

calling-attention notices on the matter of rehabilitation of the migrants, and they relate to:

"The reported firing by police on refugees from East Pakistan on the 19th May, 1964, at Tiruvelli railway station, resulting in the death of five refugees and injuries to several."

I have not thought it proper to admit the adjournment motion. I could not do so. But I have admitted the calling-attention notices, and the names of all those Members have been clubbed together. I shall call upon Sri Krishnapal Singh whose name appears first, to call the attention of the hon. Minister.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** May I know the reasons why the adjournment motion has not been admitted? Through the adjournment motion, we wanted to censure the Government for the brutal firing on the refugees for whom so much is said on the floor of the House and outside. After all, we wanted to censure the Government, though the hon. Minister has expressed his regret. We should have been given an opportunity. Even after the statement is made in reply to the calling-attention notice, if the facts are revealing, I would request you to see that the adjournment motion may be admitted.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member knows that the reasons cannot be given in their very nature.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** It is a purely Central matter. The Centre is concerned.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not a purely Central matter.

Now, Shri Krishnapal Singh.

12.04 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE.**

**FIRING ON REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN AT TIRUVELLI RAILWAY STATION**

**Shri Krishnapal Singh (Jalesar):** I call the attention of the Minister of Rehabilitation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported firing by police on the refugees from East Pakistan on the 19th May, 1964, at Tiruvelli railway station, resulting in the death of five refugees and injuries to several."

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi):** The Government of Orissa have opened five camps, which include Sunabeda and Tiruvelli, under a programme to resettle 5,000 migrant families in small-scale industries. Agricultural land available in the country being limited, it is inevitable that a large proportion of the migrant families should be resettled in occupations other than agriculture. Pending establishment of small industries in these areas for permanent employment of displaced persons, opportunity of temporary employment in unskilled jobs (e.g., earth work for road building, railway track and contour bunding, bamboo cutting, brick loading and unloading, stone quarry work, work as helpers for masons etc.) have been arranged for the entire adult population of these camps and also for some skilled workers among them (e.g., carpenters, teachers, clerks, masons, blacksmiths, brick moulders etc.). The employment opportunities are being displayed prominently on notice boards and also through cyclostyled charts and are being announced to the displaced persons practically every day in each camp by the rehabilitation staff at the camps. No compulsion or force of any kind is, however, used to make the migrants to work.

[Shri Tyagi]

The total number of families staying at Tiruvelli camp on 18th May, 1964 was 597. As the families arrived at Tiruvelli, they started demanding settlement on agricultural land only. They were, however, advised to avail of employment opportunities in non-agricultural work which had been arranged near the camp, for all adult males. They were also told that the Orissa Government did not have any agricultural land on which they could be rehabilitated.

On the 16th May, the migrants gave an ultimatum to the Rehabilitation Officer of the camp that unless the Government decided to provide them land within 24 hours, they would get the demand fulfilled by resorting to other means. Out of the 597 families in Tiruvelli camp, about 375 deserted the camp on the 17th and 18th May and reached the Tiruvelli railway station. On 18th May, the migrants threatened the Assistant Station Master, Tiruvelli, with serious consequences if he failed to arrange special train for them within one hour for their return to the transit centre at Mana. The Minister in charge of Tribal and Rural Welfare in Orissa, the Deputy Rehabilitation Commissioner and the Additional Superintendent of Police, Koraput, advised them to return to the camp and not to disturb the peace and tranquillity at that place but this had no effect at all. About 200 persons squatted on the railway track and thus delayed the departure of a train.

