

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, 14th March, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Half Past Ten of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-29 A.M.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MINUTES OF FOURTEEN SITTINGS OF COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes of fourteen sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held so far.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS (POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS) 1953-54 AND AUDIT REPORT 1955

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs) 1953-54 and the Audit Report 1955, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library, See No. S-80/56.]

COMPANIES (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S) GENERAL RULES AND FORMS

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms, 1956, published in the Ministry of Finance Notification No. S.R.O. 432A, dated the 18th February, 1956. [Placed in Library, See S-82/56.]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of

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Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 12th March, 1956 agreed without any amendment to the Sales-Tax Laws Validation Bill 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th February, 1956."

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FORTY-SIXTH REPORT

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to present the Forty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REHABILITATION OF REFUGEES FROM EAST PAKISTAN IN TRIPURA

Shri Biren Dutt (Tripura West): Under Rule 216, I beg to 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:—

"Rehabilitation of refugees from East Pakistan in Tripura."

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): On 5th March 1956 a notice under Rule 216 given by Shri Biren Dutt, on the subject of the rehabilitation of refugees from East Pakistan in Tripura was received from the Lok Sabha Secretariat. This notice referred to the influx of new migrants in large numbers from East Pakistan to the State of Tripura and some other grievances of the displaced persons. The notice made no mention of a hunger-strike.

On 6th March 1956, my colleague, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, handed over a telegram to me which he had received

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

from the General Secretary, All Tripura Refugee Association, Agartala. According to this telegram, about hundred refugees had started hunger strike from 2nd March. On the same day, I also received a letter from Shri Biren Dutt in this connection. As we had no information about the reported hunger-strike, the Tripura Government were asked to intimate the facts.

The total number of new migrants who have come to Tripura during the months of January and February 1956, was 2,397 and 5,342 respectively as against the average monthly arrival of about 1,400 persons during the last year. For the migrants arriving through the Agartala check post, a reception centre has been opened at the border. For those arriving through Dharmanagar, Kailasahar, Kamalpur, Khoai, Belonia, and Sabroom, arrangements have been made for the grant of cash doles.

As regards the old migrants, most of them are living with friends and relations and some are in camps and getting cash doles. 6,900 families have applied for loans and their applications are being inquired into. I personally visited Tripura on the 18th, 19th and 20th January 1956 and saw for myself the condition of the displaced persons and the progress of the various rehabilitation schemes. I met the displaced persons and their representative organisations and discussed their difficulties. Appropriate action is being taken on the various proposals which emanated after my discussions. The Central Tractor Organisation has carried out a survey and it is proposed to reclaim a large tract of land in Raima Serma Valley. The proposal is under examination. Some schemes for the setting up of cottage and small scale industries are also under consideration.

On the 2nd March, a few displaced persons of Nihal Chandra Nagar placed themselves in front of the gate of the Rehabilitation Directorate and made a number of demands. The number of displaced persons gradually increased to about a hundred and by the 6th instant, they adopted a more truculent attitude and started obstructing the staff from entering the office by the main gate. Efforts were made to persuade them to call off the picketing. The Chief Commissioner considered the situation fully. He impressed upon the displaced

persons that picketing and obstruction of Government servants carrying out their normal duties could not be tolerated. He also told them that their demands would be duly considered. The displaced persons thereupon abandoned the picketing and dispersed at 2.30 P. M. on the 7th March.

Of the demands, two are of an important nature, i.e. one relating to the definition of a displaced person and the other regarding the grant of loans at West Bengal rates. The definition of a displaced person has recently been revised in consultation with the Rehabilitation Ministers of the Eastern States. It is not our intention to liberalise it any further. In regard to the grant of loans, though certain ceilings have been fixed, the amount of loan is given according to the requirements of displaced persons. Loans are correlated with the rehabilitation needs. This is essential to avoid wastage of public funds.

In conclusion, I would like to assure this House that every possible effort is being made in the matter of relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons from East Pakistan, including those who have come to Tripura. The problem has, however, become more difficult and complex on account of the continuous and increased migration from East Pakistan.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I beg to move: *

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1955-56 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1955-56 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

*Moved with the recommendations of the President.