

from Rajasthan—horrible fellows. Let us be frank about it. What have the Assamese done for my people? I want to know. There are 30 lakhs of them. What have the Assamese done to them? They themselves agitate 'We want jobs. Get ride of Bengalees. Assam for Assamese only.' That is their argument.

If they want to get rid of my fellows, my people who built the industry.

AN HON MEMBER: It is not an argument.

SHRI JAIPAL SINGH: When we think of tea industry, we must think of Ceylon also, East Africa naturally, North Bengal and Assam and, of course, South India. You cannot isolate any of these. This is in relation to the Tea Board. Now I know too well the members of the Tea Board. Unfortunately, I have to-day to say some rough things about them—something harsh, I think it is about time that the Government economised and abolished the Tea Board. I do not see what function it has. What is the Indian Tea Association doing? I do not know what the Indian Tea Board does. Recently, only last year, I went to a party they gave in Calcutta. They were trying to develop how tea could be made into a cocktail and some thing like that. Just put in something. Of course, I liked it. You know I taste other thing also. (Interruptions) I am very happy. Well, there is some future for tea.

AN HON. MEMBER: It only cocktail.

SHRI JAIPAL SINGH: You do not know the meaning of the word 'cocktail'. The whole point is this. If the hon. Minister's idea is that by this Bill he is going to help the tea industry, let him be sensible. Let him come round to brass-tacks. There is the excise duty. Abolish it. Then you will find right now Indian tea will be defeating Ceylon exports. Here we talk a lot about this Indo-Ceylon agreement, this and that. What happens? We lend money to Burma. Burma buys tea from Ceylon. Why? I want to know. Why are my friends, the Britishers, trying to develop tea gardens in Kenya? Why? Because my friends, these people, do not know now to behave. That is why they do that. They have been here for hundreds of years. Why should not they go to

Andamans? That is what is happening. Let us be honest with ourselves. The British are rooted here in the tea industry. If you just go into the antecedents of the proprietors of the British tea gardens, you will realise who they are. Their hearth and home is here. They may be British, but they are Indians—I am telling you. They cannot go anywhere. It is like Tata (Interruptions) being in Bengal. But where can he go? Where can he go—I want to know. Mr. Biren Mukerjee—I can quote examples like that—even through Mr. Jyoti Basu is doing something, where can he go? Let us discover that even the British people and some other people who had been here had developed these areas. (Interruption) The hon. Member has not visited the tea gardens, whereas I have actually lived in the tea gardens in Assam. It is very easy to talk about anything, but we have to be realistic. I would like to oppose this Bill, but considering the general situation, I shall support it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Debate will continue tomorrow.

The House will now take up the Half-an-Hour Discussion.

17.32 hrs

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION SETTLEMENT OF EAST PAKISTAN REFUGEES

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai); Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising a Debate on the twin problems of the doubly betrayed people of East Bengal. Sir, at the time of partition, on the 15th August, 1947, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave an assurance to the people of East Bengal when he said:

"They are of us and will remain of us whatever may happen and we shall be sharers in their good and ill-fortune alike."

On the same day, over the All-India Radio, Sardar Vallabhai said to the people of East Bengal:

"Let not our brethren across the border feel that they are neglected and forgotten. Their welfare will claim our vigilance and we shall follow with abiding interest their future in full hope and confidence that sooner than later we shall be united in common allegiance to our country."

[Shri Samar Guha]

What to speak of giving protection to the minorities, in East Pakistan, the Government have not taken adequate steps for rehabilitation of the refugees who have crossed into India after partition? They are betrayed again now by not being offered proper facilities for rehabilitation. The total refugees from West Pakistan, as the Government figure shows, is 47.4 lakhs. The official figure has shown that the number of refugees from East Pakistan is 51.1 lakhs. But, Sir, I want to add to it another 10 lakhs more because the middle-class and upperclass refugees who have come to India have not registered themselves as refugees, but they made their own efforts to rehabilitate themselves.