On the 19th May, the migrants assumed a violent mood and threatened to kill the Railway and other Government officers. The District Magistrate, Koraput, and the Rehabilitation Minister entreated them in Oriya and Bengali not to violate the law, and to clear the track and the platform. The District Magistrate also asked them to send two of their representatives to discuss their grievances with him there. This was, however, replied to by violent gestures and slogans and some more migrants jump-

ed on the railway track. Seeing their threatening attitude and tendency to take law in their own hands, the District Magistrate promulgated orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code against 14 persons who were the main agitators. Warnings were issued on microphone in Oriya, Bengali and Hindi that their assembly had been declared unlawful. As this proved ineffective, the District Magistrate ordered immediate arrest of the leading agitators. The police party which included the Additional Superintendent of Police made two arrests but the mob surrounded the police officers and snatched away one of the arrested persons. The situation, therefore, demanded immediate use of force to disperse the mob and to rescue the officers who had been surrounded.

Owing to unfavourable conditions, tear-gas could not be used and, therefore, a lathi charge was ordered. As soon as the charge started, big-sized stones were hurled by the mob. Several agitated migrants took out tangias (a sort of axe), lathis and knives and started brandishing them. A Sub-Inspector of Police was hit on the head by a big stone and another stone hit a constable on the chest. An officer of the police party who went to rescue the Additional Superintendent of Police was thrown on the ground by the mob and belaboured. (Shri S. M. Banerjee: Nobody died.) Fifteen police personnel including the Additional Superintendent of Police and two Assistant Commandants received injuries and were later admitted to hospital. Seven members of the police party received serious injuries including fractures.

Having regard to the situation that had developed, the District Magistrate was satisfied that no time could be wasted on a further lathi charge and that firing was the only alternative to disperse the violent mob and to save the lives of the police officers who were subjected to brutal attack by the mob. The District Magistrate, therefore, ordered the dispersal of the

mob by fire. (*Shri S. M. Banerjee*: That is the report of the police officers who ordered the firing.) Before opening fire, due warning was given on the microphone. The firing was done under the control of the Superintendent of Police and 12 rounds were fired. Two persons died at the spot, three died *en route* to hospital and one died in the hospital. Six other persons from the mob also received injuries. Some persons have been arrested. Police investigation against them is in progress. The others have all returned to the camp and the position is now peaceful and under control.

This incident which has resulted in the loss of six lives and injuries to several others, including some police personnel, is very shocking indeed. But the hon. Members will appreciate that under the circumstances which developed, firing had become unavoidable. It is indeed a great pity that some of the displaced persons, who have all our sympathies in their plight and for whom we are trying to provide shelter and succour in this country, have instead of co-operating with us in our efforts to help and rehabilitate them have taken to an agitational role coupled with violence which no Government can ever tolerate. I earnestly hope that better counsels will prevail and that the Central Government and the State Governments will receive the co-operation of the migrants, who are undoubtedly in distress and deserve every help and support.

*Shri Krishnapal Singh*: In view of the frequent firings these days, and in view of the fact that several unfortunate incidents have taken place within the last few weeks including one at a Gurudwara, I think it is time that we decided upon a more strict discipline and certain preventive measures. I want to know if Government is considering of adopting...

*Mr. Speaker*: He is making a speech. If he wants to put any question about the incident that has happened, he

may; otherwise, I will pass on to the next Member.

*Shri Kapur Singh* (Ludhiana): He is giving the background.

*Mr. Speaker*: No, I do not want the background.

*Shri Krishnapal Singh*: Will the Government consider adopting preventive measures in order to check such unlawful assemblies in cases where ample warning has been given?

*Shri Tyagi*: As regards these refugee camps, Government is seriously thinking of enforcing some discipline in these camps, because Government cannot afford, as I said, this behaviour of the campers, and therefore, there must be some order, and for that purpose, some rules of discipline are being framed; they are being examined, and very soon they would be enforced.

*Shri Hem Barua* (Gauhati): May I know what steps Government have taken (a) to make the conditions of life in the camps conducive to the temper and way of life of the new migrants, and (b) to screen the new migrants so as to find out possible Pakistani agents, spies etc., infiltrating into their ranks?

