitation is still not solved. Indeed, the fringe of the problem has not yet been touched and it requires very serious and careful consideration. Perhaps, the Planning Commission, which is likely to conclude its labours sometime in May as we were told in the House a few days ago, may be asked to take up the question of urban rehabilitation not only for Delhi but in the whole country, for East Pakistan refugees as well as those who came from West Pakistan. This is one of the urgent and most important problems which should be tackled on a war footing and settled as early as possible.

Again, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani mentioned, that in the matter of eviction from unauthorisedly built houses there should be a "human" touch. I will not go into details because this matter is already before the Select Committee and the House will have an opportunity of discussing it soon. But with regard to the human side of

it, I just want to place three or four instances before the House. I am very sorry that I have to mention them on the floor of the House. On the 19th December 1950, information was received that a number of houses in Patel Nagar No. 2 had been demolished and many of the persons living there had been thrown on the streets. (An Hon. Member: Demolished by whom?) Demolished under orders of the Delhi Administration. We asked the hon. Minister of W.M.P. if that was so and brought it to his notice that a sub-committee of the Select Committee of the Select Committee was sitting and it was understood that no demolition would take place until that Committee had reported. He said that he would make enquiries. After a couple of hours, he told us that his information was that only mud houses, and not *pucca* houses had been demolished that they had been erected during the preceding three months; and that they had been built on a site which had been reserved for a sewage under one of the Improvement Trust schemes. It was agreed that the members of the sub-committee would inspect this site and some of the other sites, on which houses had been built by displaced persons. Accordingly we all went there on the 23rd December. The hon. Minister was there. The Chief Commissioner was there and other officials were there. Six or seven members of the Sub-Committee like you, Sir, Lala Achint Ram, Sardar Hukam Singh, Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor, Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani and myself accompanied. We saw those places, and discovered that none of the houses of which had been demolished was in the line demarcated for the sewage; it was not being constructed there; it was at a distant place. Further, we found that more than one-third of the houses were not mud houses, but were *pucca* houses. As regards the age of the houses, some of the persons concerned showed us ration cards indicating that they had been living there for the last eighteen months or two years, and not for three months as had been reported. In at least four houses, which had been partly demolished we found tin-plates bearing municipal numbers marked "T" which indicated that though the houses were temporary they had been constructed a year or so back. On these facts coming to light, we were assured that this had somehow happened and that there would be no repetition of it. This was on the 23rd of December.

On the 29th of December at about eight o'clock at night when I returned to my house I found waiting some refugees, led by an old Sikh gentleman with a flowing beard. They told me—

[Dr. Tek Chand]

that some officials had come to them the previous day along with the police, and intimated that their houses would be demolished the following day, that is, the 29th. But that happened to be the day of immersion of the late Sardar Patel's ashes at Allahabad and was declared to be a public holiday, and consequently the party did not come. Some members of the demolition squad had, however, visited the locality and had told them that they had postponed the demolition as that happened to be a sacred day. They, however, warned them to shift for themselves by eight o'clock the next morning, that is, the 30th when their houses would be razed to the ground.

I phoned to the hon. Minister of Works, Mines and Power but was told that he had gone to Allahabad for the immersion ceremony and had not returned. The only course for me was to phone to his Deputy and, I did so. He said he would look into the matter. The next morning he informed me that the hon. Minister had returned and he had informed him. I immediately phoned to the Minister and he told me that he would get into touch with the officer concerned. Now that the complaint had reached the proper quarters I felt that something would be done and the houses would not be demolished. But in the evening the refugees again came with the tale of woe that about fifty houses had been demolished without any alternative accommodation being provided and they with their women and children were lying in the open on that cold night.

I will just give an instance of a lady. Her name is Shrimati Gokul Devi, and her house was included among those to be demolished.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has already taken about twenty minutes.

Dr. Tek Chand: Sir, I will finish in a couple of minutes. She was a refugee from Muzzafargarh. She had come here after going from place to place and about eight months back had built a house. She was ill and unable to move. At the entreats of the people collected, a part of her house was demolished and the room in which she was lying was left over for a day. The lady however was so much shocked at the destruction of the part of the house which had been constructed with the money received by sale of her ornaments, that she died that very night shouting "*mera makan, hai mera makan.*" This instance clearly demonstrates how the human touch is singularly lacking in the working of the administrative machinery. I have got other

instances in which children are stated to have died because they were thrown out from demolished houses and had no place to pass the night. It is with great pain that I have been constrained to place these facts before the House.

My hon. friend Sardar Hukam Singh has already mentioned the question of compensation. That, I submit, is the real question which Government must tackle. Some solution must be found with regard to it. You cannot go on tinkering with it and postponing it from time to time, making one statement today and quite a contradictory statement a short time later.

Allied to that matter is the question of "claims". With regard to claims as well we have got a very sad story. I do not want to cast any reflection upon the hon. Minister, or the hon. Members who have been in charge of this Ministry during the past years. But there are certain hard facts which I cannot help saying.

Soon after we came from Pakistan in 1947, it was proclaimed by the hon. Mr. Neogy, the then Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation that every displaced person should lodge his claims. An office was set up here in Delhi and similar offices were set up in other places. People filed their claims. Perhaps some were exaggerated; perhaps others were not—I cannot speak in regard to that. But no notice was taken of these claims. The matter was brought up several times formally and informally to the notice of the Ministry. They said that they were busy with the relief arrangements and that this question would be taken up later. In the conferences which were held in June and July, 1949 this matter was again prominently brought to their notice. In the Conference, presided over by Shri Gopalaswami Ayyangar, I brought up this matter again on the 21st of July 1949. He and Shri Mohanlal Saksena assured us that they were going to take up this matter immediately and they set up a sub-committee of refugees and officials to draw up a scheme for receiving fresh claims. They said that the old claims were exaggerated, as people at that time did not know that making false statements would expose them to any penalty. They said that some legislation would have to be enacted to the effect that persons who filed false claims would be liable to punishment under the Penal Code. The sub-committee submitted its report, but nothing was done till January 1950 when an Ordinance was issued requiring displaced persons to submit fresh claims. In the month of March 1950 a Bill was introduced to

replace the Ordinance and it was passed by the House on the very last day of the Budget session, on the 20th of April 1950. We were assured that the machinery would be set up forthwith.

No doubt it is a complicated matter and a stupendous task. I do not wish to blame anybody. Ultimately claims were invited and were required to be filed before the end of October. Five months have passed but little progress has been made. There are various complications. Red tapism is supreme in the administration. The hon. Minister cannot engage an officer without the concurrence of Finance Ministry, which has got its own cast iron rules which must be followed. Then there is the Home Ministry which has its own rules about the age limit and other matters relating to the employment of persons. The result of all this has been that only about 120 claims officers have been employed so far. The number of properties included in the claims received is said to be between ten lakhs and twelve lakhs. Assuming that one officer is able to dispose of ten claims a day, which itself is a high figure, it will take two years to verify the claims and make the assessment! That will take us to 1953! Then there is the valuation of the evacuee property in India. Some sort of formula will have to be devised for all this. This is the last hope entertained by the refugees who had lost their all in Pakistan and expect that they might be recouped to some extent and get some money with which they could rehabilitate themselves. But delay is destroying this hope also. My suggestion is that the verification of claims should be expedited. You propose to have 100 men or 200 claims officers. I say, engage 500 men or more of the requisite qualifications and expedite the work. The total expenditure will be the same if not less, and I do not see why Finance should object. After all, these are temporary appointments. They are not for ever. Whatever work will be done by 200 men in two years will be done by double that number in one year or less. I again repeat have a target of six months to complete this. From the 1st of April, fix six months to finish it. At least before the elections, before the hon. Mr. Tyagi (whom I see smiling) lays down his office, perhaps to be re-elected and exalted to another office; he should at least see that this work is finished. I ask the Finance Minister who happily happens to be here just now that he should examine this matter with the Minister of Rehabilitation and relax his rules with regard

24 P.S.

to the employment of claims officers. I will also ask the Home Minister and his Department not to apply the same yard-stick in the matter of employment of these temporary officers, who are going to be there for six or eight months, as they apply for employment of permanent hands generally. I repeat it is important and urgent work and must be finished in six months, before the elections begin.

There are other matters also, but I must reserve them for some other occasion.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. B. K. Das.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): Sir, may I know how long we shall sit—till five or beyond five?

Mr. Chairman: The Deputy-Speaker shall decide it. I do not know whether he has already made any pronouncement before the House adjourned.

Shri B. K. Das (West Bengal): The first point I want to deal with is the working of the giving of loans to displaced persons. The hon. the Minister a few minutes back objected to one of our friends referring to the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. The report issued by his Ministry that he has given to us deals with that matter even though the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is under the Finance Ministry, and I think I can deal with that matter even though he does not care to reply to it. So, with your permission, Sir, I shall deal with that matter first.

I have personal experience that the refugees have a genuine grievance about the administering of the giving of loans in the way it is being done. The State Governments are in charge of giving loans up to Rs. 5,000 and the Rehabilitation Finance Administration deals with loans above Rs. 5,000. I will just refer to some facts in order to show how that Department is working. The Rehabilitation Finance Administration Bill was passed in March 1948 and from that time it has been working these two and a half years. The date on which the first application was disposed of was the 21st July 1948. In these thirty months the number of applications disposed of has been 12,550. The number of applications pending on the 1st February 1951 is 7,217. We thus find that the average rate at which applications are disposed of comes to 41½ per month. The number of applications disposed of in January 1951 is 628 and I am informed that matters have improved and nearly 700 applications are being disposed of every month now.

Shri A. P. Jain: On a point of order, Sir, I respectfully submit that the matter which my hon. friend is dealing with does not form a part of the Demands before the House. These Demands relate to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and not to the Ministry of Finance. That matter will come up when the hon. Minister of Finance brings up his Demands. Of course we do not fight shy of replying to the criticism, but the whole point is that things must be done at the proper time. It does not fall under these Demands and the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is not under this Ministry but under the Ministry of Finance.

Shri B. K. Das: May I submit, Sir, that this matter, and many other matters also such as the eviction of unauthorized occupants, settlement in the Andamans, the case of abducted women, all these refer to different Ministries? And am I not entitled to refer to them and say how those things are working inasmuch as all these matters concern the work of rehabilitation of the refugees?

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, after all, we are discussing here Demands Nos. 70 and 71 and this matter is not covered either by Demand No. 70 or 71. But apart from that it is open to a Member to discuss a question of general policy which comes within the ambit of this Ministry. Now, this matter does not come within the purview of this Ministry. The Rehabilitation Finance Administration is being managed by the Finance Department and it will be open to my hon. friend or to any other Member in the House to raise it when that Demand comes up.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: May I submit, Sir, that the task of the Rehabilitation Ministry is very much in the nature of a co-ordinating Ministry? The various things that have to be done to rehabilitate the refugees have to be done in some measure or other by various Ministries. Just as my hon. friend Mr. B. K. Das just now said, the question of abducted women and children relates to the Ministry of External Affairs, the question of construction of houses probably relates to the Health Ministry.

Shri A. P. Jain: No.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: In a general way. Particularly for the refugees it may be so, but the wider question of housing people in Delhi belongs to the Ministry of Health, and so on and so forth. But then the function of the Rehabilitation Ministry is to see that the refugees are properly rehabilitated by getting for them houses, loans, employment, proper medical aid, proper education, and

so on and so forth. If all these things are to be spread over as responsibilities of the different Ministries there is hardly anything left for the Rehabilitation Ministry and probably it will have to be liquidated.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Sir, when the Administration Report of the Rehabilitation Ministry contains this paragraph 28 in which.....

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member need not take the trouble. I am quite conscious of what he is saying. As a matter of fact it is quite true that these two Demands are under discussion at the present moment. But at the same time it is, I should say, common knowledge that the Ministry of Rehabilitation is entrusted with the general task of rehabilitating the people, and in the report that has been circulated all these figures about Rehabilitation Finance Administration are given. Well, the hon. Ministers who are in charge of Finance also are here. If the discussion is such that a reply from them is necessary, they are here to make the reply also. As the general matter of rehabilitation is under discussion I think it is quite relevant to refer to the work of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration also.

Shri B. K. Das: Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me permission to refer to this matter. Anyway I shall be very brief about my reference to this subject.