I would accuse the Government that they have taken a step-motherly attitude in their policy of rehabilitation towards the East Pakistan refugees. It has been given out by the Government that up till now the Government have spent Rs. 204.11 crores for the rehabilitation of West Pakistan refugees and Rs. 277.45 crores for the rehabilitation of the East Pakistan refugees. This figure reflects bureaucrating jugglery of suppression, juxtaposition and even distortion of facts. Taking into consideration the value of 47.3 lakhs standard acres of rural land and about .9 lakhs of urban and rural houses of Muslim evacuees who left India given to the refugees from West Pakistan and Rs. 190 crores interim compensation that was given to refugees from West Pakistan and added to it the grant given in 1967-68 to an amount of Rs. 60 lakhs,—this amount so far spent by the Government of India for the rehabilitation of the refugees from West Pakistan comes to Rs. 2135.1 crores.

Regarding East Pakistan refugees the official rehabilitation process started only in 1958 after a conference of the Central Ministers was held and the State Ministers in Calcutta. Before that, in nearly 65 camps, nearly 10 lakh refugees was there and according to Government figures, Rs. 122 crores have been spent as grant for them. This money was spent on relief measures for the refugees in those camps. For nearly ten years, these 10 lakh people were kept in camps, demoralising them,

frustrating them and creating a situation in which they almost lost confidence in themselves.

If we deduct this amount of Rs. 122 crores as amount spent on relief, not for rehabilitation, the amount the Government have spent for the East Pakistan refugee for rehabilitation comes to only Rs. 156.55 crores.

If we take the amount spent for each West Pakistan refugee for rehabilitation, it come to Rs. 4,640 whereas in the case of each East Pakistan refugee it comes to about only Rs. 260. If this is not step-motherly treatment towards the unfortunate people from East Pakistan, I do not know what conclusion one can draw out of these figures.

I have already said that the real rehabilitation of the East Pakistan refugees started in 1958. Till then it was the hope of the Government of India that these refugees would go back and the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact would bear fruit and the situation would normalise.

When they started rehabilitation, nearly 50 lakh refugees somehow or other huddled themselves within the bounds of the State of West Bengal. Assam rehabilitated 4 lakhs, Tripura took in nearly 4 lakhs. Bihar accommodated one lakh and the rest of India altogether absorbed not more than a lakh. India was partitioned on an avowed assurance given to the minorities left in Pakistan. But the ill-fated East Pakistani refugees have had not the room now in the whole of India to be rehabilitated properly.

I have recently visited Andamans. When the refugees were reluctant to go to Andamans, the Government was very solicitous to send them there now. But when the refugees are very much to go there, the door has practically been shut for them. Uptill now, 15,000 refugees have been sent to Andamans. The next target for rehabilitation of East Pakistan refugees in Andamans for the next fourth five year Plan is only 3,000. The study team sent by the Government, which was composed of senior Secretaries, of the Central Government recommen-

ded that by 1971 at least 75,000 East Pakistan refugees and some Burma repatriates should be rehabilitated in Andamans and by 1975, an additional number of 75,000 refugees should be sent there. But as I have already said, the present target for the 4th Plan is only 3,000 more refugees to be rehabilitated in the Andamans.

I would like to know categorically from Government whether in the next five or six years, they would send at least 2 lakh refugees to the Andamans so that they get rehabilitated there.

