

[Secretary]

Development Corporation Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th November, 1956, has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th December, 1956, with the following amendment:

New Clause 31A

That at page 7, after line 36, the following new clause 31A be inserted, namely:

'Removal of disqualification for membership of Parliament.

31A. It is hereby declared that the office of the member of the Corporation shall not disqualify its holder for being chosen as, or for being, a member of either House of Parliament.'

I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 126 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha with the request that the concurrence of the Lok Sabha to the said amendment be communicated to this House."

FARIDABAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Faridabad Development Corporation Bill, 1956 which has been returned by Rajya Sabha with an amendment.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

NINETEENTH REPORT

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to present the Nineteenth Report of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

POINTS OF INFORMATION

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of information. When can the House expect the long-awaited statement of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting regarding the use of the All India Radio and the facilities for political parties? It was expected last week, but he has not yet made the statement.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): He said that he would make the statement in the next two or three days.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): The statement is practically ready, and I propose to give it tomorrow.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS 1956-57—Contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Demands for Supplementary Grants relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and the remaining Demands (Demands Nos. 92, 93, 94 and 23, 33, 35, 40, 41, 44, 63, 67, 77, 102, 109, 121, 129, 140 and 141). As hon. Members are aware one hour has been allotted for the purpose.

May I have a rough idea as to how many Members would like to participate in the discussion? I find that there are 11 persons who want to speak.

Shri M. K. Moitra (Calcutta North-West): I have got some cut motions in my name.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, within 1 hour, 11 Members have to speak.

Some Hon. Members: Five minutes for each.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): But we have saved some time from the earlier discussions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. Rather, we have got only 36 minutes, and we are going to spend one hour on these Supplementary Demands. So far as the total time is concerned, we have already trespassed the limit.

May I know how much time the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation would require?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I shall know it only after the Members have spoken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, 11 Members have to share in that one hour, and the Minister also has to reply to them.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I would take about ten to fifteen minutes.

The Minister of Finance and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Am I to understand that no other Supplementary Demands would be taken up for discussion today?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All are here for discussion. If something crops up, certainly the hon. Minister shall have to reply.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): That means that we can discuss the other Supplementary Demands also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If there is time. The period of one hour is for all the Supplementary Demands that I have now mentioned.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): May I point out that in the Business Advisory Committee, it was definitely stated that we shall need at least one hour for the Supplementary Demands relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, and the chairman told us at that time that he would put all together in the expectation that the other Ministries would perhaps not come in for a great deal of comment at this stage? It was on that understanding that many of us in the Business Advisory Committee agreed to the allocation of

one hour, that is to say, on the assumption that we shall get at least one hour, if it comes to that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. Let us proceed and see.

DEMAND No. 92—MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of Ministry of Rehabilitation.”

DEMAND No. 92—EXPENDITURE ON DISPLACED PERSONS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 44,27,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Expenditure on Displaced Persons’.”

DEMAND No. 94—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF REHABILITATION

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Expenditure under the Ministry of Rehabilitation’.”

DEMAND No. 23—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 78,32,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year end-

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]
 ing the 31st day of March, 1957, in
 respect of 'External Affairs'."

DEMAND No. 33—AUDIT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 16,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Audit'."

DEMAND No. 35—MINT

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,15,00,00 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Mint'."

DEMAND No. 40—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between Union and State Governments'."

DEMAND No. 41—PREPARATION PAYMENTS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,76,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Pre-partition payments'."

DEMAND No. 44—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to

the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957 in respect of 'Agriculture'."

DEMAND No. 63—MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Information and Broadcasting'."

DEMAND No. 67—MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,45,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Ministry of Irrigation and Power'."

DEMAND No. 77—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE UNDER MINISTRY OF LAW.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 61,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure under Ministry of Law'."

DEMAND No. 102—SUPPLIES.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,87,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Supplies'."

DEMAND NO. 109—LOK SABHA**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Lok Sabha'."

DEMAND NO. 121—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY AND COINAGE.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,33,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency and Coinage'."