*Shri Tyagi*: The latter part of the question is very important, and the Government is seriously considering to screen the migrants from that point of view. Maybe that some people who are pro-Pakistani are creating trouble. I might also inform the hon. Member that when some of the campers who are not loyal and helping the administration, threatened that they would like to go to Pakistan, I announced that if they wanted to go to Pakistan, I shall be happy, I shall send them, but if they wanted to be in the camp, they must be within the discipline, and must be happy to take up any work which was given to them.

**Shri Hena Barua:** My question is not replied to. I wanted to know the conditions of life in the camp.

**Shri Tyagi:** My attention was diverted by the other important question. Conditions of life are not really yet very satisfactory, I must confess. Because they are coming suddenly in such large numbers, it has become difficult to make the conditions quite fit, but all efforts are being made. There was climatic difficulty in some places. For instance, in Mana camp, it was very hot, and there were no sheds or trees. So, many other camps have been opened in better climate, near rivers and forests. All that is being looked into.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampur):** May I know if it is a fact that these people were sent from Mana and other transit camps near Dandakaranya to these five camps in Orissa, one of which was at Tiruvellii, for industrial employment, without any proper screening or job orientation, and whether it is a fact that definite assurances were held out to them that those people who went outside Bengal would be settled on land; if so, may I know if that aspect of the question has been gone into.

**Shri Tyagi:** As regards any technical training etc., to be given to these people who will be employed in industries, the Orissa Government had made ample arrangement for it. Just now, the Orissa Government was busy putting up the camps, their houses etc. For that purpose, the Orissa Government was engaging them in brick-laying, house-building and all these activities. They were never given an assurance that every family would be rehabilitated on agricultural land. It is not possible to find so much of agricultural land, and therefore that assurance has never been given. If the refugees are under that wrong impression, I might here and now clarify it that everybody cannot be rehabilitated on agricultural land.

**Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon):** May I know whether the Government have done, or intend to do, any classification of the refugees so that each section which wants industrial work or agricultural work should be classified and some arrangement made in the long run to provide them with that work for which they have got the aptitude, and not impose something on them, as has been done now?

**Shri Tyagi:** This system had been started by my predecessor already, and when I went to inspect the camp, I found that they were being classified category-wise.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur):** From the statement of the hon. Minister it appears that this is exactly what the police have said. I want to know whether Government propose to hold a judicial enquiry into the brutal firing, and if not, the reasons for the same. If they do not want to hold such an enquiry, may I know whether they would invite a parliamentary delegation to go into this?

**Shri Tyagi:** With regard to the law and order situation, whenever such situations arise in a State, it is for the State Government to look after peace and tranquillity. It was a case where lives were being threatened.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** They have been shot dead by Pakistanis, they are being shot dead by Indians.

**Shri Tyagi:** It is very difficult for the Central Government to intervene in every such case.

**Dr. Ranen Sen (Calcutta East):** The hon. Minister read out a report which is obviously from the police. May I know whether Government tried to know why the police party, instead of resorting to firing, did not take resort to tear gas shells, and later on disperse the crowd?

**Mr. Speaker:** That he has answered.

**Dr. Ramen Sen:** No, he has only said this much that the condition was not favourable. I want to know if the Government of India have investigated into this police report that the condition was not favourable.

**Mr. Speaker:** That would be investigated by the enquiry officer or body that is appointed there. The Members should realise that initially it is a matter of law and order, be it in a camp; then, too, it is a State subject, but because the refugees were involved in it, I have allowed it. They ought now to have patience till we get the report of the enquiry. Therefore, that enquiry is being made.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** That is a different enquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whatever it is.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Let there be a parliamentary delegation to report.

**Mr. Speaker:** He should not go on making such repetitions.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Six people have died.

**Mr. Speaker:** What should I do now? This ought not to be their impression that everything that is said on behalf of the Government is wrong, and we ought to support the other side. The enquiry is being conducted.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** We do not support, we want that there should be a proper enquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Shri Mukerjee.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central):** These unfortunate refugees are going through a stupendous and continuous strain right from the time when they were pushed out from Pakistan, and if they succumb to certain psychological difficulties when they feel as if they are coming from the frying pan into the fire, certain problems arise which require to be

sympathetically considered. May I know if Government has any mechanism for approaching these refugees in order to persuade them, which mechanism is operated not by police agencies or by District Magistrates, but other kinds of people who can make an impression on the mind of the refugees?