The next question is compensation. I have already mentioned that an interim compensation of Rs. 190 crores has been given to refugees from West Pakistan. I do not grudge, that, in fact, I wish more could be given to these unfortunate people. But compensation was not given to East Pakistan refugees on the following considerations: (1) According to the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, there will be no restriction about travel of the refugees between West Bengal and East Pakistan; (2) there will be no passport; (3) the ownership of the properties of the refugees from East Pakistan will be recognised by the Government of Pakistan; and (4) they will be allowed to transfer their assets and deal with their trade business, etc. there. All these conditions have been completely denied. The passport has been introduced. Transfer of money is not allowed. The properties of the East Pakistan Minorities and refugees have been forcibly occupied. I do not know whether this House is aware that 75 per cent of the urban properties, 67 per cent of land, 90 per cent of trade and business, all the seven cotton mills, all sugar mills, all oil mills and all jute trade, all glass factories, all brass metal industries were, owned by the minorities there. Now they have all been confiscated by Government of East Pakistan. So, I want to know the considerations on which the East Pakistan refugees have been denied compensation as was given to their counterparts from West Pakistan. I want to know whether the conditions contemplated still prevail, if not what moral right this Government has to deny the refugees from East Pakistan their legitimate right to compensation for the properties they have left in East Pakistan which the Government of East Pakistan has forcibly occupied and

confiscated. Even in yesterday's paper you have seen that 18 Indian properties, and other properties of migrants, have been confiscated.

After the 1961 massacre of the minorities in East Pakistan, merely ten lakhs of minorities have migrated to India. Out of these, only three lakhs migrated to India with valid permits and passports. Seven lakhs had no passport, or any permits because it is extremely difficult for the people from the north, east or west area of East Pakistan to go to Dacca High Commissioner's office and get the migration certificate. Even the issue of migration certificates is very strictly controlled by the High Commissioner there. Therefore, these seven lakhs of people also crossed after 1964 without migration certificates. The Government has made a distinction between the migrants with permits and migrants without permits. I demand that there should not be any discrimination between the migrants with valid permits and those without permits because it is due to the failure of the Government of India to enforce the Nehru-Liaquat Pact and because they had to come to India as their lives were made miserable. It is not a pleasure trip for them to India, that these unfortunate people come here.

I demand that the loans of the refugee families having an income of less than Rs. 500 per month should be remitted. Other rehabilitation measure that the Government should take are the following. Oil and infirm refugees and others deserted by their families should be given life pension or asylum in permanent relief camps. Educational and facilities should be extended to East Pakistan refugees for some more years. More grants should be given for setting up small scale industries and trade and business by the East Pakistan refugees. The Central Government should fix up a quota for the employment of East Pakistan refugees and lastly the report submitted by the Parliamentary Committee on rehabilitation of East Pakistan refugees should be implemented without delay.

The refugees who came from West Pakistan numbered nine lakhs and all of them recorded their name with the employment exchange and about four lakhs got employment in the Government. Why not

[Shri Samar Guha]

have the East Pakistan refugees' quota fixed for their employment in the Central services?

I do not understand why the Government of India did not seek the help of the United Nations which did a marvellous job for war refugees in Europe and West Asia. India never tried to get the help of the United Nations for the rehabilitation of the refugees. West Germany has more than ten million refugees from East Germany, and all rehabilitated. I visited Hong Kong. Hong Kong produced food enough to feed its population originally for three months only. It has now ten times its population. That only shows that if there is planning, land is not a problem. If there is proper planning it is possible to rehabilitate the refugees effectively in West Bengal and Assam and other parts also.

Lastly, this is a warning to the Government. One of the reasons for the chaotic conditions in West Bengal today is the frustration and despair and hunger and lack of faith in themselves among the East Pakistan refugees. If you go around Calcutta you will see how there are graduates engineers and post graduates, a number of them living in each house in the slums. They have no hope for the future; they have no hope in developing themselves as good citizens of our country. It is a warning. If the Government do not take into consideration the pitiable conditions of the refugees perhaps the Eastern region will develop into a situation endangering the stability and security of our country. I request the Government therefore to give proper attention to the task of rehabilitating all the East Pakistan refugees.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY** (Cooh-Bihar) : The treatment of this problem by the Government of India from time to time is really very exasperating. Since the beginning we know that the displaced persons from East Pakistan are being treated differently from their counter parts, namely, those who have come from West Pakistan. They have been placed in an inferior status. I do not know whether the Government consider this as a snag on human civilisation to treat these five million persons—according to their calculations—as inferior persons. As per their calculations upto 1964 about five million persons have crossed over from East Pakistan into India and from 1964 January onwards about ten