DEMAND NO. 129—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,19,01,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture'."

DEMAND NO. 140—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PORTS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 85,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Ports'."

DEMAND NO. 141—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ROADS.**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the

charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Roads'."

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It was only six months ago that we in this House discussed the Demands for Grants relating to the Rehabilitation Ministry. From that time up till today, after having reviewed the work done by the Ministry during the last few years, I must say that I am deeply dissatisfied with the work of this Ministry, because when Shri Mehr Chand Khanna came to deal with the problems of the East Pakistan refugees, he came with the very big reputation that he had solved the problem of the West Pakistan refugees. He had told us on the floor of this House that more or less their problem had been solved. Today, of course, those of us who have been in Delhi realise that that was too tall a claim to make, and that even in the west, the smaller people, that is, those who have been living on allotments of Rs. 10,000 or so have been demanding that their instalments should be increased, and that they have not yet been fully rehabilitated in the sense that they have not been able to get the shelter and the employment which are so necessary for true rehabilitation.

I shall take only a very short time, although I have a lot to say on this Ministry, because on every aspect of the work of this Ministry, I find that nothing seems to be going ahead. We get a lot of statistics; we get a lot of figures; we get a lot of promises; we are told that a large number of advisers and secretaries have been appointed, and we are asked to vote on Demand No. 92 saying that so many officers have been appointed, so many establishments have been set up, and so on. But, actually, if you come to brass tracks with the refugees who are there in the different areas, you will find that almost in every area the whole position is at a standstill. That is why today I am going to be very

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sharp in my criticism. I am afraid that up till now, I have tried to give a long rope to Shri Mehr Chand Khanna....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: To hand himself.

An Hon. Member: He is still alive.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: although on one occasion I did say that I was very deeply perturbed at the way....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But this sharp criticism also shall have to be confined to a short interval.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is the tragedy of the thing, that many things which would have shown the inefficiency and the wrong policies touched by me now.

I shall say only one word about the secretariat. Today, the Rehabilitation Ministry, at least as far as East Pakistan is concerned, does not suffer from lack of funds. It has been given enough funds, in the sense that in comparison with many other Ministries, it is quite well off, and even the Minister of Rehabilitation himself has admitted this. But, what do we find? We find that even today, to sanction a scheme, it takes such a long time. The West Bengal Secretariat says, it is the Central Government which is at fault. The Central Government says, 'What can I do? I do not know. My agency is the West Bengal Government.' If we ask the West Bengal Government again, they say, we do not know.

Therefore, I feel that it is time that we have to overhaul this whole directorate, whether at the State Government level or at the Centre. I say it with a full sense of responsibility, I do not want to damn anybody, but I do feel that although people talk about corruption in various departments of Government, the refugees suffer most from the corruption in the Auckland House secretariat. I

do not know much about the Central Government but this much I am finding, namely that the schemes are not going through.

Let me give one or two examples. There is example of the Basdroni New colony, where people were sent three years ago by Government, from the Baliganj Maidan camp. Development committees have been set up, and we have been told all about the development committees. But we are now told after three years that an estimate of nearly Rs. 2.15 lakhs was proposed by the Chief Engineer, Construction Board, Development Department of West Bengal, and had been forwarded to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Government of India, for their sanction, in the month of March further sent reminders to the Union Rehabilitation Ministry in the month of July 1956. Since then, four months have passed. The matter still remains pending before the Union Ministry of Rehabilitation. This is just one small example.

Then, take the case of industries. Just a little while ago, we have had a reply to one of the questions. I have looked into the reply, regarding the factories that are to be set up in Hooghly district. Although a whole year and a half has passed, yet we do not see any of these factories coming up. We are told that factories cannot come up in a day. That is quite right; factories cannot come up in a day. But, surely, we have to see at least some results by now. Rs. 29 lakhs have been put into some factory in Rishra, the Laxmi Narayan Cotton Mills; out of that, only Rs. 1.2 lakhs have been spent, and only 50 displaced persons have been employed. That is the maximum amount that has been spent. Then, take the case of the JK Steel Factory at Rishra; nothing has yet been done; only 43 bighas of land have been acquired. Regarding glass blowing factory, they are not aware of these schemes. As for the iron and steel factory, the matter is

under the consideration of the State Government!