I was just now submitting that at the rate of progress in disposing of the applications, the 7,217 applications that are pending now will take nearly twelve months to be disposed of—if we do not take into consideration the new applications that are being submitted now. The position is that the applications that have been received on the 1st February 1951 will be disposed of on the 1st February, 1953 and still there will be so many new applications pending as the date of receiving new applications has been extended to 30th June 1951. In reply to a question I was informed that the oldest application which is awaiting disposal dates as far back as 18th August 1948 and this means two years and five months. I do not know why such old applications have not yet been disposed of. The total money sanctioned up to the 1st February 1951 is Rs. 5.45 crores and the total money disbursed up to that date is Rs. 2.02 crores and this is only 38 per cent. of the total loan sanctioned and 62 per cent. of the loans remain unavailed of and we have been informed that when the Inspector goes for inspection work after six months from the date of receiving the application, he generally does not

find the applicant in the address that was given and the delay results in the removal of the applicant who out of despair and frustration removes himself to some other address or some other place where he may find some way to rehabilitate himself, I need not go further into this matter. I think these facts are enough to show that the working of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration is most unsatisfactory and it is causing a great deal of hardship to the applicants who are availing of loans from the Government to rehabilitate themselves.

4 P.M.

The next point to which I want to refer is the liquidation of the camp population. In West Bengal on the 31st January there were 1.62 lakhs of people in several camps and the number was 117. By the end of December 1950 there were 34,000 people in the camps of Jammu and Yole Camp in the Punjab. Reference has been made to the liquidation of the camp population and although I do not want that those people should be sent away without any arrangement for the rehabilitation, I do want that camps should be liquidated as early as possible.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.] In camps the atmosphere is not healthy and the people do not earn by their own exertions. It is an idle life and the sort of life they are compelled to lead there is not conducive especially to the growth of children and young men. So I want that the hon. Minister will take care to see that the camps are liquidated as early as possible. In fact, I was informed in reply to a question that the camp populations will be liquidated by the 31st March 1951, and I hope he is taking good care to see that that target date is kept in mind.

Next, I want to deal with the housing of the displaced persons. Referring to the information that has been placed at our disposal, we find that nearly 70,000 houses have been completed up to the end of 1950. 10,000 residential units have been provided in military barracks. Houses under construction are 22,000 and plots developed for the building of new houses to displaced persons are 26,000. Then with respect to displaced persons from West Pakistan 12 townships are being developed for the accommodation of nearly four lakhs of persons. For the coming year, that is, 1951-52, Rs. 4.4 crores have been set apart for housing purposes. As regards the East Bengal displaced persons, six townships are to be developed for 6,500 families and in West Bengal the number of houses built have been 5,153. In Orissa 1,024. In Tripura 2,573 huts have been built and the number of plots develop-

ed are 24,000 and the houses under construction are 1,500. What I would like to point out is that the number of houses for the displaced persons from East Bengal is very inadequate. I think that no houses have as yet been built in Assam. Some may be under construction but probably none have been yet built and no houses have been built in Bihar also. I hope the hon. Minister will look into this matter and will see that the house building programme is taken up in right earnest regarding the East Bengal displaced persons. We should remember that those who are still here in the different provinces in the Eastern Zone are nearly 31 lakhs according to the figures given from official sources. Although the figures may be very much higher, still taking into consideration that the figure is 31 lakhs, the number of houses is quite inadequate and I should think that no proper attention has been given for the housing of the people from that part.

Another point to which I should like to refer is the development of the Andamans. There is much scope for development of the Andaman Islands. Only a few hundred families have been sent there and the agriculturists, of course, have been given some rehabilitation benefit in those islands. I suggest that a proper planning of the rehabilitation of the people may be conducted and the Andamans may be developed into a good colony, especially for the East Bengal refugees. Although several families have returned from that place, their number is very small and I think that if proper care is taken, the land available there and the gainful occupations that may be provided there will be enough for the rehabilitation of the East Bengal refugees from East Bengal. I would therefore urge that the earliest opportunity should be taken to develop Andamans for the rehabilitation of the East Bengal refugees.

The next point to which I would like to refer is the expenditure incurred for the East Bengal refugees. Out of Rs. 95 crores so far spent, Rs. 16 crores have been spent for the East Bengal refugees. There was a time when it was pointed out that the condition regarding the East Bengal refugees was fluid and no proper plan was adopted for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons from East Bengal. I think the position has sufficiently stabilised now. A proper plan should be chalked out to rehabilitate them. Of course, the Central Rehabilitation Ministry is functioning through the State Governments of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa. But I feel that in some matters, the Central Government may

set up such a machinery that the work of rehabilitation may be expedited.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has already taken 18 minutes.

Shri B. K. Das: I have many other things to say; but I will obey your decision and finish here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long is the hon. Minister likely to take?

Shri A. P. Jain: I may take 45 minutes, Sir.

Shri Hussain Imam: If I may be permitted, Sir, I suggest that we should sit till 5.30 today. This is a very important matter.

Sardar Hukam Singh: The time should be extended to six o'clock, Sir.

Several Hon. Members: No, Sir; we have other engagements.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not able to understand whether it is for or against. Even if we sit till 5.30, only two or three more Members can speak.

Giani G. S. Musafir (Punjab): Sir...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not called the hon. Member.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: There are a lot of things said about or against Assam. I have been standing since morning; I have not got an opportunity to speak. No other Member from Assam has had an opportunity to speak.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): I would like to speak on this, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the House so likes, we will sit till 5.30. At the end of each five minutes, I will ring the bell, so that all Members may have a chance. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.**

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I suggest, Sir, that you may kindly give me the same time that you have given to other hon. Members?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think the hon. Minister may not take 45 minutes. There is more praise than attack.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : जनाब डिप्टी

स्पीकर साहब, मैं आप का बड़ा मशकूर हूँ कि आप ने ऐसे वक्त पर जब कि हाउस में वक्त की ज्यादा गुंजायश नहीं थी, तो भी मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह दरअसल ऐसा मजबूत है जिस की बाबत सरदार हुकम सिंह साहब ने फरमाया कि इस में हर शकस यह चाहता

है कि वह अपने दिल के दर्द का हाउस (House) के सामने रखे। और मुझे बरा भी खुश नहीं है कि जब श्री रामनारायण सिंह और श्रीमती रेणुका रे बहुत ज्यादा स्वाहिसमंद थे इस पर बोलने के, तो मेरे दिल में भी यह स्वाहिस होना स्वाभाविक था कि मैं भी अपने ख्यालात का इजहार करूँ। यह मजबूत दरअसल ऐसा है कि इस के अन्दर इंसान जितना सोचे उतना ही बाबल बन जाता है। एक वक्त था जब सन ४७ में जब यह आफत आई और गवर्नमेंट ने जो इमदाद पंजाब वालों को डिस्प्लेस्ड (displaced) लोगों को दी, वह ऐसी थी, जिस की शायद मिसाल दुनिया में कहीं भी न मिले। लखूआ आदमी चन्द महीनों में इधर से उधर कर दिये गये एरोपेलन से रोटियां पहुँचाई और जब लोगों को रोटी नहीं मिलती थी और बेचरबार थे, तो हमारी नेशनल गवर्नमेंट (national Government) ने यहां पर उन के लिये कैम्पस् (camps) बनवाये और वहां उन को शरण दी और रोटी कपड़ा उन को दिया और वह वक्त ऐसा था कि खुद हम को उम्मीद नहीं थी कि गवर्नमेंट भी शरणार्थियों को इतनी रिलीफ (Relief) दे सकेगी। लेकिन उस समय हमारी नेशनल गवर्नमेंट ने, इस कांग्रेस गवर्नमेंट ने इस क़दर रिलीफ (relief) दिया जिस का कोई ठिकाना नहीं और जिस की कोई मिसाल नहीं मिल सकती। त़क़रीबन डेढ़ वर्ष तक लोगों को मुफ़्त खाना, कपड़ा दिया, और इतना दिया जितना उम्मीद न थी और उस के लिये हम इस गवर्नमेंट की जितनी भी तारीफ़ करें, वह कम है। किसी भी जगह कहीं कोई ऐपीडिमिक (epidemic) ब्रेक (break out) नहीं हुआ और कोई आदमी भूखा नहीं रह पाया और उस के लिये जितनी तारीफ़ की जाय वह थोड़ी है। उस के बाद

जब यह लोग वापिस आये तो मैं उन के पास कम्पों में गया तो उन्होंने हमें बतलाया कि वे इस गवर्नमेंट के बड़े मशकूर हैं कि उन्होंने हम को जीवनदान दिया और ऐसे समय दिया जब कि हम लोगों को उम्मीद नहीं थी कि हम ज़िन्दा हिन्दुस्थान में आ सकेंगे और गवर्नमेंट ने हमारे लिये बड़ा भारी काम किया। मैं जानता हूँ कि ३० नवम्बर से पहले हमारी यह गवर्नमेंट इस क्राबिल नहीं थी कि वह उन लोगों को मार काट से बचा सकती, क्योंकि ३० नवम्बर तक हमारी गवर्नमेंट के पास फ़ौज पर अस्तियारा नहीं थे उस एग्रीमेंट (Agreement) के मातहत जिस को क़बूल कर के शायद हम ने अक्लमंदी का काम नहीं किया और गवर्नमेंट के यह अस्तियार में नहीं था कि ३० नवम्बर के पहले लोगों को फ़ौज के जरिये बचाती। लेकिन जो बाद में गवर्नमेंट ने काम किया उस के वास्ते हमारी गवर्नमेंट बड़ी तारीफ़ की मुस्तहक़ है। जब यह शरणार्थी भाई यहां आये तो स्टेशनों पर लोगों ने उन की बड़ी आवभगत की, उन को हलुवा पूरी खिलाई, आज यह हालत बदली हुई देख कर दिल को बेहद तकलीफ़ होती है। आज के दिन वह हवा ही तबदील हो गई। उस वक़्त जब यह लोग यहां पर आये थे, तो गवर्नमेंट ने ऐलान किया था कि रुपये का जहां तक सवाल है, वहां तक रुपये की कोई परवाह नहीं की जायेगी और उन लोगों को पूरा आराम पहुंचाया जायेगा। तो आज मैं ऐसी बदली और बिगड़ी हुई हालत के वास्ते, गवर्नमेंट को मुबारकबाद नहीं दे सकता। यह दुस्त है कि हमारे होम मिनिस्टर साहब (Minister of Home Affairs) ने और गवर्नर जनरल (Governor General) साहब बहादुर ने वर्षा के दिनों में उन के लिये अपने

मकान खाली कर दिये कि वह लोग वहां पर बस सकें और यह भी सही है कि आन-रेबुल मिस्टर नियोगी, श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना और श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन ने उन के लिये कितनी जाफ़िशानी के साथ काम किया है। लेकिन उन की जाफ़िशानी और सारी गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया (Government of India) की अब तक की कार्यवाही पर गौर करें, तो मालूम होगा कि दरअसल रिपोर्ट में जो सारी बातें लिखी हुई हैं, और उस में जो लिखा हुआ है कि इतने आदमियों को रिहैबिलिटेड (rehabilitate) किया गया है, वह महज़ काग़ज़ पर ही दर्ज है और उस से आगे उस की कोई हकीकत नहीं है, मुझे ऐसा कहने में ज़रा भी ताम्मुल नहीं है। यह गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया की जितनी ख़ूबसूरत पेम्फ़लेटों के अन्दर लिखी हुई हैं, वस सिर्फ़ लफ़्ज़ में ही दर्ज हैं, असलियत में बिल्कुल ग़लत हैं।

अभी चन्द रोज़ हुए मेरी बहिन श्रीमती रामेश्वरी नेहरू ने मुझे एक पत्र भेजा कि मैं जा कर खुद दिल्ली की एक शरणार्थी, बस्ती बस्ती हरफूल सिंह को देखूं। मैं वहां गया और जो कुछ मैं ने वहां अपनी आंखों से देखा, वह उस से कहीं ज्यादा था जो मैं ने सीआलदह और रानाघाट कैम्पस में देखा था। वह इस क़दर ख़राब हालत में था, कि जहां इंसान के रहने क्राबिल नहीं था और जो हालत मैं ने वहां पर रहने वालों की देखी, अगर उस की फ़ोटो मैं हाउस के सामने खींचूं, तो मुझे यकीन है कि आप के दिल दहल जायेंगे। मेरी हर एक हाउस के मेम्बर से दस्तबस्ता गुज़ारिश है कि वह बस्ती हरफूल सिंह जा कर वहां की हालत खुद अपनी आंखों से देखें और गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया ने सन् ५० तक ८० करोड़ रुपया और अब करीब एक अरब और सात

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब]

