

17.51 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Eighteenth Report

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-
TIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :
I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of
the Business Advisory Committee.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1968-69—Contd

Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation—Contd.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT
AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. R.
CHAVAN) : Sir, as a matter of fact, I
was anticipating that some hon. members
would refer to the Department of Rehabi-
litation and Mr. Kachwai referred to
Dandakaranya. I would first of all explain
the magnitude of the problem and then the
efforts made by this Department to solve
it. The House is aware that immediately
after partition, from West Pakistan nearly
about 47 lakhs people crossed over to India
and from East Pakistan upto 1958 nearly
41.7 lakhs of people have crossed over to
this country. Then, on 1.1.64 some
communal disturbances took place in the
eastern part of Pakistan and upto present
time about 8.39 lakhs of persons have
come to India. Subsequently, on account
of the nationalisation policy adopted by
the Burmese Government, about 1.59 lakhs
of people have come over here. The House
also knows that under our agreement with
the Ceylonese Government, nearly 5.25 lakhs
of people are likely to be repatriated to
this country in a period of 15 years. This is
the problem we are faced with.

Our approach in solving this has been
to settle these persons on land, giving them
loans to start trade and other occupations
and to settle them in industry. As a
matter of fact, we have taken up a massive
programme in Dandakaranya, to which
Mr. Kachwai referred. About 10,450
families are there today. It is a big agri-
cultural project which was taken up in an

area which was absolutely inaccessible
previously. It started sometime in 1959.

Nearly about 1,10,000 acres of land
has been reclaimed by the fully mechanised
units of the Rehabilitation Reclamation
Organisation. 40,000 acres of land has
been brought under cultivation. The im-
portant point which I want to highlight
so far as Dandakaranya Development
Authority is concerned is the irrigation
project that has been undertaken in the
project area. I may mention for the infor-
mation of hon. Members that two dams
have been completed. One is called the
Bhaskal Dam and the other is called the
Pakanjor Dam at a total cost of Rs. 1.8
crores. The Bhaskal Dam will irrigate
about 11000 acres of land and the other
dam will irrigate about another 11000 acres.
Two other dams are under construction.
One is the Davuda Dam and the other is
called the Satyagude Dam. The first one
will cost Rs 178 lakhs and the other will
cost Rs. 2.02 crores. The total area likely
to be brought under irrigation when all
these projects are completed will be 75,000
acres of land out of which tribal land
would be about 25,000 acres. When the
scheme for Dandakaranya was conceived
the idea was to bring about effective and
expeditious settlement of the displaced
persons in Dandakaranya and also to carry
out accelerated development of the area
with particular regard to the interests of
the tribal people.

25 per cent of the land reclaimed is
handed over to the State Government to
be distributed to the landless adivasis.
That means nearly about 24,000 acres of
reclaimed land has been handed over to
the State Governments for distribution to
the adivasis. I may mention that nearly
about 64 villages have been established for
adivasis in the area and 224 villages have
been established for the displaced persons.
This Dandakaranya Development Authority
which was imagined, planned and conceived
by the late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal
Nehru when he dreamt of the area coming
up like anything. After all these irrigation
projects which I mentioned just now are
completed, I am quite confident it will
come up like anything as an agricultural
project.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI (Guna) :
Like everything with the Government.