

conviction as per rule 10(2)(b) of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965.

(c) The case of these two officials is being reviewed.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the Calling Attention Motion. This is the thinnest attendance during the Zero Hour.

Shri Samar Guha

12.11 Hrs.

### CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### REPORTED RECENT INFLUX OF MINORITIES FROM EAST PAKISTAN TO INDIA

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): 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 recent influx of about 50,000 minorities from East Pakistan to India.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 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 numbers 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.

The migration of minorities from East Pakistan has increased during the last few months. The House has been kept informed of the situation through discussions in the House and replies to questions, the last one being No. 466 replied yesterday. This increased migration has taken place on account of generally insecure conditions, economic distress and discriminatory treatment meted out to the minorities there. It is also believed that the stand of some political parties regarding the minorities as

stated in their election campaign is also effecting the minorities adversely.

The Government share the concern of the House over the noticeable increase in the volume of migration from East Pakistan. This year up to 29-4-1970 approximately 34,500 persons are reported to have reached India.

The Government of India have protested to the Government of Pakistan against the failure of that Government to ameliorate the continuing unhappy lot of the minority community in Pakistan and have urged upon that Government to take effective steps to assure their security of life, property and self-respect to enable them to live in peace and honour as equal citizens of Pakistan. The Pakistan Government has also been urged to restore confidence amongst the minorities so that such migration of the minority community to India does not take place.

The House will appreciate that this is a sensitive matter, and we have to be careful in both our reactions to it and the action we take to meet the situation. It is necessary to avoid such steps as would give a handle to the reactionary elements to create tension and undesirable incidents.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister shows how callous and heartless the Government has become towards the minorities of East Pakistan to whom a sacred pledge was given at the time of partition.

The Minister, in his statement, has referred the problems of East Pakistan as 'sensitive matter'. This issue does not involve only thousands but lakhs of minorities in East Pakistan who have crossed and are still crossing over to India. And still, to the Government, this is only a sensitive matter, East Pakistan refugees have made sacrifices during the freedom struggle. They suffered worst after freedom.

The information given by Government that only about 34,000 minorities had migrated is not correct. Yesterday, the West Bengal Government had issued a statement in which they had said that there were 30,500 only in West Bengal alone. But

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the figures in regard to the migrants into Tripura and Assam have not been included in this. The Chief Minister of Tripura is here, and I had the occasion to travel with him in the same 'plane' and he said that every day, about 100 to 200 people were crossing into Tripura. He told me this personally. If the hon. Minister would enquire, he will get the same information from him.

Sir, I have here a map with me, and you can see the areas from where they are coming; these are the border areas of East Pakistan; this is Khulna; this is the area in the district Mymensingh of Garo Hills; this is Hill Chittagong area; this is Sylhet; this is Gopalganj area. In all these areas, the Hindus constituted the majority of the population.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has shown the map only to me. How can the other Members see it? He may hang the map in the Central Hall.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: I have got it from the Parliament Library.

SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA (Gauhati): Are we school-children?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: They are not children, but they are not interested in it, and they know the reason for it themselves.

I want to emphasise that in these border districts of East Pakistan *i.e.*, in the districts of Khulna, Sylhet, Hill Chittagong, the Garo Hills, of Mymensingh etc. the Hindus constituted either the majority or their number was almost equal to the number of Muslims there. They have now become the recent target of the atrocities of the Government of Pakistan.

The basic reason for the expulsion of the minorities from East Pakistan is not essentially communal but it is by and large political. It is the game of the West Pakistan Government, the political *pandas* of Rawalpindi. At the time of partition, 65 per cent of the total population of Pakistan belonged to East Pakistan. After squeezing out nearly 65 per lakhs of minorities, they have reduced the population strength of East Pakistan to about 54 per cent. Now,

they are trying to reduce their strength still further, so that West Pakistan may have a majority of population over East Pakistan and convert East Pakistan into a colony of West Pakistan and have perpetual political hegemony over them.