Again, take another small instance. A sum of Rs. 8000 was given to a small waste-silk spinning centre at Nawjiban Colong at Moshyangram to train 50 women. Shri Mehr Chand Khanna was kind enough to go over to that area, and he promised that for another year, the training centre would continue, and that there should also be a production centre. Six months have passed, and nothing has been done so far for these poor women, these poor widows—the Minister has seen how terribly poor they are—who have been doing very good work up till now. They have been continuing there for the last three or four months on their own, but there is no sanction of funds as yet. They do not know when that production centre is going to be sanctioned, or when the training centre is going to get the sanction. This is the way the whole thing is moving.

I have no objection to sanctioning any amount of money for any secretariat expansion. But I feel that we should not sanction anything when we are seeing that things are not improving and that there is constant friction between Centre and State, between the departments themselves. The refugee rehabilitation schemes are not going ahead.

I will come immediately to the question of land. We are now being asked to vote an expenditure for displaced persons of Rs. 44,27,000 extra to the Rs. 21,42,00,000 which we originally voted. Here it says the reason is:

“Slower progress than anticipated in the dispersal of displaced persons from Camps to places of rehabilitation due to paucity of land.”

There is nothing new in this. Paucity of land is there and has been there. And there has been no unexpected rise in the influx of displaced

persons from East Pakistan. But what is it that has held up the whole process of rehabilitation? The wrong policies of Government; I repeat that point regarding land.

I do not want the Minister to regale us with the fact of the terrible influx and the problems it is creating. All that is there. We accept it. But I want him to come to concrete measures and to concrete issues. For the last 1½ years, I have been persisting in one issue. We have got 11,000 refugees living in tents for the last 3 years in Bagjora-Harao—area. Land has been acquired over there in the Bogjola-Harao area where it was the land of the peasantry. At one stage, Shri Khanna said, ‘We have won the land from courts. We are going to keep it’. At first, he said, ‘We shall not consider giving up this land.’ At another stage, he said, ‘If it is the land of the peasantry, we will allow them to take it, provided they can prove that they do not own more than 6 bighas of land’. The third time, he said, ‘Yes, we will give only 6 bighas of land because we are not giving more than 6 bighas to refugees’. Yes, you give only 6 bighas of land, 2 acres of land to refugees. I will ask any Member from the Punjab to consider what this means? They are all shocked when you say that you will give to the refugee 6 bighas of land. Now you want to reduce the local peasantry to the same state of beggary. People have been on that land for generations. You will now acquire that land and say, ‘If you can only have 6 bighas of land, we are prepared to accommodate you’, otherwise not”.

Only one month ago, again you sent all your people there and tried to take over the land. There was a big movement there, and for three months—for the time being—it has been put off, I suppose in view of the general elections. You say that there is not enough land. When I ask about the huge amount of land, some thousands of acres, which are being acquired in Dhapa Manpur right up to Tollyganj

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area, you have no answer. The State Government says that the Central Ministry of Rehabilitation has not asked for any portion of that land to be given for refugee rehabilitation.

'This is a shocking state of affairs. On the one hand, you say that this is one of the most acute problems for the people of West Bengal and for the people of the country. On the other hand, you say, 'Oh, we cannot ask, because we have to put up houses for the Calcutta people'. Cannot we divide up the land? Why is it that the Rehabilitation Ministry has not asked for this land? That is the question I ask. We have been asking them to take this land for 2½ years.

Now, when the position is this, persistent efforts are being made to take the land of these peasantry. The District Magistrate's report is not being revealed to us. When we go the Revenue Minister, he will say: 'I will tell you in secret what is the position'. He will not divulge the position. At the same time, when actually thousands and thousands of bighas of land are being acquired, they say that the Rehabilitation Ministry has not asked for that land. What is the position? I want a frank and free answer to this question. I do not want things to be hedged. I want you to tell us where we stand. If we find that the Ministry of Rehabilitation is bent upon making the local peasantry refugees again, we shall resist it. We shall resist it to the last and we shall see that no further refugees are made. We shall see that the refugees take possession of the land in the Dhapa Manpur area. We find today that unless we can take that land and make our refugees squat on that land, this Government is not prepared to see sense.