lakhs of persons have come—the total nine million. As a matter of fact there are in addition about 2-3 million persons who have come over from East Pakistan but did not register themselves as refugees. So it is really about 8-9 million persons and about 75 per cent of them live in West Bengal. What is amount of compensation paid to them? What is the amount spent on their amenities? Absolutely nothing. Compare it to what was done in respect of their counterparts from West Pakistan whose numbers were just a little over four million. From the reports we see that the Government had built 1.42 lakhs of urban properties for West Pakistani refugees. There are about three lakhs of evacuee properties that this Government have given to them in exchange.

Sir, if we look to this problem, considering this 1,42,000 urban properties built by this Government, and assuming that the cost of this urban property is Rs. 20,000 each, what is the figure that we get? We get about Rs. 300 crores spent on them; a little less than Rs. 400 crores. If we calculate this value of 3 lakh evacuee properties that we have for West Pakistan displaced persons, it is about Rs. 1,000 crores in respect of urban properties alone. But in respect of rural property, according to Punjab acre, six million Punjab acres of land, rural, agricultural land have been distributed among the West Pakistan displaced persons whose number is just four million. According to the standard acre, it is three million acres.

So, in a nutshell, if we just take that one acre means Rs. 1,000, according to the most humble calculations, it comes, to three million standard acres, to another Rs. 300 crores. In this way, we find that an amount of more than Rs. 2,000 crores has been arranged to benefit the West Pakistan displaced persons. But for East Pakistan displaced persons, whose numbers stand at six million according to the statistics,—but according to unofficial statistics it is about eight to nine million—they have only Rs. 200 crores, but their calculation is something more; it is about Rs. 277 crores. If we deduct the expenses that have been incurred on other schemes of development such as Dandakarnaya, which is Rs. 43 crores, and some land reclamation schemes and the industrial corporation, the figure comes to a little more than Rs. 200 crores. Not more than that. But here in the publication of the Ministry, it is Rs. 277 crores.

So, on an average, I find that the East Pakistan displaced persons have been benefited, according to their population, to the extent of less than one twelfth of what was received by the West Pakistan displaced persons.

Then, about compensation, there was agreement in 1950 between the two late Prime Ministers,—the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Khan pact. It was known to all that this agreement was placed in the dust-bin since its signing and nothing more than that. In 1954, when the Displaced Person Compensation Act, was passed, it was found that it was an agreement which would not be honoured. Even then, this Government did nothing to consider the payment of compensation for East Pakistan displaced persons. Therefore, on the matter, we had written letters to the Minister of External Affairs Shri Dinesh Singh who has informed me in his letter dated 3rd July, 1969—I would just read one sentence at the end of the letter and I think the hon. Minister will give a careful hearing to that—and he has admitted, "However, we are keeping the issue under review and shall do our best to see that the legitimate claims of the people who have come from East Pakistan are not lost." That is regarding the payment of compensation. So, the Government agree that their legitimate claims will not be lost. I would like to know from the Government what steps they are taking at least to realise the compensation from the Government of Pakistan, or, are they simply sending protest letters, containing tonnes and tonnes of words, to the Government of Pakistan, as has been just now referred in today's newspaper, *Statesman*?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please finish.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : I shall finish in one minute, Sir. Now, there are various amenities that have to be attended to for the displaced persons from East Pakistan. Very shortly the service concessions applicable to the East Pakistan displaced persons are going to lapse by the 31st December this year. I would like to know from the Government whether this Government will extend the service conditions for another five years so that the East Pakistan displaced persons may get

employment by getting certain age concessions and certain other preferences. I would like to know from the Government whether they would quickly settle this problem of East Pakistan displaced persons and their residuary problems also in West Bengal. In West Bengal, the Government have demanded immediately a sum of Rs. 30 crores. I would like to know whether this Government will pay this Rs. 30 crores to West Bengal.