**Shri Tyagi:** This suggestion is very much in my mind. I may assure the House that in spite of the lapses on part of the refugees, they are not going to be blacklisted. But what is expected of them is that they must abide by the camp discipline, etc. The hon. Member has given a good suggestion. Quite a number of non-official agencies have come forward to render service to the refugees. They are not being treated as prisoners or anything like that; they are being treated as citizens and the persuasion process is amply being employed.

**Shri Mohammad Elias:** May I know whether the Government has examined the proposal of Mr. Satish Raj Gupta and the other left parties who have submitted a memorandum for the rehabilitation of these refugees in West Bengal itself because there is enough scope to rehabilitate all these refugees in West Bengal instead of sending these refugees to different States?... (Interruptions.)

**Mr. Speaker:** He is only to put a question and not make a speech.

**Shri Mohammad Elias (Howrah):** This statement regarding firing is very much shocking to all of us.

**Shri Tyagi:** Shri Satish Chandra Gupta is a personal friend of mine and when I went to Calcutta I called on his house and had a long talk with him. I have taken note of all the points he had to give about this problem. But I must confess to the House that not only the West Bengal Government is against the idea but I also feel that once I start putting camps in West Bengal it will be diffi-

[Shri Tyagi.]

cult for me to maintain and keep the Bengalis outside in distant places; they will all like to stick to West Bengal because they love their language so much that they would not go to any other State.

**Shri H. P. Chatterjee** (Nabadwip): The Minister has given a version of the persons who fired. But has he ascertained the version of the persons who have been fired upon? I would ask him to enquire what they have to say about this. Would he hold any enquiry personally, or would he allow an enquiry to be held by a deputation of Members of Parliament?

**Shri Tyagi:** May I inform the House that I have been having hour to hour information through telephone as well as on telegrams; when these refugees deserted the camp, I got information; when they reached the station I got information; I got a message when they squatted on the rails. It is not the version of the police alone; the Deputy Commissioner was there and one of the Ministers was also present. It is their version that I have given... (Interruptions.)

**Mr. Speaker:** Whether he proposes to form a committee of Members of Parliament—that is what he wants to know.

**Shri Tyagi:** There is no such intention.

12.25 hrs.

RE: MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT  
AND CALLING ATTENTION  
NOTICES

(QUERY)

**Mr. Speaker:** Papers to be laid... (Interruptions.)

**Shri Nambiar** (Tiruchirapalli): The question about Heavy Electricals,

Sir... (Interruptions.) One M.L.A. is fasting.

**Mr. Speaker:** When I have disallowed an adjournment motion and information has been conveyed to the hon. Member, I have told them that this is not the manner in which it has to be raised.

**Shri Nambiar:** Tell us the reasons.

**Mr. Speaker:** No, Sir.

**Shri Mohammad Elias** (Howrah): Regarding another adjournment motion with regard to Indian nationals in Burma...

**Mr. Speaker:** Has he not received any intimation?

**Shri Mohammad Elias:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will have the intimation sent to those Members who have not received it. I have allowed no adjournment motion. The calling attention notice which I allowed—that was what I just allowed.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta Central): If you can say whether the other adjournment motions for which alternative calling attention motions also have been given would be considered by you so that the calling attention might come up later...

**Mr. Speaker:** I have kept some of them pending and they will be informed when I decide what to do with them. I might have received more than fifty notices today and I cannot recollect which one of them I had dealt with.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee** (Kanpur): Sir, one word. While rejecting the calling attention notice on abnormal rise in prices, it has been stated here that the motion had been rejected because an unstarred question had been admitted for the 2nd June, 1964.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have not seen this.