That is why, specially on this particular issue of land, on the question of Bogjola-Haroa—Rajarhat-Bhargar area, I want to know whether Government is going to persist in taking

the land of the peasantry and not taking over a large portion of the land which is now under the scheme of salt reclamation and which is good land and on which the refugees themselves are prepared to be rehabilitated.

Shri M. K. Moitra: My cut motions are Nos. 34 and 35. I am moving them to raise the question, which has already been raised by my hon. friend, Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, whether the Rehabilitation Ministry has been fulfilling to the best of its ability and efficiency what was expected of it.

Three lakhs of refugees are now living in camps. What have they got? They are being given Rs. 12 per head in each family. Those families which have got 5 members get Rs. 60 for 5 heads, but those families which have got more than 5 members, say, 7, 8 or 10, will also have to be satisfied with Rs. 60. That is the decision of the Rehabilitation Ministry.

The Ministry says that it cannot supply land because there is paucity of land in West Bengal. They cannot supply agricultural land to these refugees, but they can supply homestead lands for these refugees for building their homes, and near those homestead lands, they can build medium-sized industries by establishing corporations like the Faridabad Corporation. But that has not been done up till now.

Gradually the feeling is growing that very little has been done for refugees from West Pakistan....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: East Pakistan.

Shri M. K. Moitra:and still less for refugees from East Pakistan.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He says that very little has been done for refugees from West Pakistan and still less for refugees from East Pakistan.

Shri M. K. Moitra: Recently the Rehabilitation Ministry has set up an

Advisory Committee. But what is the constitution of that Advisory Committee? On that Advisory Committee, no representative of any refugee organisation, which has not been sponsored by the Congress, has been taken.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Which Advisory Committee is he referring to?

Shri M. K. Moitra: I am referring to the Advisory Committee, of which Shri Aurobindo Bose is a member, and which he has set up.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Who is Shri Aurobindo Bose?

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): Netaji's nephew.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: I have not set up any Committee of which he is a member. Is he referring to a Central Committee or a State Committee?

Shri M. K. Moitra: State Committee because the State is your agent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Time is spent on interruptions like this.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Time should be extended.

Shri M. K. Moitra: Refugees are now rotting on platforms at Babughat, Howrah and Sealdah stations, because Government says that when they send them outside the State of West Bengal, they come back.

Refugees are coming back because conditions outside the State of West Bengal do not suit them. So will the Government simply be satisfied with saying that because they have come back from outside West Bengal, they must not be rehabilitated again, or will they be pleased to say that the policy according to which they were sent outside West Bengal has now proved to be wrong and that it requires revision? Government has not given an answer to this yet.

Then I will refer to another question. Many Muslim refugees who

went to East Pakistan have come back. Up till now, properties and houses of many of them have not been returned. Will Government take measures to see that these Muslim refugees get back their homes as soon as possible, and something is done for Babughat, Howrah and Sealdah station platforms?

Unsatisfactory condition of refugees at Sealdah station and future of officers and staff to deal with it.

Shri M. K. Moitra: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,17,000 in respect of 'Ministry of Rehabilitation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Unsatisfactory procedure in dispersal from camps to places of rehabilitation

Shri M. K. Moitra: I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,27,000 in respect of 'Expenditure on Displaced Persons' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: These cut motions are before the House.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: We were a little perturbed at the speech made by the hon. Minister of Rehabilitation in the Rajya Sabha a few days back. Sir, in this booklet, it has been said that "unexpected rise in the influx of displaced persons from East Pakistan and consequent opening of new camps to accommodate them pending rehabilitation' is responsible for the big demand of Rs. 44,27,000. I want to know what is the exact position. We were told that there had been some communication from the Pakistan Prime Minister to the Indian Prime Minister. Has that led to any fruitful result? We know Mr. Suhrawardy little better than Shri Khanna and many other Ministers. We come from the unfortunate State of Bengal. He has the reputation of having had

