

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). Government have seen a news item about the resolution.

(c) No information is available to show that all foreign missionaries are engaged in intelligence work or activities prejudicial to national interests. Whenever any individual foreign missionary has come to notice for undesirable activities he has, where appropriate, been asked to leave the country. Where there has been a violation of any law, suitable action has been taken under the provisions of that law.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED MASS EXODUS OF MINORITIES FROM EAST PAKISTAN

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd.) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The Reported mass exodus of minorities from East Pakistan as a sequen to planned atrocities on them by the agents of the Government of Pakistan."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : The House is aware that the minorities in East Pakistan continue to suffer from a number of disabilities and hardships resulting in their migration to India in large number over the years. The Government have repeatedly drawn the attention of the Government of Pakistan to the plight of the minorities there and have urged them to ensure their security, full freedom and equality of rights in accordance with the Nehru-Liaquat Agreement of 1950.

Recently there have been reports in the Indian press regarding a campaign to squeeze out the minorities from East

Pakistan. Our enquiries indicate that there has been no significant intensification of the prosecution of the minorities in East Pakistan recently. A certain number of Hindus crossed from East Pakistan into West Bengal recently. According to our reports this was largely due to economic distress caused by the crop failure in parts of East Pakistan. However, during 1969, as in previous years there was a continuous flow of persons belonging to the minority communities from East Pakistan to India.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The reply of the Government shows that it is not only divorced from the realities of the situation in East Pakistan but it also betrays a superficial attitude of the Government of India towards the problem of minorities in East Pakistan. Only yesterday the Marxist Rehabilitation Minister of West Bengal has told pressmen that not only the refugee influx is continuing, but there has been a spurt recently. Government have said that there is no significant intensification of the prosecution of the minorities in East Pakistan recently. I can give two examples immediately. In Sylhet, 9 Hindu tea garden owners have been jailed and fined to amounts ranging from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 20 lakhs. I do not want to encourage or inflame any communal situation. I have hundreds of reports that in the rural areas of the districts of Mimensing, Barisal, Kulnah, Chittagong and other areas the government agents.....

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : It is not right to have this kind of thing said in Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure the hon. Member is aware that we have decided that no speeches or debate can take place on a Calling Attention Notice.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It has been the usual practice and you have been kind enough to allow a few minutes for the preamble to each of the members in the case of Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER : No more speeches or debate on a Calling Attention.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I can quote any number of instances. I have the file with me and if the government want I can

[Shri Samar Guha]

supply them information. It is absolutely wrong to say that there has been no intensification of prosecution. There are reports of intensive prosecution. I say that the problem is not communal and it is not inspired by the Bengali Muslims. It is engineered by the agents of the Pakistan government and government inspired people.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him come to the question.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is a very vital question. You should allow me a few minutes. Many people here have no idea of the problems there. They are making superficial observations. It is not a communal problem. It is patently a political problem.

MR. SPEAKER : To me it is a procedural problem.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : The Punjab elements of the Pakistan Government want to convert East Pakistan into a colony of West Pakistan. They have taken all these measures to make East Pakistan into a minority province controlled by West Pakistan, by squeezing out the minorities. At the time of partition, East Pakistan had 67 per cent of the total population of Pakistan. Now it is 54 per cent. Now by squeezing out the rest of the remaining 19 per cent of the minorities it wants to reduce East Pakistan into a minority province. It is liquidating the culturally advanced minorities from the political life of East Pakistan in order to exterminate Bengali language and culture and replace it by Urdu culture under the cover of Islamic reorientation. . .

MR. SPEAKER : I was always hesitant to allow him a question because I knew what would happen.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Sir, after partition I was in Pakistan for five years and I was in a Pakistani jail too. I know the conditions there personally.

MR. SPEAKER : Will he kindly resume his seat. I know that the subject matter is a vital and important one. But I cannot allow him to exploit this opportunity because there is a definite procedure which this House has already decided. We have

taken a decision that after the statement of the Minister only questions will be put without any preamble or preface.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI (Kendrapara) : He will now put the question.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sure he will not put the question. I am very definite about that. I find he has two more pages to cover.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : At the time of partition our big leaders have said so many things. I want to know whether it is a fact that the main causes of exodus of minorities from East Pakistan are the following : firstly, forcible occupation of house, property and land directly by the government and the government inspired agents and the migrants from India to Pakistan ; secondly, continued atrocities, particularly in the rural areas, on the minorities like threat, harassment, dacoities forcible marriages of girls of minority community to the government agents ; thirdly, denial of police protection to the minorities and denial of their representation in police administration and other government employments ; fifthly, continued arrests, detention and terrorisation of the minority leaders ; fifthly, confiscation of minority properties by the Pak. government as enemy property ; sixthly, continued propaganda against the minorities in Pakistan.

These are the causes and I want to know whether these are the causes for the exodus ?

I also want to know whether Government will try to alleviate the situation there and give protection to the minorities by pressurising the Government of Pakistan to review the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact and set up minority boards at provincial, district and sub-divisional levels and by giving all-out support to Bengali Renaissance Movement and the struggle for self-determination of the Bengali people of East Pakistan and lastly,...