The second main objective of this expulsion is this. The Hindu minorities had a predominant hold over the administrative, economic, cultural, educational and social life of East Pakistan. By expelling them and by squeezing out the Hindu minorities, the West Pakistan elements want to have a hold there and convert East Pakistan completely into a colony of West Pakistan, which they have now achieved.

The latest reason for the recent influx is this. The next election is coming in East Pakistan in the month of next October, and the parties that are behind this game are as follows; I can name them here; they are the Jamiat-e-Islam, the Nizam-e-Islami, the Rabbani Khilafat, the Muslim Sangram Parishad, and also the pro-Peking faction of National Awami Party of Maulana Bhashani, and all their papers like the *Sangram*, *Paigaam*, *Pakistan* and others; it is they who are indulging in a virulent anti-Hindu propaganda, because they know that the Hindu minorities will vote for only those nationalist Muslims and non-communal parties who stand for non-communal objectives. Still, 20 per cent of the votes in East Pakistan belong to the minorities. Therefore, they want to neutralise the minority votes by squeezing them out of East Pakistan. This is a political conspiracy hatched by the West Pakistan Government, and this is the reason for the recent influx of the minorities from there.

There are also other reasons which are socio-economic in nature. In East Pakistan, the minorities have practically no representation in the administration or the police services. The result is that in the rural areas, with the connivance of the Government there, the anti-social elements have let loose a hell there; there is molestation of women, forcible marriage of Hindu girls, dacoity in Hindu houses, for the main purpose of committing criminal assault of the Hindu women; desecration of temples etc. I can give innumerable such instances, but

I do not want to excite communal passion here. I only want to point out one thing, namely that the attitude of the East Bengal Muslims has undergone a radical change; they are no longer interested in pushing out the Hindus; it is in their own interest to keep the Hindus there; the progressive Bengali Muslims there want to keep the Hindus in East Pakistan, because they do not want to reduce the proportion of the population of East Pakistan in relation to West Pakistan and thereby allow West Pakistan to have complete control over East Pakistan. But unfortunately those progressive elements in East Pakistan do not know what is actually happening in the border areas because there is no news about exodus of the minorities in East Pakistan newspapers or radio broadcasts. They are unaware, for this reason, of the migration of minorities there.

I have already said that Government have completely failed to focus the issue of the miserable plight of the minorities in East Pakistan to bring pressure to bear on the Government of Pakistan in an effective way so that they agree to provide a sense of security to life, honour and properties of the minorities. Almost all the factories, sugar mills, textile mills, tea gardens, heavy engineering works, glass factories, banking institutions, insurance companies have been confiscated in the name of enemy property. Forcible harvesting of paddy, seizure of cultivable lands and occupation of houses and properties of the minorities are also continuing. Hindus and other minorities are being discriminated against in issuing permits and licences to trade and business and giving services in administration, police and other works.

So I want to know (a) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government to mobilise international opinion, particularly in the Buddhist and Arab worlds, against the Pakistan Government's policy of terrorising and squeezing out the minorities from East Pakistan? (b) Why did Government delay so much the despatch of a protest note to the Government of Pakistan against the recent exodus of minorities from East Pakistan?—I had written to them two months before and had followed it up with repeated reminders; (c)

will Government ask the Government of Pakistan to allow our Deputy High Commissioner at Dacca to visit those areas whence the minorities are leaving Pakistan? (d) will the medium of AIR be utilised sufficiently to expose the politics of minority-baiting indulged in by the Pakistan Government and to compel the Bengali Muslim brethren to stand by the minorities; (e) whether Government will press for the reactivation of the Nehru-Liaquat Pact to set up minority boards for safeguarding the interests of the minorities?; (f) whether Government will arrange for TV and film-pictures of the refugee to be taken and allow foreign press correspondence to visit the refugees recently coming from East Pakistan so that the gravity of the problem is realised by them; (g) whether Government have arranged to take the case-history of all the refugees coming from there?; and—a last and most important—(h) whether failing to have adequate response from the Government of Pakistan, will the Government consider the question of cutting the air service link—the life-line between East and West Pakistan.—as a drastic measure to bring pressure on the Government of Pakistan?

