

actually promoted because of inadequate number of experienced Scheduled Caste employees within the field of selection. While the quota can be completed only when the Scheduled Castes employees gain adequate experience, certain steps such as holding of special selection boards are taken to expedite the process. Scheduled Castes candidates are judged by selection boards in a sympathetic manner and those who do not come fully upto the mark are given additional training to bring them up to the standard of others.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUDIT REPORT AND APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS

The Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers:—

(i) Audit Report (Civil), 1962 under article 151(1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-167/62].

(ii) Appropriation Accounts (Civil); 1960-61. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-168/62].

12.02½ hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DISTURBANCES IN EAST PAKISTAN AND SUBSEQUENT MIGRATIONS

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House will recall that on 12th May I had spoken, at some length, on the unfortunate, disturbances in Malda, in April, in which fourteen people lost their lives, nine on Holi day this was in March—and five more between 16th and 20th April. There was no trouble whatsoever in Murshidabad district. The grossly exaggerated reports in Pakistan newspapers and some very objectionable

statements by high ranking officials in Pakistan, it will be recalled, then led to the very serious disturbances in Dacca, Rajshahi and in several other districts in East Pakistan. We had protested about all this to Pakistan and pressed the Government of Pakistan to take active and immediate steps for the restoration of law and order, the restoration of confidence among the minorities and rehabilitation of those who had suffered in these riots in East Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan has now replied to our note of protest of 12th May. The Pakistan reply suggests that communal riots never start in Pakistan and whenever there are communal incidents in that country, they take place only as a reaction to the communal troubles in India. The Pakistan reply however, admits that the trouble in East Pakistan was serious. They have said nothing about the particular incidents in Darsa and other places, to which we had drawn their attention; but they have given a detailed account of the steps taken to restore confidence in the disturbed areas. The House will permit me to read out a part of the Pakistan Government's reply:

"The latest reports from the district of Rajshahi, as indeed from some other areas, where tension was high owing to the atrocities committed on Muslim; across the border, show that the situation is now completely normal throughout East Pakistan and has been so for nearly four weeks. As a matter of fact, troops as well as strong contingents of the East Pakistan Rifles that were posted to the affected areas, are being withdrawn gradually at present. As many as 1908 arrest; have been made in the areas where the disturbances took place. Police investigation is being vigorously pursued in order to deal effectively with those responsible for the unfortunate disturbances. Already a large

number of persons have been charge-sheeted and further charge-sheets are being filed every day. The local authorities and the Muslims of the affected areas are reconstructing the dwellings of the members of the minority community which were burnt or otherwise damaged. In Rajshahi district, 90 per cent of such dwellings have reconstructed and more than 50 per cent of the looted properties has also been restored to the respective owners. Instances have not been lacking where Muslims in many places, at great personal risk, provided protection to the Hindu neighbours in distress."

It is clear from all this that there was very serious trouble in East Pakistan. They had to use troops and also strong contingents of East Pakistan Rifles to control the situation. We feared at one time, with ample legitimacy, that there would be substantial migration of the minority community from East Pakistan into India. In the first three weeks of May our Rajshahi office (Assistant High Commission) had interviewed over 4,000 intending migrants. Subsequent reports show that these people had been persuaded, not by us but by Pakistan authorities, to go back to their villages. Our latest reports from Dacca show that, so far, less than 2,000 requests for migration have been received by our Deputy High Commissioner. (Migration Certificates are issued only by our Deputy High Commission at Dacca). He has authority to render them such assistance as may be necessary. But I want the House to understand in all this that there has been no substantial migration from east to west. Our enquiries reveal that about 200 persons belonging to the minority community in Pakistan had come across immediately after the first disturbances in Rajshahi district. Thereafter in May, a little over 600 persons have arrived in West Bengal, about 400 of whom hold Migration Certificates issued to them before the

disturbances. The statistics of travelling between East Pakistan and West Bengal actually show that there is reasonable normalcy in the traffic. In the month of April, for instance, 11,664 Hindus had come to West Bengal and 13,015 had left West Bengal for Pakistan. 14,776 Muslims had come into West Bengal in April and 14,264 (i.e. some 500 less) went from West Bengal to East Pakistan, despite the grossly exaggerated report in the Pakistan Press of the massacres in Malda and the migration of refugees. I do not have with me the full figures for the month of May, but in the first half of May the Hindu arrivals are not high, being 6,464 (which twice over, would be 12,928), though the departure of Hindus is less—2,676 for half the month. The Muslim figures for the first half of May are even more significant. 6,487 Muslims have left West Bengal for East Pakistan in the first half of May; but no less than 5,435 Muslims have come to West Bengal from East Pakistan in the same fortnight. It is perfectly obvious that if Pakistan newspaper reports had any truth in them, over 5,000 Muslims would not be crossing over—as they always do—from East Pakistan into India in the fortnight immediately following the so-called murders in Malda and Murshidabad.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Sir, may I seek a clarification?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether it is a fact that our High Commission in East Pakistan deliberately slowed down the process of offering facilities to those members of the minority community in Pakistan who wanted to migrate to this country, on the plea that there were no officials working there to cope with this problem? On the other hand, Sir, my information is that Government did it deliberately with a view to check migration as Government feared that this might be an inducement to other

[Shri Hem Berua]

members of the minority community in East Pakistan to migrate to this country. If so, why should people be allowed to suffer or face slow death on a big scale like this?