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something to do with the Direct Action at Calcutta and other troubles in East Bengal. I want to know has the recent visit of the Pakistan Prime Minister to Dacca in East Bengal eased the situation or has the tempo still further gone up and whether there is any casual connection between the two. There have been some aggressive speeches from the Pakistan Foreign Minister and other people. He and the Pakistan Prime Minister have indulged in aggressive and unbalanced speeches. Has that also accelerated the tempo of exodus? The hon. Minister, I remember, said that the general average was 20,000 people who are being pushed out of East Pakistan per month and that would be about 2½ lakhs a year. I am told that that exodus had gone up and it reached about 35,000 per month. Now, I make one appeal to the hon. Minister. He knows the situation, as he now mostly lives in Bengal and he is now also the Minister who has been elected to the Upper House from Bengal. Therefore, the connection is very close and not merely official but territorial and geographical.

I want to know whether there is any scheme by which the refugees who have been very hard hit as a result of the recent floods can get any help; has any provision been made for them? I had the opportunity of touring some parts of the district of Hooghly which I represent and also the district of Nadiad and I told the Minister what I saw there witnessed pathetic scenes in places like Balagarb the village of the late Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and also the parts of Nadiad District on the other side of the river. Thousands of refugees had been rehabilitated in these areas. They have all again been displaced and rendered homeless by the recent floods. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic wheel moves very slowly and our Government could not or did not do anything. I was hoping that something could be done under the inspiration, drive and initiative of the hon.

Minister of Rehabilitation. I hope something will be done. But, I want to know what is the exact position, what are the latest figures and how he is going to tackle the huge camp population? The average number of fresh admissions per month in these camps during the last 8 months is over 30,000. Has the situation at all improved or is it going down? What about the hon'ble congestion which is a scandalous state of things in the station platforms of Sealdah? That is a dark spot on any administration and anyone who goes there knows how pathetic the situation is. I hope all Bengal Members will support the demand that something should be done to ease the situation there. Slower progress than anticipated in the dispersal of displaced persons from camps to places of rehabilitation due to paucity of land is one of the alleged causes. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty has dwelt at length with this problem. Year after year, time after time, the hon. Ministers of Rehabilitation in this House and the Ministers in Bengal have been complaining of the technical difficulty that was created by the compensation clause in our Constitution and the judgment of the Supreme Court in Mrs. Bela Banerji's case, which held that fair and equitable compensation must be given. You know Dr. Roy got an Act passed whereby compensation was to be paid in case of squatters' properties also at an artificial level which the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court have struck down as illegal. Now, you have changed the Constitution. Now, what is the difficulty? How far has it been availed of now? How far has it quickened the tempo of rehabilitation? There is no further technical difficulty of the Constitution. I hope the hon. Minister will give some facts and figures to convince us that the Government are doing their utmost for the purpose of achieving this quickly, so that this colossal grant which is now being asked—of Rs. 44 lakhs—on the top of the already granted Rs. 21 crores and 42 lakhs will be justified.

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Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I shall be very brief. I wish the hon. Minister tells us why it is that so very little that is tangible has been done in regard to rehabilitation. The Minister said the other day that the monthly migration of displaced persons from East Bengal has lately reached even the figure of 35,000. That is exactly why we should have an assurance from Government that all that is possible is being done.