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** I share the concern and anguish of the hon. Member about the plight of the minority community in East Pakistan, but am not prepared to accept the allegation that Government's attitude towards them is callous or indifferent. There I think the hon. Member is not being fair to us. We have done our very best to do as much as possible. We are fully aware of their plight and difficulties but there are certain limitations before us as a result of which we cannot act very effectively. To say that we have done nothing on their behalf is not very fair, nor is it correct. We have taken it up with the Pakistan Government not once, but on a number of occasions.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** You have taken nincompoop attitude.

**SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH:** It is the Hon. Member's opinion. Short of declaring war on Pakistan, I do not know what we can do. We can only protest, we can tell the countries all over the world what

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conditions are prevailing there. Beyond that it is very difficult.

I agree with the hon. Member that the plight of the minority community there is really very pathetic, and whatever can be done for them is being done by us. I will go so far as to say that Pakistan's attitude towards the minority community is no better than the pernicious and obnoxious principle of apartheid followed by South Africa. But what can we do in this regard? We can only point it out to them, we can highlight it, bring it to the notice of the world and generate public opinion.

SHRI NATH PAI (Rajapur) : Are we doing it?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Yes.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : How?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : As regards the discrepancy in figures which the hon. Member mentioned, we said near about 34,000 people have come over. The hon. Member's figure is much higher than that. We have given approximate figures. It is not possible to give exact figures under the circumstances. It is possible that we may be wrong, or the figures given to him by the State Government may be wrong.

He asked what we are doing in this regard. As I have already said, we are taking steps to inform all the friendly countries about developments there, particularly Russia, because Russia was very much in the picture because of the Tashkent Agreement. We are doing everything possible.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I mentioned the Arab world and the Buddhist world.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Everywhere. There are consultations and talks with the various countries and we do bring it to their notice, but no point or useful purpose will be served by our taking this matter to the United Nations as suggested by the hon. Member.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : I have not suggested.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : But suggestions of that kind have been made

before, and we still believe that we can solve this problem only by bilateral negotiations with Pakistan, and to that affect we are trying our very best, but we have not been very successful.

The hon. Member said that there has been delay in lodging our protest. I do not think that there has been any inordinate delay. We were watching the situation, and it is only when we were convinced...

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : As soon as there was a radio news, immediately they lodged a protest, but you took two months. I have sent you ten reminders.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : The large scale influx started only during the last few months.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Four months ago.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : Prior to January it was near normal. Since January it has been very much larger, and it is after that that we became very much concerned. In such matters it does take time to make a proper assessment of the situation, and it is only after that that we can make a protest, and we have protested in April last.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : What about my other questions, whether they will ask the Government of Pakistan to allow our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca to visit these areas, Khulna, Sylhet and other areas?

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : This step is always taken. Whenever any kind of abnormal situation arises, we always ask our High Commissioner to make a request to the Pakistan Government to allow him to pay a visit to find out things for himself. This is done automatically.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे राष्ट्रीय नेताओं के न चाहने पर भी पाकिस्तान बना। हमारी जितनी शंकाएँ थीं कि अगर पाकिस्तान बनेगा तो कुराफातें बढ़ेंगी इस सब-कान्डीनेट में, हम देख रहे हैं कि वह बड़ी है। आपस में हिन्दुस्तान

और पाकिस्तान के जो मसले हैं, खास कर के लोगों की अदला बदली में और सम्पत्ति को ले कर जो एक नेहरू-लियाकत पैक्ट 1950 में हुआ, उस को भी पाकिस्तान ने कई दफा तोड़ा है। और भी बहुत सी कुराफ़ातों के रास्ते पर पाकिस्तान लगा हुआ है।

इस संदर्भ में मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि नेहरू-लियाकत पैक्ट जो 1950 में हुआ था उस को पाकिस्तान ने कितनी दफा तोड़ा है और आप ने फ़ौर्मली कितनी दफा उस के खिलाफ़ प्रोटेस्ट किये हैं और उन के क्या री-एक्शनस मिले हैं ?