श्री शिव चन्द्र भा (मधुबनी) : मेरा पहला सवाल यह है कि जितने लोग रिहैबिलिटेड किये गए हैं, क्या उन लोगों में कोई अन-एम्प्लाइड लोग भी हैं और यदि हैं तो कितने हैं और कितने लोगों को एम्प्लायमेंट मिला है। जो अनएम्प्लायड हैं उनको एम्प्लायमेंट देने की सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है। यह मैं उनके बारे में पूछ रहा हूँ जो रिहैबिलिटेड हैं।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि 1964 के बाद कितने न्यू माइग्रेंट्स आए हैं आज तक वेस्ट बंगाल में ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जितना पैसा रिहैबिलिटेशन पर खर्च किया गया है उसका कितना परसेंटेज या कितना रुपया एजुकेशन पर, उनके जो बालबच्चे हैं, उनकी शिक्षा पर खर्च किया गया है ?

अंतिम मेरा सवाल यह है कि चटर्जी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट कब तक पेश हो जाएगी ? उसकी रिपोर्ट कब तक आ जाएगी ?

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI (Howrah) : Sir, the acceptance of partition of India had been an outrageous, bad decision on the part of the India leadership and was against the basic concepts of our nationalism and secularism. Be that as it may, we have accepted that accident of history in the hope that in the long run, things would settle down in a desirable manner but it has to be admitted that we will have to atone for our sins. At least 65 lakhs of people from East Pakistan

[Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji]

have come to West Bengal for shelter and rehabilitation. But if you see the conditions in which they live, you will be horrified and tears will roll down your eyes. People are flocked in small thatched huts where no water-supply or sanitation is possible. Children are allowed to roam about without education and with nothing to fall back upon.

**SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDY (Kendrapara)** : That Government is also partitioned now.

**SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHATTERJI** : We have to atone for our sins. We feel that the Government should have made a serious attempt to get compensation from the Pakistan Government. Everybody knows that in East Bengal, most of the Hindus were propertied persons and they had left enormous properties. The refugees who came from West Pakistan were given compensation and they were also rehabilitated, but it was not so in the case of the 65 lakhs of people who were uprooted from their traditional home in East Pakistan and who have to lead a life of misery and sorrow. Out of these 65 lakhs, 35 lakhs have not yet been rehabilitated. These people are a problem for the entire State. There are also anti-social elements who are taking advantage of the situation and creating problems which are difficult to tackle. Therefore, we have been pleading that the crores of rupees that have been spent by the Government were not properly spent and they were spent in a manner which was not scientific. In West Bengal alone, at least 50 lakhs of them can be rehabilitated if they take up the work scientifically. In certain districts like Bankura, Birbhum and Midnapore if we take up the work properly and if we develop the Sunderbans area, we can profitably utilise those places not only to give shelter to lakhs of our people but we can also give them employment. But no attempt has been made to do that. We therefore insist on this Government to take up this work vigorously. It is not merely the responsibility of the State. The State Government does not have the necessary resources. The Centre

must come forward with sufficient financial resources to help the State to rehabilitate them in West Bengal itself, because when they are sent outside the State, they are faced with linguistic and cultural difficulties. They do not have the psychological backing to get the hope to rehabilitate themselves by their own efforts. That is why we plead that attempts should be made to see if they can be rehabilitated properly and given shelter and employment in West Bengal itself. I hope the hon. Minister will give a categorical answer to the points I have raised.

18 hrs.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAWAT JHA AZAD)** : Mr. Chairman, hon. Members have raised points on three counts : firstly, on compensation ; secondly, about rehabilitation measures so far taken and their inadequacy according to them ; and, thirdly, about rehabilitation in the Andaman Islands and present and future plans.