करोड़ रुपया जो खर्च किया, उस का अस्ल में लोगों को कितना फायदा पहुंचा है। वहां पर बड़े गोदाम नौ हैं और छोटे गोदामों का तो कोई ठिकाना नहीं। एक बड़े गोदाम में जिस का रकबा ९०० मुरब्बा गज है, उस के अन्दर ६२ फ़ैमिलीज (families) रहती हैं, यानी तीन से लेकर सोलह आदमी एक एक कुम्बे के वहां रहते हैं और, औसत ६ आदमी एक कुटुम्ब के हैं, और इस के मानी यह हुए कि करीब साढ़े तीन सौ, चार सौ आदमी नौ सौ मुरब्बा गज में रहते हैं, वह गोदाम थे जिस में बोरियां भरी जाती थीं, और उन गोदामों में हवा का दाखिला नहीं है, वहां पर रोशनी का प्रवेश नहीं है, वहां कोई बीच में परदे की दीवार नहीं है, ऐसी जगह वह ६२ फ़ैमिलीज रहती हैं और मुझे इस हाउस में कहने की जरूरत नहीं है कि इस का उनकी सित पर क्या असर पड़ रहा है और उनके मोरेल्स (morals) पर कितना बुरा असर पड़ता है। उन के पास रोशनी नहीं है, और पानी का कोई माकूल इन्तजाम वहां पर नहीं है। सारे मुहल्ले में सिर्फ दो नलके हैं, और उन के बच्चों को मैं ने देखा, वह इधर उधर मारे मारे फिरते हैं, आवारा की तरह, उन की तालीम के लिये कोई भी इन्तजाम नहीं है और वह बच्चे जो हमारे मुल्क का सरमाया नाब हैं, वह ऐसे लावारिस से फिरते हैं जैसे उन का कोई पुरसां हाल न हो, उन की हालत को देख कर रोंगटे खड़े हो जाते हैं। वह ऐसी जगह पर रहते हैं, जहां पर रोशनी का नाम नहीं है, उन के पास किचन (kitchens) नहीं है और उन को अपनी खरियात को बाहर जा कर पूरा करने का कोई माकूल इन्तजाम नहीं है।

Lala Achint Ram : There are hundreds of cases like that.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : ऐसी सूरत में ताज्जुब की बात है कि वहां पर कैसे रोटी पकाई जाती है, किचन न होने की वजह से रात दिन धुआं भर रहा है, उस जगह हवा का गुजर नहीं, रोशनी का गुजर नहीं। वहां पर वह लोग गये हैं, जो बेवा ह, जिन की कोई आमदनी नहीं है, और वह वहां पड़ी हैं और क्या श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन ने कभी वहां जा कर उन की हालत को देखा है? मुझे मालूम है कि हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब कभी कभी खुफिया तौर पर जा कर कहीं कहीं की हालत खुद देख लेते हैं, तो मैं नेहायत अदब से उन से अर्ज कलंगा कि वह वहां तशीरफ़ ले जायें और देखें कि वहां लोग कितनी बुरी हालत में रह रहे हैं। और आप का यह कहना कि हम ने १४ लाख आदमियों को बसा दिया, मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि वह आप का बसाना हरगिज बसाने के असली अर्थ में दुरस्त नहीं है और वह दरअसल में कोई रिहैबिलिटेशन (rehabilitation) का काम नहीं है।

मैं रिहैबिलिटेशन (Rehabilitation) के माने यह समझता हूं कि उन को जरिया माश दिया जाय, उन को रहने के लिये मकान दिये जायें। अगर यह दोनों चीजें नहीं मिलती हैं तो वह कोई रिहैबिलिटेशन नहीं है। लेकिन जो लोग आप के कैम्पों (Camps) में आते हैं उन को अपनी ज़िन्दगी बसर करना मुशकिल है जैसा आज मेरे दोस्त लाला अचिंत राम ने बतलाया कि कैम्पों से ६०० आदमी बाहर लाये गये बसाने के लिये और उन में से ५९० लोग ऐसे हैं जिन के पास कोई जरिया माश नहीं है। मेरे लायक दोस्त कहते हैं कि यह छुई मुई डिपार्टमेंट (Department) है जो कोई बड़ा से आता है वह छुई मुई की तरह खत्म हो जाता है। बसतीशे सतराय में पांच

सौ लोग गये लेकिन वहां जात ही उन का इधर उधर आना जाना बन्द हो गया क्योंकि ट्रांसपोर्ट (Transport) का इन्तजाम नहीं था और उन की रोजी खत्म हो गई। इस तरह से न उन के पास रोजी है न दूसरों के पास जिन के पास रोजी है रहने को मकान है। मैं बहुत अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह बड़ी शोचनीय हालत है। मैं बंगाल गया, वहां के कैम्पों को देखा, बंगाल के कैम्पों को देखा, आसाम के कैम्पों को देखा, उस के बाद मैं ने रिपोर्ट पेश की जिस का हवाला आज मेरी बहन सुचेता कृपलानी ने दिया। मुझे डर है कि वहां तीस फ्रीसदी बच्चे इन्सेनिटरी कंडिशनस (Insanitary conditions) के कारण मर जायेंगे। मैं ने जो वहां की हालत देखी वह बहुत दर्दनाक थी। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हम जिस को रिहैबिलिटेशन कहते हैं उस तरह से लोगों को रिहैबिलिटेड तो करें। मैं यह तो बहुत समझ सकता हूँ कि लो जोग पाकिस्तान में करोड़पति थे या जिन के पास बहुत बहुत जमीनें थीं उन को आप कम्पेन्सेट (Compensate) नहीं कर सकते। मैं समझ सकता हूँ कि जिन के पास वहां बहुत कुछ था उन को आप वह सब कुछ नहीं दे सकते। मत कम्पेन्सेट कीजिये लेकिन इतना तो कीजिये कि उन्हें इस लायक बना दीजिये कि जिस तरह से और लोग रहते हैं उस तरह से वह रह सकें। और अगर वह भी नहीं कर सकते तो कम से कम उन्हें रिहैबिलिटेशन तो दीजिये। आप इस को छोड़ दीजिये कि वह कहाँ से आबे कहाँ से नहीं आये। लेकिन यह आप का फ़र्ज है कि आप उन को रिहैबिलिटेड कीजिये। मैं थोड़ा सा रूरल रिहैबिलिटेशन (Rural rehabilitation) का भी फ़िक्क मुनाऊ जिस के लिबे रिपोर्ट में भी दर्ज है। पंजाब में इतने लाख आदमी

गांवों में बसा दिये गये। आप को मालूम होना चाहिये कि जितनी जमीन पंजाब में दी गई उस में से सत्तर फ्री सदी जमीन अनएकानमिक होल्डिंग्स (Uneconomic holdings) हैं। वह जहां से आये हैं वहां की जमीन सोना उगलती थी, उन को हिस्सार जैसे भूड इलाकों की जमीन दी गई है वहां रेत ही रेत है। इस तरह से आप ने कुछ भी किया हो लेकिन किसी का भी रिहैबिलिटेशन नहीं हुआ है। आज आप कहें कि हमारे पास पूरे रिसोर्सेज (Resources) नहीं हैं तो मैं मानता हूँ कि आप के पास रिसोर्सेज नहीं हैं ठीक है, हम बड़े गरीब आदमी हैं। लेकिन अगर आप गरीब हैं तो गरीबों की तरह से देना चाहिये था। मुझे मालूम है कि गुड़गांधा के अन्दर गरीब लोग सौ रुपये में छप्पर बना कर रहते हैं। लेकिन उसी जगह आप ने फ़रीदाबाद में सोलह सोलह सौ रुपये में मकान बना कर दिये हैं। मैं ने उस वक्त अर्ज किया था कि अगर आप रिहैबिलिटेड करना चाहते हैं तो ठीक से खर्च कीजिये। बहरहाल यह डिस्क्रिशन (Discretion) आप के साथ है कि आप जिस तरह चाहें खर्च करें लेकिन हर एक जो उस तरफ से परेशान हो कर यहां आया है उस को हक़ कि आप में डिमान्ड (Demand) करे कि जिस तरह से आप एक आदमी को रिहैबिलिटेशन देते हैं उसी तरह सब को दें। लेकिन देखा यह जाता है कि ईस्ट पाकिस्तान (East Pakistan) से जो लोग आये हैं उन को मकान दो सौ तीन सौ का बनवा कर देते हैं लेकिन जो वेस्ट (West) पाकिस्तान से आबे हैं उन को अठ्ठा-ठारह सौ में मकान बनवा कर दिया जाता है। अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे तो रिहैबिलिटेशन का ब्याल छोड़ दें।

आज सबेरे मेरे दोस्त श्री इयात्म प्रसाद मुकजी ने कहा था कि जो लोग

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

पाकिस्तान से आये हैं वह इस देश के नेशनल (National) हैं इस में किस को डाउट (Doubt) हो सकता है, लेकिन मैं अपनी कमजोर आवाज़ उन के साथ शामिल करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर यह सम्भविता हो कि हम अपने इन बदकिस्मत भाइयों को फ्रैन्चाइज़ (Franchise) दे सकते हैं तो जरूर देना चाहिये। यह जो डिस्प्लेस्ड पर्सन्स (Displaced persons) हैं उन को ज्यादा हक है और आदमियों से कि उस को यह हक दिया जाय। मैं कहता हूँ कि आज ज़माना तब्दील हो चुका है खुदा के वास्ते इस काम को रिहैबिलिटेशन के जल्दी खत्म किया जाय। इस के लिये मैं इस तजवीज़ को पेश करता हूँ अपन श्री अजीत प्रसाद जी जैन की खिदमत में कि उन की तबियत तो उस परवाने की तरह से इ जो क्षमा पर खत्म हो जाता है। आप का एक ही काम है कि सुइसाइड कमिट (Suicide commit) कर लें क्योंकि आप के डिपार्टमेंट का सब से बड़ा काम तो उस दिन होगा जिस दिन यह सारा का सारा डिपार्टमेंट खत्म हो जायेगा यानी जब हमारे सब डिस्प्लेस्ड भाई रिहैबिलिटेड हो जायेंगे। कहां तो यह कोशिश थी कि रिहैबिलिटेशन के लिये एक और डिपार्टमेंट खोला जाय और दूसरे सभी डिपार्टमेंटों पर यह महकमा हुकम चलाये। लेकिन मुझे तकलीफ होती है जब देखते हैं कि श्री अजीत प्रसादजी चाहते हैं कि डिस्प्लेस्ड पर्सन्स को यार्न (Yarn) दिया जाय और इन्डस्ट्री सप्लाय मिनिस्ट्री (Industry and Supply Ministry) को यार्न नहीं देती है। जब मकानों के लिए सामान मांगा जाता है तो सामान लोहा बत्तौरा पूरा उन को नहीं मिलता है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप इस मसले

को ठीक तरह से हल करना चाहते हैं तो जल्दी से जल्दी हल कीजिये। वरना जैसी फारसी में कहावत है वैसा हो जायेगा :

تاریات از عراق آوده شود مارکزیده
مردۀ بود -

(जब तक इराक़से अकसीर आवेगा सांप का काटा हुआ पहले ही खत्म हो जायेगा)
उन की हालत निहायत खराब है, उन की हालत ऐसी है कि वह तड़प रहे हैं। उस तड़पने वाले को या तो मार कर खत्म कर दीजिये या जिला दीजिये। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि उन के सारे मामले को ठीक से हल करना चाहिये। उन को दोनों तरह से नहीं मारना चाहिये। जितनी आप की ताकत हो पूरी ताकत इस में लगाइये। आप कहते हैं कि रिहैबिलिटेशन फ़ाइनेन्स कारपोरेशन (Rehabilitation Finance Corporation) काम कर रहा है। मैं कहता हूँ इस तरह से काम नहीं हो सकता। उस को और रूपया चाहिये। यह गलत है कि वह किसी मुहकमे के मातहत हो। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर (Prime Minister) साहब या होम मिनिस्टर (Home Minister) साहब ऐसा इन्तज़ाम करें कि इस मिनिस्ट्री को सारी पावर्स (Powers) दी जायें और यह (super Ministry) बनाई जावे। उस को इतने अख्तियार दें कि वह दो बरस के अन्दर सारे इस मसले को खत्म कर दें। दो बरस के बाद इस मसले का नाम भी न सुनाई दे। श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना साहब ने चार्ज लेते वक्त यह समझा था कि यह काम दो बरस में खत्म हो जायेगा। मैं कहता हूँ कि इन दो बरस को भी आप निकाल दीजिये, यह