दूसरा सवाल यह है कि आप कहते हैं कि 34,500 रिफ़्यूजीज 29-4-70 तक आए हैं, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन की कितनी सम्पत्ति वहां छूटी है और उस का हिसाब क्या पाकिस्तान सरकार से आप ने मांगा है ? या उन रिफ़्यूजीज से आप ने हिसाब लिया है कि कितनी सम्पत्ति उन की छूटी है ?

तीसरा सवाल मेरा यह है कि उधर से जब वह अल्पसंख्यक हिन्दुस्तान में आते हैं तो क्या यह पेपर्स और परमिट्स को लेकर आप की तरफ़ से दिक्कतें पैदा नहीं की जाती हैं ? क्या आप ने वैंस्ट बंगाल, असम और त्रिपूरा की सरकारों को यह नहीं कह दिया है कि जिन के पास पासपोर्ट न हों, परमिट संबंधी कागजात न हों, परमिट उन को इधर मत आने दो ? अब वह बेचारे तो वैसे ही मुमीबत और आफत के मारे हैं और यहां आप भी जो उनको आजादी व इतमीनान से आने में रूकावट डालते हैं तो यह जो आप की नीति है उन लोगों के इधर आने देने में उस को आप लिबरलाइज करेंगे ? यह ठीक है कि परमिट्स और कागजात उनके पास हों लेकिन उस बारे में आप की तरफ़ से कड़ाई न हो और क्या उस को आप लिबरलाइज करेंगे ?

चौथा सवाल यह है कि आप ने खुद कहा है कि उन की नीति साउथ अफ्रीका की एपर्टाइट पालिसी की तरह है तो जिस तरह से

रोडेशिया की सरकार को कंडैम करने के लिए युनाइटेड नेशंस ने प्रस्ताव किया उसी तरह से इस संबंध में भी बैसा करने की बात क्या आप ने आगे बढ़ाई है कि एफ़ो ऐशियन कंट्रीज के जरिये पाकिस्तान को कंडैम करायें ? जिस तरीके से बैरूर (?) की सरकार को कंडैम किया उसी तरीके से पाकिस्तान को कंडैम कराने के लिए इस सरकार ने कोशिश की है और बात चलाई है ?

पांचवां और आखिरी सवाल यह है कि तिब्बत रिफ़्यूजीज के लिये यू० एन० ओ० से ग्रांट मिलती है उसे आप इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं तो जिस तरह से यू० एन० ओ० की संस्था से तिब्बत के रिफ़्यूजीज के लिए ग्रांट मिलती है उसी तरह से पाकिस्तान से जो रिफ़्यूजीज इधर भारत में आते हैं उनको भी यू० एन० ओ० से कोई उस तरह की ग्रांट मिले इस के लिए क्या आप ने बात आगे बढ़ाई है, यदि हां, तो यू० एन० ओ० से इस बारे में आप को क्या जवाब मिला है ?

**श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह :** माननीय सदस्य का पहला सवाल यह था कि नेहरू-लियाकत पैक्ट जो सन् 1950 का है उस पैक्ट को पाकिस्तान ने कितनी दफ़े तोड़ा है। मुझे यह कहने में खेद होता है कि उस में पाकिस्तान द्वारा तोड़ने का सवाल ही नहीं उठता है क्योंकि दरअसल उन्होंने उस पैक्ट को कभी अमल में लाया ही नहीं। उन्होंने उसे कभी नहीं माना है और उस पैक्ट का केवल कागजी महत्व उन्होंने समझा है..... (व्यवधान) माननीय सदस्य धैर्य रखें। मैं उन की सब बातों का जवाब देने वाला हूँ। माननीय सदस्य जानना चाहते थे कि उन्होंने नेहरू-लियाकत पैक्ट को कौन दफ़े तोड़ा है तो मैं ने उन्हें बतलाया कि उन्होंने उस की कोई पाबन्दी नहीं की है। जो कुछ जिम्मेदारी उस पैक्ट के बमुजब उनको ऊपर थी उस जिम्मेदारी को उन्होंने पूरा नहीं किया इसलिए कौन दफ़ा तोड़ा है यह सवाल बेमानी है और गिनती करने से कोई फ़ायदा नहीं है।