Shri Badrudduja (Murshidabad): May I know....

Mr. Speaker: Let us first hear the answer.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Our high Commission in Dacca have issued migration certificates only after due enquiry. They did not offer facilities, or deny them, to anybody. Anyhow, that is a matter to be considered by the authorities in India later. To begin with, it appears that a large number of people came and asked for migration certificates of which some are pending cases. Then, quite a large number went back to their villages, apparently induced by the Pakistan authorities to do so. Whatever the reason may be, the Pakistan authorities took certain steps. As has been stated, after this trouble in Rajshahi Dacca etc. Pakistan authorities took some effective military steps to put an end to it and endeavoured to rehabilitate the people who have suffered by building their houses etc. Now, whether that was the reason or not, I do not know, but many people went back to their villages and actually did not come. The people who have come here are 400 people who have got their migration certificates before the trouble started there. So, that has nothing to do with the trouble; they came just a little before. Sometime afterwards, about 200 people, I think—I am speaking from memory—came without any certificates because people could cross over. So, I do not think it would be right to say that the people there are stopped from coming by the Indian High Commission. It is true that we have not encouraged them to come by telling them of all the benefits they would derive by coming—I think that is

wrong policy anyhow—but they have come, whether with migration certificates or not. Personally speaking, I am really rather surprised to find that in spite of all these troubles, the actual migration from India to Pakistan and Pakistan to India has been remarkably little and not much above the normal traffic. There are plenty of people coming from one place to another between East Pakistan and West Bengal.

Shri Badrudduja: May I know if on the 22nd of March 1962 six Muslims were burnt to death at Malda, three beaten to death and one girl of eight raped and, later on, on the 16th of April, several other persons were beaten to death. This had a demoralising effect upon the entire population of the district resulting in the exodus of Muslims from the town of Malda?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member refers to some people being burnt to death. This tragic incident occurred because a burning roof fell on them, which is really unfortunate. They were not actually deliberately burnt to death, but in a burning house the roof fell on them. This, no doubt, must have had some effect on the people, but what I am pointing out is that the effect was not such as to make many people to go away. I have given the full figures of migrations on both sides.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow a regular discussion. Shrimati Renuka Ray.

Shrimati Renuka Ray (Malda): In view of the last question just now put by an hon. Member, I would like to know whether the Government is aware that out of the persons who are

killed in Malda there are not only Muslims but also Hindus and the number of the latter is roughly five. Is it not a fact that the figures given by the Prime Minister are only of the Muslims alone?

Shri Badrudduja: May I know..

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, Shri-mati Renuka Ray says that in the number of persons killed in Malda there were Hindus also and that they were not all Muslims.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; as far as I know, 14 persons who lost their lives in Malda were Muslims of which nine lost it on the Holi day, that is, on the 22nd March, and five more on the 16th to the 20th April. The nine persons included five or six who got burnt by the roof falling on them and killed by that. I do not think in this number there is any Hindu.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur): May I ask....

Mr. Speaker: No regular discussion can take place.

An Hon. Member: But questions can be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: Two or three questions are sufficient.

12.16 hrs.

*DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—contd.

MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply, together with the cut motions moved thereon.

The hon. Minister.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in the debate and for the kind observations that they have made about me and the work done by me in the Ministry of Rehabilitation. During the course of the debate a number of suggestions have been made. Some of them are of a constructive nature and I propose to have each suggestion fully examined.

My two valued colleagues, Shri Purnendu Naskar and Shri Jaganatha Rao intervened in the debate and covered a number of those points. It is quite likely that some may still remain over and during the time that is at my disposal I may not be able to dispose of all of them.

Some hon. Members made rather uncharitable observations about the Ministry of Rehabilitation. One of them went to the length of remarking that the Ministry had been truncated. Some one else went to the length of saying that it had been downgraded. If I remember correctly, the hon. Member opposite even accused the Government of shirking responsibility or of refusing to accept responsibility.

With a view to fully appreciate the problem we have to go back to the unfortunate year 1947—fortunate in one way in that our country became free and unfortunate in the sense that about 10 million people from Pakistan, both East and West, had to leave their hearth and home and come for shelter, relief and rehabilitation to India. I do not think any country in the world has been faced with such a gigantic problem. I also make bold to say that there is no country in the world which having been faced with refugee problem, though of a much smaller dimension, had to meet

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.