Now, I shall begin by giving an instance of how things are callously conducted. About the middle of July, I had occasion to go to Sealdah station and there I saw excruciating sights, children who were worse than skin and bone, women queuing up for water trickling out of a miserable tap, trying to get a little water for drinking purposes—while they come from East Bengal which is a land of rivers where they can bathe 10 times a day if they wish to do so. I found people living under the open sky, trying to cook some kind of vegetable concoction which normally people would not eat. I saw children lying anaemic just because they did not have the life stirring inside of them. I wrote a letter to my hon. friend Shri Khanna. I said that I wrote in hell-hot anger. Actually, I was writing from the Sealdah station and at the counter of the Enquiry Office because there was no other place. I wrote that letter straight off. The hon. Minister was good enough to answer me after some time and he told me that the West Bengal Ministry was going to do something about it. I went back to Calcutta late in September and I found that Sealdah station, just like the Howrah station, was as crowded as it was before with refugees. Nothing had happened. It was not until the first week of November, when the A.I.C.C. was going to meet, about a mile and a half from Sealdah station that these people were removed. Even then, what happened? I know there were people in Sealdah station, in Howrah station and Babughat on the Ganga and they

were taken away. They were agitating and they were picketing before the residence of Dr. B. C. Roy, the Chief Minister. I went to a meeting where these refugees were advised to stop practising something like *satyagraha* before Dr. Roy's residence because they were going to be taken to a certain kind of transit camp. I myself spoke at a meeting advising the refugees to desist from agitation. Even as lately as the 3rd December, the Calcutta Statesman reported that these people, at least a large number of them, nearly 2,000 of them were taken to a disused film studio in Tollygunj. That place was absolutely unlivable; drinking water was not available and dysentery and cholera raged in almost epidemic form and in a few days 30 refugees including children died. They were taken from Howrah station and Babughat too. What was supposed to be a transit camp was a disused studio which was not a place where people could live. There was no drinking water arrangement and 30 people including children had, in the course of a very few days, died. The Ministry of Rehabilitation said, 'we have nothing to do with that'. The Government of West Bengal, the Rehabilitation Department pushed these people to the Vagrancy Department or some other unit of administration and the result was that these people who had come from East Bengal, who might possibly have come without the kind of migration certificate which Shri Khanna might accept—but anyhow they were *bona fide* refugees and in any case, these cases had to be investigated—were shunted off to a disused studio to die like this. This is the way in which Shri Khanna's department functions.

I shall only refer to another matter and in one minute I shall conclude. We are told that many of these refugees can be taken outside West Bengal. Well and good. If you can do that, it is very good. But, I understand, Bihar has or can give about 12,000 acres and altogether there are about 30,000 acres all over India that

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

you can use. The other day Shri Khanna told us that in Madhya Pradesh, 30,000 acres of land were available, but there were rivers which had to be bridged before people could get there because it was in the midst of a forest and therefore nothing could be done about it. I have been to Orissa and I found that Bengal refugees tried to live there, but they cannot live there as there is a feeling that these are temporary visitors to the province and they would soon go away and, therefore, there is no attempt at having, what is called, a psychological rehabilitation of these people.

Shrimati Chakravartty has said about the schemes for the expansion of Calcutta the Salt Lake Reclamation Scheme, but Shri Khanna has done nothing about securing a large slice of that area where the refugees can certainly be settled. Therefore, inside West Bengal there is the possibility of reclamation, which Shri Khanna and his counterpart in West Bengal do not exploit. Outside West Bengal, there are a very few thousand acres available, but they are not such that people can go and settle down there straightaway, and the result therefore is that these refugees, who come at the rate of 35,000 a month, as Shri Khanna told Rajya Sabha the other day, are left high and dry, and nothing is done as far as Government is concerned, in anything like an effective fashion. That is why the cut motion which Shri Moitra has suggested deserves the support of this House.

Shri Gidwani (Thana): I want to be very brief as time is very short. I want to refer only to the working of the Compensation Department. There was a reference made by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty regarding corruption. I do not know how far.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does that compensation relate to any of the Demands here?

Shri Gidwani: Amount has been provided for compensation....