भारा वक्त तो क्लेमस (Claims) की एप्लीकेशन (Applications) लेने में ही निकल गया और मैं समझता हूँ कि आज तक इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी (Evacuee Property) की फ्रेहरिस्त नहीं बनी। यह बिल्कुल बेकार है क्योंकि मैं नहीं समझता कि किसी को भी किसी तरफ़ से कुछ मुआवज़ा मिल सकेगा। आज के दिन भी इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी के मसले को दुरुस्त करने की कोशिश ठीक तरह पर नहीं चल रही है। मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जो इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी की हालत है वह ठीक नहीं है। जो हालत आज है उस में कोई भी इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी का हिस्सा नहीं पायेगा। हर एक मुसलमान मेरा भाई है जो यहां रहता है लेकिन जो दोनों जगह भारत व पाकिस्तान में पूरा फायदा उठाना चाहता है, यहां भी एक बीवी रखता है, और पाकिस्तान में भी एक रखता है मुझे उस के साथ कोई हमदर्दी नहीं है। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जहां तक इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी का सवाल है उसे ठीक तरह से एन्फोर्स (Enforce) करने की कोशिश हम नहीं कर रहे हैं। जिन की ज़मीनें और जायदादें इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी में ले ली गई हैं मुझे मालूम है कि यहां के बड़े बड़े अफसर उन के लिये सिफ़ारिशें करते हैं कि उन की ज़मीनें छोड़ दी जायें, उन के मकानात छोड़ दिये जायें। मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है न तो इवैक्वी जायदाद का क़ानून ठीक बनाया गया और न उस को ठीक तौर पर एन्फोर्स किया जाता है हालांकि अब यही शरणार्थियों का सरमाया बतलाया जाता है। हम को यकीन है कि अगर इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी को गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इंडिया (Government of India) ठीक तरह से इकट्ठा करती तो रुपये में सोलह आने कम्पेंसेशन दिया जा सकता था। आज इतनी पूंजी यहां

से चली गई उस को आप ने तलाश तक करने की ज़हमत नहीं उठाई। आज भी यहां की पूंजी चली जा रही है और हम ख़रगोश को नींद सोये पड़े हैं। इसलिए जहां तक इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी के ला का सवाल है उस को ठीक तरह पर अमल में लाइये। जैसा अभी हमारे सरदार साहब ने बताया कि पाकिस्तान वालों ने क्या किया। जो लोग यहां से गये उन का रिहैबिलिटेशन और इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी दोनों ही क़ानून साथ रखे, और इस तरह सारी इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी के उपर कब्ज़ा कर लिया। मुझे पूरा यकीन है कि पाकिस्तान आप को एक पैसा भी नहीं देगा। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप कम से कम अपने यहां की इवैक्वी प्रापर्टी का ठीक इन्तज़ाम कीजिये और उस को बचाइये।

इस के अलावा मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ और वह यह कि आप का जो इवैलुएशन (Evaluation) का काम है उस को आप जल्दी ख़त्म कीजिये और उन के क्लेमस को भी देखिये। आप उन को मुआवज़ा जो भी देना चाहें, या जिस नाम से भी कुछ देना चाहें वह उन को जल्दी दें, ताकि उनकी मुसीबत में उन की रक्षा हो सके। जो उन की हालत से वाकिफ़ हैं वह जानते हैं कि वह कैसी मुसीबत में हैं। जो कुछ उन के पास था वह सब ख़त्म हो गया। वह अपने ज़ेवर बरतन तक बेच चुके। बहुत से ऐसे आदमी हैं जिन के पास अभी तक कोई ज़रिया माश का नहीं है। इसलिये मैं निहायत अदब के साथ आप से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ, जनाबवाला, कि आप इस सारी चीज़ को फ़र्स्ट प्रायोरिटी (First priority) देकर वार बेसिस (War basis) पर टेकिल (tackle) करने का फ़ैसला कीजिये। और ऐसा करके इस को दो बरस के अन्दर ख़त्म कर दें। तभी काम चल सकता है।

[English Translation of the above speech]

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity of expressing my views even when there is not much time left. I respectfully beg to submit that this is such a subject on which, as Sardar Hukam Singh has observed, everybody wants to express his painful feelings before the House. It was therefore not unnatural that I was getting rather anxious to express my views when Shri Ramnarayan Singh and Shrimati Repuka Ray were speaking. As a matter of fact, the more one thinks on this subject the more one gets baffled. There was a time, when in 1947 this calamity befell, the Government gave so much help to these displaced persons from Punjab that we can hardly find a parallel to that in the world. In a few months' time lakhs of people were evacuated and brought over to this side. Food was sent by aeroplanes and distributed among them. When those people were unable to get food and were homeless our national Government opened camps for them, provided shelter, food and cloth to them and it was a time when we ourselves did not hope that the Government would be able to give so much relief to them. But our national Government, this Congress Government extended every help and relief to the refugees which is a unique example. For about one and a half years, the Government distributed free food and cloth to these displaced persons to an extent which was beyond our expectations and for that the Government deserves all praise. It is really creditable for them that no epidemic whatsoever broke out at any place and no person died of starvation. After that when I visited the camps they told me that they were very grateful to the Government for having saved their lives at a time when they had abandoned all hopes of reaching India safely. They fully appreciated the great work done by the Government. I know that prior to 30th November, our Government was not in a position to save those persons from being murdered and looted because the Government had no authority on the army upto that date according to the Agreement, the acceptance of which in my opinion was not a wise act on our part. Thus, before the 30th November, the Government could not save those persons with the help of our military. But the work which the Government did after that period deserves our praise. When the

displaced persons arrived here, they met a warm reception at the stations, they were fed with delicacies like *halwa* and *puri*. But it pains my heart very much to see the changed conditions now. Those feelings have now disappeared. When these people had arrived here, the Government had declared that considerations of money would not come in the way of providing relief to the displaced persons. But the Government cannot be congratulated for these changed and worsened conditions of today. It is right that our Minister of Home Affairs and our Governor General had vacated their houses so that those people could come and settle there during the rainy season and this too is right that hon. Shri Neogy, Shri Mohan Lal Saxena and Shri Ajit Prasad Jain have worked very hard for the refugees. But if we examine their hard work and the measures adopted by the Government of India, we will find that in fact all that has been written in the Report, that so many persons have been rehabilitated, is merely on paper alone and nothing more. I am very sure about that. The grand achievements of the Government of India, as shown in the various pamphlets, are only in words, they do not exist in reality.

Only a few days ago, my sister, Shrimati Rameshwari Nehru sent a letter to me wherein she asked me to visit and see conditions in Basti Harphool Singh, a refugee camp in Delhi. I went there and what I saw there with my own eyes was far more distressing than what I had seen in Sealdah and Ranaghat Camps. It was in such a dirty condition as was totally unfit for human habitation and if I draw a picture before you of what I had seen there, I am sure, everybody here will be shocked. I earnestly request every hon. Member of this House to go and personally see conditions in Basti Harphool Singh and also see how the displaced persons have in reality been rehabilitated and given relief by spending a sum of eighty crore rupees upto 1950 and now about 1070 million rupees by the Government of India. There are nine large godowns there and a number of small ones. As many as 62 families live in a large godown which has an area of 900 square yards, that is, calculating on a basis of three to sixteen members per family and an average of six members, it means that about 350 or 400 persons are living within an area of nine hundred square yards. These

godowns were used for storing goods and there is no ventilation, no arrangement of light and no partition walls. So these sixty-two families are living in such conditions. I need not point out how adversely it all affects their health and morals. There are no facilities of light and water. Only two water taps are there for the whole area. I have seen their children wandering and loafing about, there being no educational facilities for them. The pitiable condition of these children, who are the very pride of our country who go about uncared for as if they have none to look after them, makes one's hairs stand on end. They live at a place where light never reaches, where there is no kitchen and no facilities of latrines etc.

Lala Achint Ram: There are hundreds of cases like that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: One cannot understand how, in these conditions, they manage to cook their meals. In the absence of kitchens, the place gets filled with smoke, there being no ventilation. Widows and others who have no sources of income are living there and I wonder if Shri Ajit Prasad Jain has ever visited the place and seen the conditions himself. I know that our hon. Minister sometimes moves about in *cognito* to see things and I therefore request him most humbly to pay a visit to that place and see the miserable conditions under which these persons are living. Regarding the claim of rehabilitating fourteen lakh persons, I would submit that no rehabilitation has been made in the proper sense of the word.

By rehabilitation I understand that they should be provided with houses to live in and means to earn their livelihood. If they are not provided with these things, there is no rehabilitation. But the people who come to the camps, find it difficult to earn their livelihood and as my friend Lala Achint Ram has said that 600 persons were brought from camps for rehabilitation but out of them 590 persons have no means of earning their livelihood. My friends call it a touch-me-not department because whoever dares to come out perishes like touch-me-not. About five hundred persons went to the Sheikh Sarai township but they could not move about as there were no facilities of transport and consequently they were unable to earn their livelihood. Thus those persons who have got houses have not means of livelihood while others who have got means of livelihood are without houses. I submit that it is the most

deplorable state of affairs. I had been to Bengal and had the opportunity of visiting camps in Bengal and Assam and after which I submitted a report, a portion of which has been quoted today by my sister Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani. I am afraid that about thirty per cent. of the children there will die on account of insanitary conditions. I witnessed the most heart-rending conditions prevailing there. I want to say that we should try to rehabilitate people in the real sense of the term. I can well understand that you cannot compensate those who were multi-millionaires or owned acres of land in Pakistan. I know that you cannot give those people all the things they had in Pakistan. I say, do not compensate them, but at least provide them with such facilities so that they may also lead a life just as the others are leading. If you cannot even provide them with these facilities, at least rehabilitate them. Do not worry yourself about the places from which they have come. But it is your duty to rehabilitate them. I want to say a few words about rural rehabilitation as well as it has been also mentioned in the report. Millions of people have been rehabilitated in the villages of Punjab. But you should know that 70 per cent. of the total lands distributed among these persons in Punjab are uneconomic holdings. The soil of those places from where they have migrated was most fertile, while here they have been provided with such lands in Hissar where the soil is nothing but sand. Thus you might have done anything for them but you have not been able to rehabilitate them. Today, if you say that you have not got resources enough to rehabilitate them, I am prepared to admit that we are very poor people. But, if you are poor, you ought to have provided relief measures like a poor man. I know that in Gurgaon people live in thatched houses costing only Rs. 100/-. While on the other hand you have constructed houses at a cost of Rs. 1,600/- each in Faridabad. At that very time, I had warned you that if you want to rehabilitate them, spend properly. Anyhow, the discretion to spend money rests with you. But every one who has migrated to this country due to harassment and other difficulties has a right to demand from you that you should rehabilitate every one equally without discrimination. But we find that you get houses constructed for the East Pakistan refugees for Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 while in the case of refugees coming from West Pakistan they are constructed at no less than Rs. 1,800. If you do like that you should better leave the idea of rehabilitating the refugees.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

Today in the morning, my friend Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee said that all those people who have migrated from Pakistan are nationals of this country. Who can doubt it? But I want to mingle my humble voice with his that if it be possible, we should certainly give the right of franchise to these unfortunate brothers of ours. These displaced persons have greater right to franchise than the other persons. I want to say that times have changed and this work of rehabilitation should be brought to an end as early possible. I want to tell Shri Ajit Prasad Jain that his position is like that of a moth which burns itself in the flames. The only course left open to him is to commit suicide because the most important work of his department will be performed on the day when it will be disbanded i.e. when all our displaced persons will be rehabilitated. Well, efforts were being made to establish one more department of rehabilitation and it was thought that it will have a say in all the departments. But I am pained to refer that Shri Ajit Prasad Jain wants that displaced persons should be given yarn quota but the Ministry of Industry and Supply do not give them yarn. When demands are placed for building materials like iron, cement etc., they are not supplied in full. I want to say that if you want to solve this problem you should do it as early as possible. Otherwise the Persian saying will truly apply:

*Ta tiryaq az Iraq avurda shvad,
margazida murg-a buvad.*

(Till the time nectar is brought from Iraq, the snake bitten man will have died.)