MR. SPEAKER : I have decided not to consider your name in the future.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : By creating powerful international opinion against the sinister policy of Pindi Government directed

to political liquidation and expulsion and atrocities against the minorities.

MR. SPEAKER : I am not going to allow it. I will request you not to exploit this procedure for a debate.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We on this side of the House fully share the views and sentiments that the hon. Member has expressed in regard to the plight of the minority community in East Pakistan.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : Will you raise it at the United Nations ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I will come to it later.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Give practical expression to that.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : In my main reply I have said that we cannot consider it as a systematic effort on the part of Pakistan to squeeze out the minorities from East Pakistan. There is a continuous flow of people from East Pakistan to India.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I have cited the basic causes. Are they correct.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : To support my contention I would like to quote two figures. The total number of people belonging to the minority community who came to India during the course of the whole year 1968 was 11,649 and in 1969, from January to November, the figure is 7,268. This is not very abnormal at all.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Assam and Tripura.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We have not got the exact figures for Assam and Tripura.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It is not a piecemeal affair.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : We have sent a telegram to find out the position.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK (South

Delhi) : He is deliberately misleading the House. In Sind also...(*Interruption*).

SHRI M. L. SONDHI : You have misled the House. Are Assam and Tripura not part of India ? Please rebuke him, Sir. We accept it from you when we are in the wrong. He has insulted the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Please calm down.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : You can ask him to place the information on the Table.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I want your protection. I have categorically stated certain causes for the migration of the minorities, one, two, three four...(*Interruption*). He should reply to that. He has not replied even to one of my questions.

MR. SPEAKER : I have repeatedly asked Members that they can ask a question as provided in the rules. It is physically impossible for the Minister to give a reply when you mention one, two, three, four, five, six things. You went on till you were interrupted by me.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : These are the causes for the exodus. There was only one question.

MR. SPEAKER : Can that question take the form of a debate ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : How can you say that ? It was one question. I may tell you that the Bengali Muslims want to keep the Hindus, Buddhists and Christians but the West Pakistan dominated Government of Pakistan and their agents are trying to squeeze them out. The Bengali community there is trying to defend the minorities. It is a political question and not a communal question.

MR. SPEAKER : Shrimati Chanda.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : He should answer the question about the basic causes.

MR. SPEAKER : He has answered it. That is my view.

SHRI M.L. SONDHI : The senior Minister is sitting here. He should get up and reply.

SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY : He has replied to one part of it. He was going to reply to other points but you called another Member. Let him give a full reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you anything more to reply ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The reasons mentioned by the hon. Member for the people of minority communities to leave East Pakistan for India are, by and large, correct.

SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA (Cachar) : May I know whether the Government of India have recently taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government regarding the exodus of minorities from East Pakistan to India? I would also like to know from him whether the refugee who are crossing the border and entering India without valid documents are being harassed by the authorities at the border. I also want to know the figures given by the Assam Government and the Tripura Government about the number of refugees who have entered Assam and Tripura States.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As I have already said, in regard to Assam and Tripura, we have not got the figures at the moment. We will enquire from the State Governments and try to get them as soon as possible and we will inform the House when we get them. As far as the taking up of this question with the Pakistan Government is concerned, this has been done recently and on more than one occasion in the past whenever there has been any unusual exodus. This time, as I have already said, there has not been any unusual exodus. We have checked up with the West Bengal Government and they have confirmed that the inflow is normal. We also checked up with our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca who has said the same thing that the inflow is normal. The

Pakistan Government spokesman has denied the allegation in the press that there is any systematic effort to squeeze them out.

SHRIMATI JYOTSNA CHANDA : What about harassment to the refugees who are without valid documents ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : There is no harassment. Sometimes people do try and enter the country without any valid documents. But in hard cases, we allow them to come in without even valid documents.

SHRI B.K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar) : Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister and the reply just given in reply to a question put by Mr. Samar Guha are quite contradictory. Here, in the statement, the hon. Minister says :

“Our enquiries indicate that there has been no significant intensification of the persecution of the minorities in East Pakistan recently”

But the anguish and anger expressed by Mr. Samar Guha has been completely corroborated by the hon. Minister. So, the statement and the reply just made by the hon. Minister are quite contradictory.

The whole question of East Pakistan minorities needs re-thinking. The question of the perpetration of atrocities on minorities in East Pakistan and their resultant exodus to India has engaged the anguished attention of this House, the Government and the country from time to time ever since the country was partitioned.

In this connection, I would like to remind the house and the Government of the commitment that the country made to the minorities in Pakistan that it would see to it that their interests would not be allowed to suffer in any way as a result of the partition. I would also remind this House of the solemn pact entered into by our late Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, with his counter-part in Pakistan, late Liaquat Ali Khan in 1950 whereby the proprietary rights of that the minorities in both countries would be safeguarded, but

It was honoured more in the breach than in the observance by the Government of Pakistan.

Further, I would also remind the House and the Government about the resolution adopted by this House in 1964, in the wake of outbreak of unprecedented atrocities on minorities in Pakistan in that year, that the Government would seek world opinion against atrocious treatment on minorities in East Pakistan in order to deal with the matter very effectively.