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: That is compensation for lands acquired. A large number of lands have been acquired for the construction of houses. The people have not been paid their compensation; they are being paid. That has nothing to do with the Compensation Department which the hon. Member has in view.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): As you said, the time is the essence of the whole thing, and in respect of the whole rehabilitation programme also the time is the most important factor. The hon. Minister has come forward with a proposal for a further grant to meet extra expenditure mainly due to slower progress than anticipated in the dispersal of displaced persons from Camps to places of rehabilitation. I might say that the Rehabilitation Ministry, whether in the Centre or in West Bengal, as they are constituted, have completely failed to serve the purpose for which they are appointed. A number of Members, who have spoken before me, have categorically put forward the reasons why these people are not moving from the camps. The Minister himself, and, I do not know, his Department have a very cold and complacent attitude in respect of the problem of rehabilitation. I personally went to a place called Ranaghat—I also saw the Camps there and as a matter of fact, had a discussion with the hon. Minister himself in his office at Calcutta. He was very kind and said that he would look into the matter. After a couple of weeks I find this. My allegation was that the people there were made to live huddled together in a place very near to the public latrine where even pigs visit every evening. The people were supplied with clothing which normally in our parts, at the time of funeral, are given to persons who carry the crops. I personally saw the Minister, who wrote to me a letter.

He said there were some difficulties, but none of the allegations were true.

The attitude the Government take, whether at the Centre or in the State of West Bengal, is such that they are completely indifferent to the problem of rehabilitation. They are not to come saying that there has been only slow progress made; they should justify giving their reasons for the slow progress. This Ministry is more interested in rehabilitating their own fellow men, members of their party and friends and superannuated officers. They appointed a senior Secretary for two or three months on a pay of Rs. 4,000 a month. What has been done by the Ministry? It must come forward and justify this slow progress.

Shri Chatterjee said that the Constitution was specifically amended for the purpose of helping the refugees, so that they might be rehabilitated, and the position may be regularised. I know about Tollygunge and Sonepur, on the fringe of the city of Calcutta, where there are the sands of refugees. None of these colonies have been regularised in spite of the best of efforts. By themselves the Government do not want to move in the matter. A legal difficulty has been removed by Parliament by amending the Constitution.

If you are connected with refugees, you can go to Calcutta and see there the big houses that have been built up by Government for the rehabilitation of refugees, but till now not a single refugee has been put in there. I am told it is because there is no sanitary arrangement, and water supply is also not provided. What is the point of keeping this Ministry in being unless it be that they want to rehabilitate themselves and their superannuated officers.

If the Minister is serious about rehabilitation work, he must come forward and help the public organisa-

tions and refugee organisations and then justify that because of the slowness of the work they have come forward for this further grant. Otherwise, why has the hon. Minister come to the Rajya Sabha through the backdoor? It is because he cannot face the electorate of Bengal and prove his case that Government have done all that was possible for the rehabilitation of refugees. They will get the correct answer from the refugees if he goes to them. Anyway, the Minister and the Government today have completely neglected their duties towards the refugees, for whom they sometimes cry hoarse.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र (सारन व चम्पारन) :
उपाध्यक्ष जी, सब समय तो बंगाल वालों ने ले लिया है। हमारे यहाँ भी तो सताइस हजार शरणार्थी आये हुए हैं, इसलिये मुझे भी समय दिया जाय।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : जी हाँ, अभी तो मैं ने एक और बंगाल वाले साहब को बुलाया है। श्री बी० के० दास।

श्री बी० चं० शर्मा (होशियारपुर) :
मुझे भी चांस मिलना चाहिये।

Shri B. K. Das (Contai): If we look to the rate of dispersal from Camps, we find that during the period 1st January 1955 to 31st March 1956, that is, within a period of 15 months, 14,400 displaced persons of East Bengal were dispersed from Camps. Looking at this figure, we find that the rate of dispersal has been extremely slow. The reason that we have got before us is the paucity of land and other matters, which probably are not known.

As regards availability of land in West Bengal, we have heard often that it is not possible to have more land in the State of West Bengal. Outside West Bengal, in the States of Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and some others, some lands are available, but they may not be fit for rehabilitation. But some lands were selected;

[Shri B. K. Das]

we were told some time back that nearly 40,000 acres of land were selected for rehabilitation. We do not know what has become of those lands, and why up till now it has not been possible to send batches of refugees to any of those places. If we have to send batches of refugees to those places, the land has got to be made fit for rehabilitation of refugees. We do not know how far those schemes have been taken up and acted upon.