The condition of refugees is pitiable, they are groaning under agony. Either kill that groaning person or create conditions for him to live. I submit that their whole problem should be tackled in the right spirit. Do not kill them both the ways. Put in all your energy to solve it. You say that Rehabilitation Finance Corporation is working well. But I say, you cannot work like that. It needs more money. It is wrong to say that it should be under some department. I would request the Prime Minister or the Home Minister to invest this Ministry with all the powers possible and it should be made a super Ministry. It should be armed with such powers so that it may solve the whole problem within two years. We may not hear about this problem after two years. While taking charge of this Ministry, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena

had thought that he would be able to solve the whole problem within two years. I say leave aside these two years because all this time was taken up in inviting applications for claims and I think no list of evacuee property has been compiled so far. I think, it is quite useless as there is no hope of anybody getting any compensation from anywhere. Even today, efforts are not being made in the right direction to tackle the problem of evacuee property. I am sorry to say that the problem of evacuee property is not being dealt with seriously. I think no body will get any share in the evacuee property under the existing circumstances. Every Muslim who lives here is my brother. But if he wants to take advantage at both the places by keeping a wife in Pakistan and another in India, I have no sympathy for him. I think we are not strictly enforcing the laws regarding evacuee property. I know that high officials make recommendations for the release of lands and properties which have been attached as evacuee property. I am sorry to say that neither the evacuee property laws have been framed correctly nor they are being enforced properly, though it is said that is all the wealth of the refugees. I am confident that had the Government of India tried to manage the evacuee property properly, all the claims for compensation would have been settled in full. You have never cared to investigate as to how so much wealth has been taken away from here. Even today the wealth of this country is being taken away but we are still enjoying the proverbial nare's nap. Therefore, you should properly enforce the laws regarding evacuee property. Sardar Sahib has just now submitted about the activities of Pakistanis in this connection. They enforced the rehabilitation and the evacuee property laws simultaneously and thus grabbed the whole of the evacuee property. I am fully aware of the fact that Pakistan will not give you a single pice. I wish that you should properly manage the evacuee property of this country and try to guard it from being taken away. In addition to all this I want to add one thing more that you should finish the work of evaluation as early as possible and should look into their claims as well. Whatever compensation under whichever name you want to give to these refugees, you should give it soon so that they might get some help out of it. Those who are aware of their plight know in what tight corners they are. Whatever they had, has all been spent up. They have ever sold away their

ornaments and utensils. There are numerous persons who have not got any means of livelihood. Therefore, Sir, I humbly submit that it should be given first priority and should be tackled on war basis, so that it may be finished within two years. Only then we can succeed.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Sir.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If hon. Members would limit the length of their speeches, all Members may be able to get an opportunity to speak.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: That is not my concern. Sir; it is your concern.

The *Hindustan Times* of this morning has been a real friend of my hon. friend the Minister of State for Rehabilitation. At this hour of need the *Hindustan Times* has proclaimed that 98 per cent. of the displaced persons have been already rehabilitated. The bulk of the agricultural refugees have already been provided with cultivable land. The displaced persons in the urban areas have already been helped with finance and they are carrying on their business in improvised markets. Townships have been built for them in Gandhigram and Nilokheri. A capital city is going to be built for their accommodation in the near future.

As against that what is the picture that we see in Assam. Has a single township been formed there? The reply is obvious. Has a single plot of cultivable land been allotted to the refugees? The reply must be No. Some land has of course been allotted for them in the hilly areas of the tea estates and the largest area of the plot given was an acre. I would ask the Minister how can he conceive of a family living on the cultivation of merely one acre of land? As against employment given to the refugees from West Pakistan—I do not envy them, I still wish that something more could be done for them—nothing is done on our side.

We have heard complaints from several Members from the Punjab of instances of women being killed or children being thrown out into the streets in the dead of wintry nights. Such acts by the Government mar the whole aspect of the situation and the good work done by Government. If a single life is lost on account of the action of the Government or a child is thrown out into the streets by the action of the Government, I submit it is a story which will go down in history to posterity and will be set out against the acts of humanity done so

far. It is no argument to say that the Minister in charge of Rehabilitation does not know anything about it or that the Minister in charge of Works is responsible for such kind of action. Such an explanation will not excuse them. It is a matter of condemnation and it must be so condemned, notwithstanding the fact that we all appreciate the fact that the Minister in charge of Rehabilitation is doing his best. If that means rehabilitation it has no meaning at all.

Now as regards compensation I hear that the Pakistan Government has already decided not to pay compensation from the Government coffers. That means that the refugees have to go to a court of law. Here I would ask the Minister to inform us whether any decree which can be passed under this Government will be allowed to be executed in Pakistan. Also I should like to know whether there will be any provision to save these claims for compensation from being barred by limitation.

We all know from 1947 that the properties vacated by the refugees in Pakistan have been in occupation by the other party. Will there be any saving by limitation in respect of these cases, if Pakistan remains adamant in their view that they are not going to take any notice of compensation, which is liable to be paid by private persons? But may I ask one question: whether our Government has taken any step to recover the amount of compensation from the Pakistan Government in respect of properties of which they are in possession? So far as our information goes no such action has been taken by the Government to recover from the Pakistan Government the rent of properties with them, when the refugees left that country.

I know of a specific instance on which a question was asked by my hon. friend here. Certain buildings belonging to a social service ashram in Pabna were taken over by the East Bengal Government and as a matter of fact it appeared from the reply that the Pakistan Government had admitted liability to the extent of Rs. 1,32,000. That was admitted about 1½ years ago. What step has the Government taken to realise the compensation from the Pakistan Government? Not to speak of compensation payable by private parties, even compensation payable by the Government itself has not been recovered.

It has been said by some friends in this House that the Government of Assam has been somewhat indifferent

[Shri R. K. Chaudhuri]

to the interests of the refugees. But may I ask what Government has done since they took over the entire charge of the district of Cachar and also the management of the refugees in Assam, a large majority of whom live in this district? Since June last year what action has been taken by the Government of India? Has any employment been found for these refugees? Is it not a fact that doles have been stopped even for those men who have not been able to find employment? Doles are given only to unattached women and children and nothing to able-bodied men. No attempt has been made to give them any kind of employment and no loan worth the name has been granted to these people. My hon. friend will be surprised to learn that loans were applied for long ago but it took so long for the Government to decide whether they should be given or not that ultimately it was found that the parties who applied for them had left the place and their whereabouts were unknown. A number of instances of that kind happened where the parties disappeared; whether they committed suicide or had gone away somewhere nobody knows and no payment of loans were made to them.

If the Government is really serious in the matter I hope the hon. Minister will tell us what amount was actually sanctioned by the Government of India for that province and how much has been spent in that province for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees. It does not look well for the Minister to say—if he says at all—that on account of the unsympathetic attitude of the Assam Government it has not been possible for them to do anything.

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): I can give the figures of the loans to refugees.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I am not going to yield to anybody but a lady Member of the House.

Shri Hussain Imam: Is it allowed by the Constitution?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: One of the members of the Cabinet had been very unkind to a lady Member yesterday and I must pay back as far as possible in the same coin.

I want to impress on the Minister that nothing worth the name has been done in the province and the House should not be prepared to listen to any excuse that may be put forward. If after what has been done for West Pakistan refugees hon. Members like Pandit Bhargava Dr. Tak Chand and

Lala Achint Ram complain, I submit that there will be a volume of opposition against the Minister so far as his attitude towards the refugees from East Pakistan is concerned. What help have they got in West Bengal? The refugees in West Bengal have got nothing. Their leaders and sympathisers have been arrested. People who have worked life-long for the Congress had to come out of the Assembly House to protest against the harassment which was caused to the refugees. But I would not lay the blame at the door of the Minister in charge of rehabilitation in Bengal or the Premier of West Bengal. The whole thing has been done under the direction of the Government of India. It is under the directions of the Government of India that this property has been taken over, it is on account of the directions of the Government of India that this inconsistent attitude has been taken by the State Government. At one time the Government of India had stated that all those places which had been vacated may be given to the refugees for their settlement and the Government of the State took action on that. They had allowed the refugees to occupy the places evacuated by the evacuees, and now without providing for them any accommodation, without providing for them any means of livelihood, legislation has been passed in my State and is going to be passed in West Bengal for turning these people out. Is it human? Would it be enough to lay the blame only at the door of the State Government? The State Government has nothing to do with it; they are passing the legislation because they have been asked to do it. It has been said that there is a lot of fallow land in Assam and that nobody is allowed to occupy that land. I do not know the actual area of land which is lying fallow and which is at the disposal of the Government, but I may mention this for the enlightenment of the House, that most of the land which seemingly is lying fallow is unfit for cultivation. Most of the land which you see unoccupied is now in the tribal belt where settlement will not be granted to even the locals of that place, not to speak of refugees from East Bengal.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think Cachar is not in the tribal belt.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: In Cachar there is very little fallow land and the land which is there is abandoned tea garden land which has been found to be unfit for cultivation.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: May I know whether the Assam Government has drawn up any concrete scheme for the rehabilitation of Bengal refugees?

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I cannot say that. It is not for the Assam Government to draw up the scheme. Most of the refugees from districts outside Cachar have now been sent to Cachar, and Cachar is under the administration of the Government of India. Very few refugees remain in the area which is known as the Assam Valley. All the refugees have been either compelled to go, or have been taken, to Cachar, and therefore the entire responsibility is now in the hands of the Government of India.

Shri A. P. Jain: That is not correct.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think there are still quite a large number of refugees in the other districts of Assam which can not be included in the tribal areas and there has been no housing scheme drawn up for them.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I admit there has been absolutely no housing scheme—that the hon. Minister himself has admitted. They have started a market in an out of the way place as my hon. friends, Mr. Sondhi and Pandit Bhargava have stated. I am of course a dismissed honorary regional adviser of refugees. So is my hon. friend, Mrs. Renuka Ray. In this matter we are in the same boat.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (West Bengal): I am not.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Oh, you are still functioning? Well, we were never consulted about the construction of that market there.

Shri J. N. Hazarika (Assam): Yesterday in the Assam Assembly the State Minister of Rehabilitation, Shri Motiram Bora stated that 5,20,000 refugees have been received in Assam. Of these 2,196 persons remain to be rehabilitated. In Goalpara district alone 60,000 bighas of land have been made available for rehabilitation of 1,09,600 refugees. Rs. 14,77,997 have been granted as loans and Rs. 1,14,407 have been granted as relief so far. These figures were given by the Assam Rehabilitation Minister yesterday in the State Assembly.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: That is an answer to all that. What I want the hon. Minister to do now is this. If you find so many people have been accommodated there, well and good. You are spending crores of rupees for refugees from West Pakistan, nobody grudges that—actually more money is needed for them. But you can still spend about ten crores in Assam where you can acquire land and start work immediately. Why have these two years been spent doing nothing practically? Loans should be granted more

freely, but securities are wanted. To demand securities from refugees is really a mockery.

Shri A. P. Jain: What is required are sureties from amongst the refugees themselves.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: It comes to the same thing. Where can a refugee find a guarantor to take a loan? Then, speedy attempts should be made to pay advance money as early as possible. What happens now is this. The refugees are living on the outskirts of the town. They are not given any ration cards because the rationing system is not in vogue outside the town. They are not allowed to take any controlled cloth because they have no ration cards. What steps have been taken to provide them with cloth and food, may I ask? I know of instances in which refugees had gone and purchased rice from a neighbouring village and the police arrested them because under the rules you cannot bring grain from outside to within five miles of the ration limits. Unless they can get food, unless they can get cloth, how can they live? About good sanitary arrangements etc., they are practically unknown in Assam so far as the refugees are concerned because there is no control on refugee welfare save in an instance here and there for unattached women and children.

I do not want to say anything which might still more rouse the hon. Minister and make him more unkind. If I had said anything unkind I withdraw. I would ask him to give more attention to Assam. Whenever he comes to Assam he stays there for 24 or 36 hours. Let him stay for a week and find out the thing for himself and as a result give us some substantial improvements.

Shri A. P. Jain rose—

Shri Hussain Imam rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long will the hon. Member take?

Shri Hussain Imam: I shall not take more than ten minutes so that the hon. Minister may begin at five. Or, you can arrange that he may speak tomorrow because we have got two days for Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, we must finish it today.

Shri Hussain Imam: I have my grouse against the Ministry's policy and my own complaints against his administration, but I would be failing in my duty if I did not give them credit for the difficult task which they have—

[Shri Hussain Imam]

handled in rehabilitating the large mass of people who have come from Western and Eastern Pakistan.

My time is so short that I will not be able to say anything about general matters. So I shall confine myself to matters concerning my own people. I wish to bring to the notice of the House a remark which was made by Lala Achint Ramji that the way in which the Government is behaving makes the displaced persons think that they are making a mistake in not taking possession and ousting Muslims. That remark did not come from me. It came from an experienced Indian, whose opinion is much heeded by the Government. The policy which leads to this feeling is wrong; and the Government must take steps to see that this feeling of the displaced persons is removed. This must be attended to and it is in the interests of everybody that their contentment should be brought about within the least possible time at our disposal.