So far as compensation for evacuee property in the eastern zone was concerned, I have to admit sorrowfully that the Central evacuee property law did not apply to the eastern zone. Under the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact of 1950, it was agreed that refugees, from East Pakistan had full proprietary rights in the immovable property that they had left there, had a right to sell or dispose of the property in any manner that they liked. Therefore, compensation did not apply in their case as it did in the case of refugees from West Pakistan. It is a fact that those who came from West Pakistan got compensation because it was not covered under that Pact. We had a hope that the East Pakistan Government would make it possible and feasible for refugees who had come to go back and dispose of their land and immovable or other property even if they had crossed over to India. We must say that that hope of ours has been belied. The Pakistan Government did not co-operate with us ; rather, it is a fact that they have put obstacles and impediments in the way of

refugees so that they could not dispose of their land or other immovable property in that part of Pakistan. Not only that, they also promulgated an Ordinance contrary to the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact of 1950 and made the condition of these refugees completely difficult in selling off their immovable property. Because technically that Act stands under which they have a right to sell their property. It could not be possible for us up till now to provide for compensation. We have no law under which we can cover that compensation. But we still hope and are trying to persuade Pakistan.

Shri Chowdhury asked whether we are only sending protests. It is true that we are sending protests. We are trying to persuade Pakistan. We cannot send armies; we can only persuade them, goad them, request them, send a protest and remind them that as a Government they should fulfil their promise under the 1950 Pact and allow all persons who have crossed over to this side to go and dispose of their property as they like. We cannot at the present moment do anything else. But we have no law under which we can give compensation to people from East Pakistan.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :** Why do you not put the matter before an International agency ?

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Is the Government going to make a fresh reappraisal of the problem and, if necessary, to extend that law to the eastern sector also ? You are just telling the House about your difficulties. You must state the attitude of Government.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** I am stating what the present position is and what the difficulties are in the way. I have said that we are trying our best to ask, request, goad and persuade Pakistan to observe the Pact of 1950. I have stated the position very clearly there is nothing to hide—this was the agreement under which we could not do it; these are the difficulties and these are the steps. Beyond that, I do not know, what more steps can we take ?

The hon. Member. has asked for a

reappraisal of it. We are really sincere about it. We want to make a reappraisal and find out in what way we can help the East Pakistan refugees so far as compensation is concerned.

Regarding rehabilitation measures, up to March 1958 we had about 41.47 lakhs refugees in our country. 31 lakhs of them remained in West Bengal. The new migrants from 1964 up to 31st October, 1969 are 8,52,000.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** These figures do not include unregistered refugees. I did not even register my name though I am a refugee. The upper-class and the middle-class people whose number will be nearly 10 lakhs did not register themselves as refugees but they themselves got rehabilitated on their own.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** I am giving whatever information the Government has got according to the different sources available to the Government through our camps and police verifications. According to all the sources which are at our disposal, upto March, 1958, the figure is 41,47,000 and the figure of new migrants upto 31st October, 1969 is 8,52,000. It may be possible that according to the information of the hon. Member, the number may be more. These are the figures available to us. We can only give the figures that we have and what hon. Members have they are quoting their figures. We cannot agree with their figures. We can quote only the figures that we have.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** You may not agree but you may not disagree also. (Interruptions)

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** I have heard them enough. The hon. Members can go on repeating their points of view. I can only give the information that I have.

**SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :** This is the figure of displaced persons published by the Ministry of Rehabilitation. On p.2, it is stated, from 1.1.64 upto December, 1966, the number of new migrants is 8 lakhs and odd.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** That is what I have been saying. He should hear me patiently. He is quoting an old figure. I am giving a new figure which is more than that.