[श्री सुरेन्द्र पाल सिंह]

दूसरे उन्होंने पूछा है कि 34500 आदमी ईस्ट पाकिस्तान से इधर हमारी तरफ आये हैं वह वहां पाकिस्तान में क्या अपनी सम्पत्ति आदि छोड़ आये हैं, उस की क्या कीमत है तो इस बारे में जानकारी देना मेरे लिये मुश्किल है लेकिन वह उधर कितनी सम्पत्ति छोड़ आये हैं और उस की क्या वैल्यु है वह सब मालूम-मात इकट्ठी की जा रही है लेकिन अभी वह जानकारी देना मेरे लिये मुमकिन नहीं है ।

तीसरी चीज उन्होंने कही कि इधर उन अल्पसंख्यकों के आने में परमिट्स आदि को लेकर हम बाधा डालते हैं, उन्हें मना करते हैं या रोकते हैं यह सही है कि हम कोशिश यह करते हैं कि वहां के आदमी जहां तक हो सके वहीं पर रहें और वह यहां पर न आयें। जाहिर है कि जब वह रैफ्यूजीज बन कर यहां पर आते हैं तो उन्हें बड़ी परेशानी व दिक्कत पैदा होती है। यह तरीका है कि वहां से वह पेपर्स लेकर परमिट वगैरह लेकर चैकपोस्ट के थ्रू आयें। लेकिन जब उन्हें मुश्किल होती है दिक्कत होती है तो वह इधर वगैरह पेपर्स के भी आते हैं और आ रहे हैं। इसलिये यह कहना सहां नहीं होगा कि हम उनको वापिस कर देते हैं या नहीं आने देते हैं। अब आप को यह बतलाऊं कि 34500 जो इधर आये हैं उन में से 26500 वगैरह पेपर्स के हैं इसलिये यह कहना सही नहीं है कि उन्हें हम रोकते हैं। उन की जो कुछ इमदाद हो सकती है वह हम करते हैं।

चौथा सवाल जो उन्होंने पूछा उस के लिये मुझे कहना है कि हम ने यह मान लिया है कि पाकिस्तान का जो रबैया है वह वैसा ही है जैसे साउथ अफ्रीका की एपारथेड पालिसी है लेकिन रोडेशिया की तरह से इस मामले को उठा कर रैजोलूशंस पास नहीं कराये गये हैं। माननीय सदस्य और हाउस को यह मालूम होगा कि जहां तक इन प्रस्तावों का संबंध है रोडेशिया के खिलाफ और साउथ अफ्रीका के खिलाफ कितने रैजोलूशंस युनाइटेड

नेशंस से पास हुए हैं लेकिन उन प्रस्तावों का नतीजा क्या हुआ ? रैजोलूशंस पास करना बड़ा आसान है लेकिन मुख्य चीज तो यह देखने की है कि आज तक उन पर हुआ क्या है ? (व्यवधान)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : That is your fault. You have not tried to do anything. You are making a false plea here.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH : I have already said that it is not our policy to take this issue to the UN or to internationalise this issue. We do believe according to our past experience, that to internationalise an issue like this or to take it to the UN will not serve any useful purpose. We still believe that we can solve it only by bilateral discussion and we are continuing to endeavour towards that end.

As regards the question of grants, etc., it is not really worth-while going to the UN for funds. We are looking after the refugees and are doing everything possible to resettle and rehabilitate them.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Kothari—absent. Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan—absent. Then, we pass on to the next item.

12.36 Hrs.

#### PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. G.S.R. 644 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India, dated the 13th April, 1970 making certain amendments to Notification No. G.S.R. 1000, dated the 19th April, 1969, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3426/70.]