I should like to point out to the House the vagaries of the permit system and the laws that have been made thereunder. People came at the invitation of Mahatmaji and of the local States Governments. For instance, in Bombay and in Delhi. They are now having great difficulties. They came with the kind of permits, that they were then and there able to get. After remaining here for two years, they are now being hounded out, harassed and in every way troubled. They are going from pillar to post. They are being made a shuttle cock. Some people are sent to jail. Some are fined. Some are sent to the borders. They are expelled by Pakistan. They come again to India. They are again given trouble. The Evacuee Property Act and the permit system should be worked in a human way and not be enforced in a way that will make people think that they have no rights or that they are not the citizens of a free country. It seems as if there is no law.

Take the position of the Evacuee Property Act. What is happening today in Delhi? There are certain areas with different Assistant Custodians for each. One Assistant Custodian declares me as a non-evacuee. I get off. Another Assistant Custodian says no. I have to go on for many months indefinitely. I cannot get any rights. There should be some kind of rule some co-ordination. There must be some rule of law, not the sweet will of a man. A man cannot be tried five times for the same offence. While

this is one case, exactly opposite is another case. When a person has been declared to be an evacuee by the Assistant Custodian of one place, all his property is taken possession of by the Government without giving any mandatory notice to him. Now, you cannot have two kinds of law emanating from the same Centre. In one place you make it that the Assistant Custodian's order is for that place only when the man is released; but when he is convicted the same order does not apply as it should apply. I have known hundreds of instances where people have been declared evacuees under the first Ordinance of July 1949 and their properties in other areas taken over in 1950. That Ordinance was a very defective Ordinance which was promulgated in States and under the new Ordinance, other evacuee properties are being taken possession of by Government without giving mandatory notice.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I do not want to interrupt my hon. friend, but I would only request him to coolly consider whether the allegations that he is making would serve any useful purpose.

Shri Hussain Imam: I am not asking for anything more than the rule of law. Why should there be two differentiations in the same Department? One Act when it is against me is regarded as prevailing in all places but when it is in favour of me it does not apply to the other centre. How can you have two interpretations emanating from the same law? That means that this is an Act which, whether it is an Indian Act or a Pakistan Act, is a lawless law. It is a misnomer to call it a law, under the circumstances in which it has been enunciated. Therefore, you should work it in a rational way and not in an irrational way.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: The whole partition was a lawless affair.

Shri Hussain Imam: I am not concerned with that: it is a political thing. What I am concerned with is that as a citizen of India I must have equal protection of law. Discrimination should not be allowed. We should not be treated as if we were not nationals of this country. As long as we are here, we are nationals of India and we must be treated as nationals of India and all the fundamental rights that have been guaranteed must be honoured by the Government and its officials.

There is one fact to which I want to invite the attention of the House. I do not complain about the amount of money. I rather think that the amount spent on displaced persons

should have been more. But what I complain against is the paltry sum that has been given to the Muslims who have come back to West Bengal. The magnificent sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been spent on nine lakhs and 33 thousand persons. You have heard from the lips of our friends how the houses are in occupation of others, I mean the houses belonging to the persons who have come back from East Bengal. Their lands are in possession of other people, and you are finding difficulty in ousting the latter.

Shri Tyagi: I do not think my friend is doing any service to the Muslims by narrating these facts. The whole country knows it that when Muslims were coming here, not only were they given their houses back but even money was given to each of them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why should other hon. Members interrupt? The hon. Minister will have the last word on the subject.

Shri Hussain Imam: I was pointing out from the review which has been supplied to us by the Rehabilitation Department. Mention has been made there, that the total expenditure on relief and rehabilitation of displaced Muslims up to the end of December 1950 in the States of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura is about Rs. 30 lakhs and the number of persons has been given as nine lakhs and 33 thousand. I am not saying that the Government is doing wrong in spending money on displaced persons but I think you are being stingy with Muslims and I hope my other friends will admit that we have the same rights and we should be given some more money.

Shri A. C. Guha: The figures of allotment of Rs. 30 lakhs and of these nine lakh and odd displaced Muslims, as far as I know, are for separate purposes.

Shri Hussain Imam: The hon. Minister is going to reply. Why should the hon. Member waste his breath in intervening for him?

Shri Tyagi: You are wasting more breath.

Shri Hussain Imam: I would invite your special attention to one fact. In the pamphlet which we have received from P.E.P.S.U. in regard to urban rehabilitation, it is mentioned on pages 8, 9 and further on that 20,900 houses, 21 hundred shops and 74 industrial establishments have already been allotted to refugees and further on it is said that the income from these 23 thousand houses and 74 industrial

undertakings is the magnificent sum of Rs. 30,000 per month. This shows the way in which rent fixation is being worked. I am not concerned with that much. I am concerned with only one fact and that is mentioned on page 36 of the Rehabilitation Review of May to August, Table IV. It is said there that out of the three lakhs and 45 thousand habitable rural houses only one lakh 98 thousand, that is 57 per cent., have been allotted. This means that one lakh and 47 thousand habitable rural houses are available and have not been allotted. This is the latest figure that they have got. There is a great deal in this matter that the Estimates Committee should go into in this affair and see how rehabilitation is being worked. Therefore, I am making this suggestion with the particular view that this matter of housing requires looking into. The harrowing stories which we have heard from our friends like Pandit Thakur Dasji and Bakhshi Tek Chandji are really a slur on India. There is something wrong in it. I think it is necessary that there should be a thorough enquiry into the matter by a Committee of Government or a sub-committee of the Estimates Committee. If that is done, much of the complaint which is now being heard would be removed.

Shri A. P. Jain: The lot of the Minister of Rehabilitation is never a happy one, and more so in my case as I have my own limitations and the limitations of status. I am thankful to the hon. Members that all through the debate they had a good word for me, perhaps more out of pity than out of any achievements of the Ministry.

5 P.M.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Pity?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, I am saying pity.

Well, for that little mercy I am thankful to them. I do not rise to say that the Ministry has achieved all that was required of it. I do not stand to say that we have completely rehabilitated either the displaced persons who have come from West Pakistan or those who have come from East Pakistan.

My hon. friend Lala Achint Ram made a suggestion based upon a resolution passed at Nasik by the All India Congress Committee that rehabilitation must have the first priority in governmental works. So far as I am concerned, I want to make it clear to the House that the hon. the Prime Minister and the rest of the Ministers have to the largest possible extent been co-operating with me. But for the

[Shri A. P. Jain]

assistance that I have received from the hon. Prime Minister it would not have been possible for us to have made even the little achievement we have done. In fact, not only in matters of policy, but also in matters of detail, the hon. Prime Minister takes a day to day interest. But even then it must be admitted that if this portfolio goes to the hon. Prime Minister, it will attain momentum and prestige. It will be for this House and for the Cabinet to see whether the Prime Minister should not be shorn of all his other duties and other functions and take over a department which requires working into meticulous details from day to day. So far as I am concerned, I would any day welcome that the hon. Prime Minister or a Cabinet Minister takes over this portfolio.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Or, you are yourself raised to the status of a Cabinet Minister.

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not know whether I am worthy of it.

Now, I will take the various matters raised by hon. Members one after another. There is one matter which has naturally been agitating the minds not only of displaced persons and their leaders, but also my mind greatly. That is the question of evacuee property with which is connected the question of compensation and the assessment of claims, as also the valuation of the property left by Muslim migrants here.

Hon. Members would have seen a very significant statement made by the Minister of Rehabilitation of Pakistan, Dr. Qureshi, published in this morning's newspapers. It is a very important statement. In a way it is a *volte face* of the position which Pakistan has hitherto been taking. Dr. Qureshi has stated that a Government to Government settlement of urban evacuee property is impossible, because the calculation of the value of such property involves numerous difficulties and desolte large expenditure by two Governments it would be impossible to arrive at a reasonably accurate figure. Dr. Qureshi thinks that the best method of finding present values is to put the property in the market and see what it fetches. In his view the only reasonable solution is to permit sales and exchanges on an individual basis.

Between ourselves and Pakistan there have been a number of conferences about evacuee property, the last being in June 1950. We had made certain proposals to the Pakistan Government at that time. As the House is aware, the Government of India,

despite its own views, gave a trial to the method of individual sales and exchanges in 1949. To the best of our information in over six months not more than fifty transactions of exchanges and sales took place. It was thus obvious to the Government of India that even if all the facilities were given—and everyone knows that they are never given in Pakistan—the sales and exchanges of over half a million non-Muslim properties would not have been completed for generations to come. Dr. Qureshi's alternative of throwing all the property into the market to determine its present value is rather amazing. We cannot ignore the law of demand and supply and once all the evacuee properties in the two countries are thrown out to bid, their value would be reduced to naught.

But the main objection raised by Dr. Qureshi is the difficulty of evaluation. No meticulous valuation of the type mentioned by him was ever envisaged by us. A rough and ready valuation based upon rental values or property tax, or any other general criterion that may be agreed upon by the two Governments would have served the purpose, as the main idea was to ascertain broadly the difference in value. The Government of India also made it clear on more than one occasion that they would be reasonable and would not ask Pakistan to pay the difference to the last penny.

In fact, I may take the House into confidence and say that to avoid all these meticulous details the Government of India went so far as to suggest a very reasonable lump sum, the payment of which would settle finally the evacuee property question. The amount suggested was well within the capacity of the Pakistan Government to pay. India also agreed not to apply the evacuee property law to any further cases, once this overall agreement was reached. It was all dependent upon the conclusion of the overall agreement.

Shri Hussain Imam: When was this offer made?

Shri A. P. Jain: The offer was made in June. The offer has been repeated by the Prime Minister in a number of letters which have been placed before the House and which I hope the hon. Member has seen.

When round about a million properties on both sides are involved, to my mind, the only method of achieving the object is to have a settlement on a Government to Government basis. The representatives of the Pakistan Govern-

ment have themselves accepted such a settlement in regard to rural property at the official level conference of March 1948 and the Pakistan Government has not yet finally abandoned the idea.

Any impartial observer can see that Dr. Qureshi's objections are based on imaginary difficulties which do not in fact exist. They have the effect of side-tracking the real issue of determining and paying the difference in the values of the property left by non-Muslim migrants in Pakistan and the Muslims in India. The question of evacuee property has been hanging fire for long enough and the stalemate has become unbearable. We shall have to see what to do next under these circumstances.

It is a fact that Pakistan has been adopting the most adamant attitude with regard to the evacuee property and the time has come when we shall have to think as to what to do about it. I am not in a position to make any definite statement at the moment, but the Government is certainly taking a serious view of it.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: How long will you take to arrive at a decision?

Shri A. P. Jain: Now, any payment of compensation to the displaced persons here is very closely connected...

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : मेरे प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया ।

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** My question has not been answered.]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : जी हाँ, नहीं दिया ।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** Yes, I have not replied to it.]

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : क्या देने की ताकत नहीं है ?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Have you not got courage to answer that question?]

Shri A. P. Jain: कुछ कहना मुनासिब भी नहीं होता । [There are certain things about which it is not desirable to say anything.]

Any payment of compensation is based upon the settlement of the evacuee property. With regard to compensation many things have been said in this House. It has been said that the Government has gone back upon its word. The Prime Minister has been charged with bad faith, that certain assurances were given to the displaced persons and they are now being denied. I would like the House

to go through the various proceedings *verbatim*. A conference of the refugees was held under the presidency of Mr. Gopalaswami in 1949 which forms the genesis of scheme for the payment of compensation. In that Conference Mr. Gopalaswami said as follows:

"I have had no doubt at all about their (that is the displaced persons) being compensated. I do not know why all this insistence has been placed on their claim to compensation. Nobody has denied it".

Further on he goes to say:

"I do not think that even the Prime Minister meant—it was impossible for him to have meant—that no compensation was due to displaced persons who have lost their properties on the other side. It is impossible for this reason that he is a party to the frequent inter-Dominion agreements that have been forged between this country and Pakistan since this question was taken up. And what has been the theme of these agreements? It is that we should come to an arrangement as regards the manner in which displaced persons should be compensated."

Now, two things are clear from this statement of Mr. Gopalaswami. Number one, that it was never promised that the displaced persons would be compensated rupee for a rupee. Number two, at least so far as this statement goes, no hope was held out that the Government of India will make any contribution towards the payment of compensation.