Again, amidst the current mounting reports of fresh exodus of minorities from East Pakistan ...

MR. SPEAKER : No speech ; please come to the question.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : I will not make long speeches, Sir.

Amidst the current mounting reports of fresh exodus of minorities from East Pakistan as a result of planned Government no action to solve their own political problems; from the Government as to what this Government has done so far in the pursuit of its commitment that I have quoted above and what preparations it has made to receive all the refugees who have arrived and will be arriving from East Pakistan in order to keep its commitment given to them and if you have any such machinery, may I know the details thereof ?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I cannot understand how the hon. Member says that there is a contradiction in my statement. The Government has never said that the minority community in Pakistan is not suffering and no difficulties are put in their way. We have all along said that their condition is very bad. There are a number of difficulties in their way. They are being prosecuted in many ways. But I fully share the feelings of the hon Member and concede that their condition is very very poor and pitiable. I merely said that recently there has been no intensification of harassment and there is no attempt on the part of Pakistan authorities in any systematic manner to squeeze them out at this juncture. The influx of refugees was normal last year.

SHRI M. L. SONDHI (New Delhi) : This word 'normal' is very irritating.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : They have been uprooted from their homeland and you say it is normal.

SHRI M. L. SGNDHI : Is there any normal murder ? It is very absurd.

SHRI S. KANDAPPAN (Mettur) : It is a quarrel over semantics.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I merely said that it was normal compared to past few years. Whenever there has been any disturbance in East Pakistan, the exodus is very large. In 1964 6,93,000 refugees came from East Pakistan. As against that in 1966 it was only 7565 and in it was 11,649. In that sense I said that it was normal. (*interruptions*) But I agree that their condition is pitiable and they are finding; it more and more difficult to live there.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी) : लेकिन "नार्मल" नहीं कहना चाहिये ।

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I am sorry I used that word. I meant it was normal comparatively.

MR. SPEAKER : They objected to your using the word 'normal' and you have accepted that.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I regret the use of the word 'normal'. In the normal sense I meant it.

About Pakistan's commitment, it is already known to the House.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is our commitment and not Pakistan's.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : It is a commitment on the part of both countries. The Nehru Liaquat pact of 1950 is binding on both the countries, it was agreed that both India and Pakistan would give full protection and freedom to their minorities. I have said this earlier also. But Pakistan, unfortunately, is not fulfilling her obligations under the terms of the agreement and that is why the difficulty has arisen (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : What about the resolution adopted by this

[SHRI B. K. Daschowdhury]

August House? What is the Government doing?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: What is the international opinion? You have got to say something. This is a political game. This is political explosion.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI (Krishnagar): I am glad to hear that the Minister has said that the exodus is 'normal' and he has used that word as a matter of speech. Sir, by no stretch of imagination it can be called 'normal'. The hon. Minister, Shri Dinesh Singh, has said in the United Nations that at the time of partition there were 189 lakhs of minority communities in East Pakistan and that now there are only 83 lakhs or even 54 lakhs. That means that it is not a normal situation. That is the most abnormal situation. A genocide is going on there.

SHRI RANGA: All these years.

SHRIMATI ILA PALCHOU DHURI: What has the Government done about eliciting world opinion over this matter? There is a genuine case of genocide.

Thirdly I would like to know one thing. It has been reported in the papers that on Saturday last about 100 Hindu families of refugees have come over to India from East Pakistan through Barunhat village in Hasnabad Thana. There were many women amongst them and some of them were assaulted and molested in such a way that it is a shameful thing that they needed immediate medical attention. (Interruptions) Our border authorities made no arrangement to give them medical attention. Nothing was done for them. I want to know whether there is any arrangement on the border to do something for these refugees who come in such a shameful, pitiable and agonising condition. When they come to India, it is our moral duty to give them all facilities. I would like the Minister to answer this.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: If the impression has gone round that the con-

dition is normal, I say, the condition of the people is very bad, and we may say that the condition is abnormal and it is also true that a large number of people are coming over regularly from East Pakistan, and I may inform the House that the non-Muslim population in East Pakistan has decreased from 14% to 11%. That result the exact position there.

As regards the figure of 100 people mentioned by the hon. Member who have come to West Bengal, we have checked up with the Government there and the figure is said to be 42. As regards the question of giving relief, some people come with valid documents, some do not have valid documents, Adequate relief and rehabilitation facilities are given by the State Government and also the Central Government to all deserving people.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: The figure given by the hon. Minister is wrong.

12.26 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ALL INDIA SERVICES ACT

प्रह कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की अनुमति से कार्य सूचि के क्रम सख्या तीन में वर्णित पेंसंस सदन के पटल पर प्रस्तुत करता हूँ :

- (1) अखिल भारतीय सेवार्थ अधिनियम, 1951, की धारा 3 की उपधारा (2) के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति :—

- (एक) भारतीय वन सेवा प्रतियोगात्मक परीक्षा द्वारा नियुक्त संशोधन विनियम, 1969, जो दिनांक 2 अगस्त, 1969, के भारत के राष्ट्रपत्र में अधिसूचना संख्या 30