Then, upto 1967-68, we have spent about Rs. 258.43 crores out of which we have spent about Rs. 159 crores in West Bengal alone. It may be, as the hon. Members argue, that this may not be enough. We have never claimed that what the Government has done is adequate enough. Who can claim that? As far as possible, we have tried to do our best. The miseries that these refugees from East Pakistan have suffered cannot be calculated in terms of any amount of money. Even if the Government spends three to four times the amount that has been spent, I think, the human miseries that have been suffered by these refugees cannot be calculated in terms of money. I am only saying that out of Rs. 258 crores, we have spent Rs. 159 crores in West Bengal alone.

In 1960-61, we had a review with the Government of West Bengal about this problem. We thought that the problem, by and large, had been settled and that there were only residuary problems to which the West Bengal Government said that they would require about Rs. 21.88 crores to settle the residuary problems. Out of that amount, we have put at the disposal of the West Bengal Government an amount of Rs. 16.85 crores and they have spent Rs. 14 crores.

After that, in January, 1967, we set up a review committee now under our eminent parliamentarian, Shri N. C. Chatterjee. They placed an interim report in December, 1967. They said that they required about Rs. 41.64 lakhs. Out of this amount, we have put at their disposal Rs. 20 lakhs and, we hope, if another demand comes, we will be able to give more.

Then, they have given the second report. This is in reply to the point raised by Shri Samar Guha and a question asked by Shri Shiv Chandra Jha. They asked about the special facilities to be given. This second report of the committee is purely about educational facilities. They have said that

they would require about Rs. 265 lakhs. We are examining this with the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry as to how to find out resources and what should be done about it.

Then, about Andaman Islands, that is an important question which Mr. Samar Guha has raised. It is true that an Inter-Departmental Committee has suggested that by 1971, 75,000 population of 1965 may be doubled and it should be possible that another 1 lakh should be settled by 1976 and land should be reclaimed to the tune of 1.25 lakh acres in 10-15 years. This is a big scheme which we have set our heart to do because it gives an opportunity to us. For example, in Little Andaman itself which has got an area of 282 sq. miles, it is said that possibly 60,000 acres can be reclaimed. We have taken action in right earnest. We have moved our Rehabilitation Reclamation Organisation to that island for that. 1500 acres are being reclaimed and 26 families have already moved and 16 have offered. Apart from that, uptill now we have settled 540 families and in the current year we propose to settle about 155 families. Apart from that we have Burma repatriates there.

In the Great Nicobar islands we have moved some ex-Servicemen. I would like to say to the hon. Member because he has insisted and I am happy that he insists, that the Andaman island has got a potentiality in future for resettlement. I agree with the hon. Member and we are taking all possible action in this regard. As I said earlier, in the Little Andaman itself which has got an area of 282 sq. miles, 60,000 acres of land may be available.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA :** Recently I have visited that island.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD :** I had also the pleasure to visit this island sometime before. I am trying to see myself as to what possibilities are there for resettlement. However, one point where possibly I cannot agree with Mr. Guha is that we have not found the inclination and readiness in the refugees to move to Andaman Islands. He said that people are just eager to go there. I think there possibly Prof. Guha is somewhat optimistic. But I would hasten to

add that possibly that may be due to the fact that at present the transport facilities have not been fully developed neither by air nor by the sea. Other wise, we are trying to improve the transport facilities by building jetties and having breakwaters. I think it will take time. For example, carrying and felling the timber is a big problem and it requires mechanical means. It cannot be done physically. If we may be able to move the mechanical unit and construct jetties and breakwaters which will take time, I think by developing these transport facilities, we will be able to inspire and enthuse confidence and encourage the move to Andaman islands. I think we will be able to do it.

Therefore, on these three points, according to the hon. Member they may be true and transport facilities may not be adequate and our results may not be as we expected, but we are trying our best to tackle this problem to the best of our capacity.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS** *rose.*

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now we adjourn till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

**18.14 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, December 2, 1969/Agrahayana 11, 1891 (Saka).*