Let us see what the Prime Minister said in the Rehabilitation Ministers' conference about which so much fuss has been made. The Prime Minister said:

"We paid more attention to the man of money who had come across, had rights of property in Pakistan and shouted for compensation, than to reorganisation on a real basis. I have got the strongest objection to the use of the word 'compensation'. I am sure, I am speaking perfectly plain, that we have the strongest objection to compensation of this kind"—the important words are 'of this kind'—"except to the extent that we can get property belonging to the evacuees here, that is, of Muslim evacuees who have gone to Pakistan and what we might get possibly from Pakistan. Because, the whole approach should be one of rehabilitation of the largest number of people who are suffer-

[Shri A. P. Jāin]

ing. It does not mean"—this again is very important—"that we must give full compensation to one man and allow ten or hundred persons to be unprovided for. That cannot be."

Lala Achint Ram: Mr. Gopalaswami's was unconditional.

Sardar Hukam Singh: If I may be permitted to interrupt the hon. Minister.....

Shri A. P. Jain: I am not giving way and I would like the House to give me a patient hearing.

A question on this matter was tabled by Mr. Kamath. The question was:

"Whether it is a fact that at the conference of States Rehabilitation Ministers, held in December 1950, the Prime Minister rejected the idea of payment of compensation to displaced persons for the losses suffered by them in Pakistan?"

and the answer was as follows:

"The Prime Minister stated at the conference that the primary duty of Government was to rehabilitate displaced persons to the best of its ability. As regards compensation, he stated that this must come out of the evacuee property in India of Muslim migrants as well as any sum recovered from Pakistan by way of difference in value of the property left by the non-Muslim displaced persons in Pakistan and by the Muslim migrants in India. Government would give every additional help in rehabilitation of those who have suffered losses; they have already assured all concerned that displaced persons will be recompensed to the extent possible for their losses—the extent of the recompense depending necessarily upon the total assets that become available for distribution."

Neither in the Rehabilitation Ministers' conference nor in the reply which I have just read out, and which was given with the fullest approval of the Prime Minister, is there any denial that the Government of India will be rendering assistance and financial assistance to displaced persons, based not on compensation but on the idea of rehabilitation. Now, what is the difference between the two? While speaking this morning Lala Achint Ram made a grouse that a large number of persons in Punjab who have been allotted land have been allotted uneconomic holdings. That matter

has been repeated by more than one speaker in this House. I believe it has been repeated by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

Lala Achint Ram: After applying a 25 per cent. cut.

Shri A. P. Jain: Let us see what has been the method of allotment of lands in the Punjab, that is to say, what has been the method of quasi-permanent settlement. The area possessed by each of the refugees in Pakistan was first ascertained. That was reduced into standard acres. The corresponding area left by the Muslim migrants in India was ascertained and reduced to standard acres. For every standard acre left in Pakistan by a land-owner who had not more than 10 acres of land, he was allowed 0.75 acres of land, that is three-fourths of the land. Naturally there were a large number of persons who owned very small bits of land in Pakistan. It is true that in some marginal case, a holding which was economic in Pakistan may have been rendered uneconomic here on account of the cut, but the vast majority of small holdings were uneconomic there and are uneconomic here.

Sardar Hukam Singh: But the nature of the land and the soil made all the difference.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am sorry that my friend is so impatient. He is not trying to understand what I am saying. I stated that all the lands were first reduced into standard acres. Standard acre is not ordinary acre. Let me tell him that the land left by non-Muslim displaced persons in Pakistan was 67 lakhs acres which was reduced to 38 lakhs standard acres, and the land left by Muslim migrants here was 47 lakhs acres which was reduced to 24 lakhs acres. That by itself shows that the land left by the non-Muslim displaced persons was of a better quality. While the allotment of land on a quasi-permanent basis was made, the same measure was applied, viz., the standard acre.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What about the irrigation? It is not the area alone that matters.

Shri A. P. Jain: Everything is taken into consideration, including productive capacity. If my friend has any experience of land, of land-laws, and of the working of the land system, he must know that when we talk of the quality of land we do not take into account only the quality of the soil but the irrigation facility available also.

When land was allotted in the Punjab on a quasi-permanent basis a cut of 25 per cent. was applied on the first ten acres. This cut went on increasing on the slab system with the increase of area until it became 95 per cent. on land in excess of 1000 acres. If land had been distributed equally between all the claimants the holdings in the Punjab would have been much bigger. If compensation is the correct basis, why should any Member have a grouse against the distribution of land in the Punjab and uneconomic holdings?

Shri Achint Ram: You have made an uneconomic holding more uneconomic.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How can he do it? Can he increase the area of the land?

Shri A. P. Jain: You depend on compensation and not on rehabilitation. That is the whole truth of it.

The whole question is that there are two ways of looking at the thing. One is egalitarian and the other is equalitarian. The Prime Minister looks at the thing from an equalitarian point of view. He wants to help the weakest person. What is rehabilitation? So much has been talked about rehabilitation today. Should a person who was living on alms in Pakistan be allowed to earn his livelihood here by begging? Should a person who owned huge landed or house property or who was a multi-millionaire there be not deemed to be rehabilitated unless he is compensated to the last penny? Should a shop-keeper then be a shop-keeper here? Should a rent-receiving landlord or house-owner be necessarily made a rent-receiving landlord or rent-receiving house-owner? Should the idle rich there per force continue to be the idle rich here? These are all questions which you have to face when you are dealing with the problem of rehabilitation.

Here, I would like to refer to one aspect of which most of the hon. Members of this House are unaware. In Bikaner and Matsya Union we have settled about 35,000 families. I believe that more than 90 per cent. of these families are those who had never owned an inch of land. They were either field labourers or they were living as non-occupancy tenants at the mercy of the landlords. To each of these families we have given a minimum of ten acres of land and some of them have got as much as 32 acres of land. I invite the hon. Members to go to these areas and see for themselves whether they are not enjoying the bounty of the rehabilitation we have given them.

My Ministry was anxious to provide land to persons who have been actual tillers of land in Pakistan or land owners, who even though they were not tillers of land in Pakistan, want to cultivate land here. In the beginning of December, we issued a notification which was very widely publicised. We issued instructions to all the district magistrates that they should receive applications from persons who were either doing the actual cultivation in Pakistan or who though not doing actual cultivation were land owners there and want to do cultivation with their own hand. Five thousand and a few hundred applications were received. I have every sympathy with them and I am confident that before the next showers come, I will give every one of them at least ten acres of land. I am every day pestered—I may be permitted to use the word 'pestered'—by people on behalf of the absentee landlords of Pakistan living outside the West Punjab who never carried on cultivation. They want huge areas not for cultivating themselves but for settling tenants. Everybody knows that in India we are abolishing zamindari—the rentier class who do not create wealth but live on the labour of others. How can I give these persons land? How can I recreate a system which we are purposefully killing? These persons and their supporters are my critics, but I cannot help it. This is the general outlook of the Ministry.

Then, I come to the claims organization. I will not go into the history of it. But ever since I came here, I can assure the House that I have spent many sleepless nights; I have discussed for days together with my officers and with others who know the law and procedure as to what method we should evolve. We are facing a problem which was never faced by any country in the world. There are about ten lakhs of properties involved. We have no specification of the properties; we have no maps; we have no records; we have no title deeds; we have no details about them. Our officers cannot go and personally visit those properties. So we have to work in a sort of vacuum. We have to evolve a system. I was purposefully cautious because I do not want that we should do any injustice to anybody. I do not want that this huge organisation that we are setting up should collapse. I proceeded cautiously. I visited the organization myself; I sent round my officers over and over again. Today I am in a position to say that we have evolved a system which may not be

(Shri A. P. Jain)

a fool-proof system, not a perfect system, but it is as good a system, as I believe anybody can evolve; and I was a little sorry that some of my friends with whom we have been in constant touch have not appreciated the position. We have been discussing this claims organization with them and they have given us advice upon which we have acted. But I am sorry to say that the tone and tenor of their speech was condemnatory. Even the other day I had issued a letter of request to some friends to assist me in a rather non-official capacity to go through the whole of the system of recruitment of the claims officers, to examine the procedure and method that we are adopting and to suggest the ways and means to cut down the time involved. I am most anxious to complete the work as quickly as possible, and I also want to assure my hon. friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava that, simultaneously with the claims, I will carry on the valuation of the properties left by the Muslim migrants. In fact.....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: We received your letter only today. We are here to cooperate with you fully.

Shri A. P. Jain: Thank you very much. I expected that from you. We have already worked out the system for evaluating the properties of the Muslim migrants. Both the things will go simultaneously but I must make it plain to the House that the task is a most complex task, a task which has never faced any country in the world and which has never been faced by any law court. If you want me to rush the responsibility will be that of the House, but if I am expected to do this work with decorum, decency, and a sense of justice, then I have to proceed cautiously and that I have been doing so. But I want the assistance of everybody who is present in the House, apart from those friends to whom I have issued that letter of request, to suggest a method by which we could cut the time lag. Ten lakhs of properties is no small matter. This is all I have to say about the evacuee property, compensation, and the claims organization.

Many things have been said about the Rehabilitation Finance Administration. The House will remember that questions on this subject have been answered not by me but by the hon. Finance Minister. My Ministry is connected with it because this Administration is meant for advancing loans to refugees, but the actual management of the organization, and rules and regulations

is the work of the Ministry of Finance. There is an officer of my Ministry who is representing this Ministry on that Administration. He is just a member. I do not mean to say that I have no responsibility. The responsibility of Government is joint. But if the House wants satisfactory answers surely it is the Minister of Finance who is in a position to give them.

Before I come to other matters, I will take up certain questions raised by my hon. friend Mr. Hussain Imam. He referred to the permit system. He said that people knock about from pillar to post and they do not get permits. He also said that there are persons who have been living here for two years and who have not got permanent resettlement permits.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): What about their issue of permits? I asked a question.

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not care what Pakistan does. I want my hon. friend to understand the position clearly. We have got several types of permits. The two relevant types are temporary permits, that is, permits for temporary visits to India, and permanent resettlement permits. Temporary permits are given to persons who solemnly declare before a Magistrate in Pakistan that they are nationals of Pakistan and that they are going to India on a temporary visit.

Shri Hussain Imam: It may be now, but not in the old days, in 1948.

Shri A. P. Jain: We are talking of today. We are dealing with permits now issued under law. Permanent permits are given to persons who have gone to Pakistan on our 'No objection' certificate and who want to return to India. These are Indian nationals. Sometimes it so happens that the period of 'No objection' expires. In fact, the person should apply in time for extension of the 'No objection' certificate. But, I have been very lenient in that matter. Persons have come to me months and months after the expiry of the 'No objection' certificate and have been given permanent resettlement permits. Take the case of a person who first declares himself to be a Pakistani national. Under the Constitution, he loses his Indian nationality as soon as he declares himself to be a Pakistani national.

Shri Hussain Imam: I am asking nothing for these people.

Shri A. P. Jain: Whatever you are asking, you are asking for them, and none else.

Shri Hussain Imam: No, Sir. I am referring to the Godhra case.

Shri A. P. Jain: In the matter of the issue of permits, I may assure the House that when I assumed office, there were 368 cases, old and complicated cases, pending. I have decided almost all these cases. I have given permits in more than 75 per cent of cases although there were difficulties. It is only in 25 per cent of the cases—some of them had given up the idea of coming—that I have refused permits. Even then, if I am accused of making people run from pillar to post, all I can say is that either I am not competent, or I am sorry for that kind of accusation.

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri A. P. Jain: Then, he said certain things about the evacuee property law. He said that two different types of courses are being followed: if a person is declared an evacuee, his entire property is taken over; if he is declared a non-evacuee in regard to one property, then, he has to undergo the same test over and over again in respect of other properties and in that manner the same person has to undergo test over and over again four, five or six times. May I, with all respect, submit that it is a complete misstatement of facts. What second court will do is to take for granted that the man is non-evacuee and only see whether the property in question belongs to him or not. In fact, there was a case in which a man had to undergo the test 16 times. What was the test? Every time, it was taken for granted that the man is a non-evacuee. I do not defend the evacuee property law either in principle or in working. I know that is a very unnatural law. I know that in some cases it has caused hardship. It is a law which was framed under very difficult circumstances, in fact for the benefit of those who had gone away. Actually there were lakhs of properties lying derelict, with nobody to take charge of them. This law was intended to protect these properties. Even today the Custodian is the trustee of those properties which vest in the evacuees. What will be the nature of the ultimate settlement is a different thing. But, I am sorry that my hon. friend should have raised that question without ascertaining the full facts. If he had only cared to write to me, I would have given him all the particulars.

Shri Hussain Imam: I would submit a long list to you.

Shri A. P. Jain: I shall be glad to have the list. But you should have done that before.

One very important matter has been raised. That is the question of eviction law which is under discussion in this House. I will not go into the details of that law because it is shortly coming up in this House. A similar law is before the legislature in Bengal. In general, I might say that so far as my Ministry is concerned, it is there to rehabilitate the people. If sometimes people have to be removed, it is because land in the vicinity is not available. We want to settle the refugees as near to their places of livelihood as we possibly can. Take the case of Delhi. There are five lakhs of displaced persons in Delhi. It is not a small thing to find land for five lakhs of people. You cannot always find land in the vicinity of the shop where a man works. Then, we have to develop some sort of decent colonies. My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava referred to Kalkaji and Sheikh Sarai. I say that if the hon. Member visits those places from the point of view of health and layout he will not find anything better. We cannot accommodate five lacs of persons without expanding New and Old Delhi, and in fact, all big cities are expanding. The real problem is that we must have cheap transport. I have been trying to find that. We have had a conference with the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and the Delhi Transport Authority. My Ministry has agreed to subsidize the fares of the displaced persons to the extent of thirty three and one-third per cent. But it cannot be forgotten that we are passing through extraordinary days. I understand from the Chief Commissioner that he had placed orders for diesel buses which would have reduced the fare considerably. The firm with whom the order was placed received war orders and it could not therefore fulfil our order. What could the poor Chief Commissioner do? He is not able to import them. He is trying to find out some substitute. We are trying to do the work, but the House must recognise our difficulties. I hope my hon. friends will be good enough to recognise that sometimes circumstances are beyond our control.

Reference has been made to Damdama. Certain displaced persons were evicted from there. Many things have been said about Damdama on the floor of the House. We have ascertained the facts from the Chief Commissioner, which are completely at variance with the facts stated by some of my hon. friends here. It is no use

[Shri A. P. Jain]

going into that controversy. I am not in a position to do that; nor do I think that I should waste the time of the House by going into the discrepancies that exist between the facts stated by my hon. friend Bakhshi Tek Chand and the facts which we have received from the Chief Commissioner. Nonetheless, let me inform the House that we went to the extent of holding a conference with the Prime Minister. If we were not anxious to do something for them, we would not have wasted the time of the Prime Minister. My Ministry has placed the material and contractor at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner who is proceeding with the construction of houses for these persons. I am not in a position at the moment to go into the details of every one of the accusations regarding this colony or that colony and this basti or that basti. I am very sorry that there are about 150,000 persons in Delhi who have not been properly housed. I am most anxious to house them. Every day that I am not able to do that, I feel ashamed. Let me quote one fact in support of what I say. During the last three years, the average construction budget was 8½ crores per year. This year, I propose to allocate a sum of 15 crores for construction which is twice the amount that we have spent on an average during the last three years. It is true that even then the whole of the problem will take time to solve. I want to give some indication of my earnestness to solve it and the way in which I want to solve it.

Then again, some reference was made to training facilities. It is true we have a well thought out system to follow up. I am doing it. We are setting up more training centres. I am anxious myself that we must train up more artisans and workmen, as many of them as we can. Until now we had provision for 11,000 of them. From next year we have raised the figure to 14,000. It must be recognised that we require machinery necessary for giving training and also the teachers and a regular organisation has to be built up if anything substantial is to be done.

There are many matters which have been referred to but which I have to leave untouched for want of time. I will now say something about the eastern region. When we consider the problem in the eastern region, we must essentially keep in mind the difference in the nature of the problem in the east and the problem in the west. When the refugee came from Western Pakistan he knew that there was no returning back to Pakistan. He knew that

Pakistan had been written off for him for ever and therefore he was determined to rehabilitate himself here. He was fighting with his back to the wall. Now, in the east there is an essential difference. Hon. Members are at liberty to draw their own inferences from the Nehru-Liaquat Pact; but I believe that it has done tremendous good. It has made it possible for lakhs of persons to go back to their homes. Even if we admit that persons are going back to East Bengal because they are not getting sufficient to rehabilitate themselves here, nonetheless, the fact remains that the East Bengal refugee has not fully made up his mind to settle here. I have known of families where one brother or uncle lives in East Bengal and another brother and some children are living here. I have known of persons whose families are divided, partly in East Bengal and partly in West Bengal. I have known of families which have some land in East Bengal and some here. The fact is, whatever Government may give, whatever assistance it may render, the real rehabilitation has to flow from the refugee himself. He must have a desire and will to rehabilitate himself. Nobody can rehabilitate a person who is not prepared to rehabilitate himself. Rehabilitation cannot be brought about simply by the giving of money. Rehabilitation means earning one's sustenance from day to day. Somebody may give me a lot of money, but unless that money is utilised in some beneficial way, for some beneficial purpose such as the setting up of a business or a small industry or workshop or something of that kind, I will not be rehabilitated. But that determination to rehabilitate himself is lacking in the Bengal refugee because he has not made up his mind where he is going to remain, whether he will return to East Bengal or remain here. True, if a man who possessed two acres of land there got five acres here, he would remain here, but.....

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That is entirely contrary to facts.

Shri A. P. Jain: No, that is not contrary to facts. I have seen things for myself. I have been among the refugees. I have seen their camps and I have gone from place to place. I took sample surveys of ten families at random in different places—some ten to twenty places—and made inquiries. It is then that I have come to this conclusion, this irresistible conclusion. And therefore, I say that unless the East Bengal refugee makes up his mind that he is going to settle here, that he is not going back to East

Bengal, I am afraid the progress of rehabilitation in West Bengal would be far from satisfactory.

Some hints have been thrown that all the State Governments are not co-operating. That is not the fact. As far as the Government of West Bengal is concerned, I am glad to inform the House that of late it has been giving first priority to this problem of rehabilitation. I will give some figures, relating to the rural rehabilitation. In West Bengal the refugees settled in Government sponsored schemes come to 20,106 families. On *khasmal* lands 8,909 families have been settled, on private land 1,22,161 families, under the Union Board Schemes 7,731 families and on Muslim evacuee lands 81,611 families; altogether something like 2,40,607 families, or a total of 1·2 million persons. That is no mean record for any Government. Some persons might have deserted. In fact some have deserted. In some places the Union Board scheme might not have succeeded, but where millions are concerned there will always be such cases of desertion.

I submit that they have also advanced a loan of rupees five crores to the urban refugees for rehabilitation. That is apart from the financial Rehabilitation Administration at the Centre. They have developed six townships at Fulia, Habra, Goyespur, Bansdrani, Gorla and Jirat. We have given them as many as 566 primary schools, and.....

Shri A. C. Guha: What is the total number to be rehabilitated in these townships leaving out the township of Habra?

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not have the figures here, but I will supply them to the hon. Member if he tables a question or writes to me privately.

We have also established 22 secondary schools and have given a large number of stipends to the students.

The Cachar district is administered by the Central Ministry and a good bit of criticism has been concentrated round the I. T. A. scheme—I mean the Tea Garden Association which undertook to take on 3,500 families. I can assure my hon. friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee that I have been keeping myself constantly in touch with what is happening in the tea gardens. I have visited the tea gardens twice, several of them, and I have been constantly in correspondence. The tea garden scheme has not gone according to programme but ~~at~~ late it has improved and my latest information is...

24 PSD

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Have you enquired how 600 persons died out of 10,000?

Shri A. P. Jain: Only one hundred or a little more.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That is not the correct figure.

Shri A. P. Jain: That is my information: your information may be different.

The latest information is that 70 families have received more than two acres of land. 2,000 families have received between one and two acres of land and 223 families have received less than one acre of land. Four hundred and sixty-six families have been rehabilitated as shopkeepers and the like.

One hon. Member said that these people have been thrown off their dole. It is not a fact. When I visited Cachar last I looked into the question. Persons who have received more than two acres of land will receive no doles; those who have received between 1·5 and two acres will receive 25 per cent. of the dole, between one and 1½ acres they will receive 50 per cent. and a person who has received less than one acre will receive 75 per cent. of the dole. I gave those orders and they are being acted upon in a liberal spirit.

Shri A. C. Guha: What about the quality of land? Is it cultivable or not?

Shri A. P. Jain: Wherever the land was not cultivable we have asked the tea gardens to give substitute land and we have continued the whole or partial dole there.

There is also another scheme to rehabilitate 6,000 families of displaced persons. My latest report is that about 5,000 families have been settled or rehabilitated in the rural and urban area. When I say rehabilitated it is used in the limited sense in which I am using the word, not that everybody is well settled or that everybody has got as much as he had in Pakistan. What I mean by rehabilitation is that we have given them assistance to enable them to stand on their feet. Many of them have been able to stand on their feet. It depends on the capacity of the man to make good use of the facilities we have placed at his disposal.....

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: You have said in this memorandum that no houses for displaced persons have so

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

far been built in Assam. Only there have been schemes. What have you to say about it?

Shri A. P. Jain: I am coming to Assam Valley. Ramkrishna Nagar is our colony in Cachar and quite a large number of extensions to the towns have been made.

Now I come to the Assam Valley. I am sorry that on account of the peculiar difficulties of Assam and on account of certain historical factors, into which I need not go, there has been a certain amount of difficulty. So far as this Ministry is concerned we placed a sum of Rs. 17 lakhs for building houses and for shops in the town of Gauhati. Any hon. Member who visits Gauhati will see a raised platform there, where shops were intended to be constructed. Then on account of the earthquake, the floods that came thereafter, as also certain other difficulties that colony has not come up.

One question was posed by Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani. In Golpara, lands of Muslim evacuees have been allotted to the refugees and as the Muslims are returning what will become of the refugees? When I went to Assam last time I was anxious about this problem and I have taken a promise, and that is being implemented, that any refugee who had been allotted land in Golpara or elsewhere and who is evicted from it because of the return of the Muslim evacuee will be given alternate land and I have allocated sufficient funds for the purpose of rehabilitating those persons.

On the whole I must say that I have been getting cooperation from the States and without that I could not do anything or function in States. Maybe there are some difficulties. Probably there are misapprehensions and suspicions but nonetheless we have to combat them. We have to do our task in the circumstances in which we are placed, and I am trying to do my best.

One thing I may say about Bengal before I conclude. There are all sorts of talks: other States are being accused of want of sympathy for Bengal refugees. They say the Bengali refugee is not welcome there. Particularly about Orissa, I can say that the Orissa Government has acted with an amount of sincerity which it is difficult to find. They have tried to work out the schemes for rehabilitation with meticulous care. I have talked with them for hours and hours and they have fought on little items which I wanted

to cut down and which they said were necessary. Although I was there only three days I practically covered their important schemes and I must say that the climate, soil or regional conditions and the linguistic difficulties were in the way of the refugees.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: About 300 of them died in one area alone.

Shri A. P. Jain: Which area?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I do not remember. The figures were given by the Orissa Minister.

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not know of any such thing. The main reason why people were not settled was the same unsettled state of their minds. It must be recognised that we cannot recreate the conditions of East Bengal in India. When I went to one of the camps I heard them say that when they get up and see the hillocks around every morning they feel depressed. Nobody can remove the hillocks and there were only a few hillocks, otherwise it was plain land. They said "We want Padma water and the big rivers of East Bengal." Nobody can create rivers for them. The East Bengal refugees must once for all realise that the conditions in the rest of India are very different from those in Bengal. We have not the same high rainfall, climate conditions or the rich soil that they have there. Either Bengal has to retain all the refugees in Bengal or if they have to go out in any big number they will have to adapt themselves to new environments and conditions and to a different kind of people speaking a different language. Unless that reality is accepted there will always be difficulty in their rehabilitation.

There are many other points which may not have been covered by me. I have already taken an hour and I do not think I should draw more upon the patience of the House. Whatever points remain unanswered, if any hon. Member desires I am prepared to send him a reply in writing.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the hon. Minister is satisfied with what has been done in Assam?

Shri A. P. Jain: I am satisfied with what is being done in Cachar.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the order paper, be granted to the

President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of Demands Nos. 70 and 71 under the control of the Ministry of Rehabilitation."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Deputy-Speaker the motions for demands for grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.—Ed. of P.P.]

**DEMAND NO. 70—MINISTRY OF
REHABILITATION**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000, be granted to the President to complete the sum neces-

sary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation'."

**DEMAND NO. 71—EXPENDITURE ON
DISPLACED PERSONS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,00,69,000, be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons'."

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 31st March 1951.