We have often found that in respect of these schemes, some bottlenecks always defer action, and we have heard of administrative difficulties, lack of co-ordination between the various Departments through which these schemes pass. The time is ripe now when we ought to be told what is the difficulty about these schemes, within the State of West Bengal and outside West Bengal.

When these schemes are before us and months after months pass, we do not know what difficulties stand in the way when these schemes are not taken up and not given effect to. It may be, as we have found previously, that there is not the proper co-ordination between the State Government and the Central Government and also as between the several departments through which these schemes pass. I am particularly alluding to the Finance Department. We have often heard that schemes have to pass through the Finance Department before they are finally approved and finally given effect to. I have my doubts whether in those places where these schemes linger and are deferred, the reason for the delay is not due to the Finance Department. Because of the procedure, the schemes are not taken up and they often founder ultimately, and the schemes come to nothing.

13 hrs.

Therefore, I must request the Rehabilitation Minister and also the Finance Minister to see that for the

schemes that are formulated and taken up at the State level and which come ultimately to the Central Government for approval, the complicated procedure that we often have to follow in seeing the schemes through the financial scrutiny does not stand in the way of giving final shape to the schemes.

If we look to the budget estimates of 1955-56 we find that Rs. 4,25,00,000 were asked for as doles in camps, and for the next year, that is, 1956-57, the budget estimate was for Rs. 4,40,00,000. Now, another sum of Rs. 44 lakhs has been asked for this year. If the camp population is to live on doles, probably this amount may be necessary, but I should think that if it is taken for granted that the refugees have to live in the camps for long periods, then, the camps ought to be reorganised and put on a more sounder basis.

I would request the hon. Minister to see if any work can be provided in those camps. Of course, it is a difficult thing to provide for work in all the camps. There are some work-site camps where some work is provided for the refugees and some of the refugees do come and take up work on these work-site camps, but they are also very few. The transit camps are many in number and every possible attempt should be made to provide work in these camps. For instance, look at the work in the prisons. Of course, the comparison may not be quite all right, but still, we know that when there is a good population in some place, some work can be provided so that at least moral degeneration may be avoided. Some arrangements may be made for work in the camps so that the refugees may work and earn their living at least to a certain extent.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,
इधर तीन चार महीनों में हमारे शहर
बेतिया में २७,००० रिपयूजीज आ चुके

ह। शहर की कुल आबादी ३० या ३२ हजार है। आप सोच सकते हैं कि ऐसे शहर में २७,००० रिफ्यूजीज को बसा देना कहां तक ठीक है। वहां रिफ्यूजीज के एक परिवार को चाहे वह पांच आदमियों का हो या सात आठ आदमियों का ५० रुपया मिलता है। बरसात के दिनों में जब हमारे यहां जूट की खेती होती थी तो ये लोग जूट की पत्तियां काट काट कर खाते थे और अब दूसरे पेड़ों की पत्तियां काट काट कर खाते हैं और चारों तरफ भीख मांगते फिरते हैं। सरकार ने इन रिफ्यूजीज को बिहार के किसी और जिला में न बसा कर चम्पारन में बसाया है जोकि एक गरीब जिला है और उस जिले के एक ही शहर में २७,००० रिफ्यूजीज को बसा दिया गया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि उन को वहां से जल्दी से जल्दी हटा कर किसी दूसरी जगह बसाया जाये। उन के साथ हमारी पूरी हमदर्दी है लेकिन वहां उन के खाने पीने का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है। चम्पारन स्वयं एक बाढ़ पीड़ित जिला है और वहां हर साल लोगों को बाढ़ से बहुत तकलीफ होती है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इन रिफ्यूजीज को अभी किसी दूसरी जगह बसा दे क्योंकि अभी सहुलियत का समय है। सुना है कि इन को खेती पर बसाया जायेगा। अगर ऐसा है तो बिहार में जहां बड़े बड़े जो जमींदार या किसान हैं उन जगहों पर इन को अभी से बसा दिया जाये। ऐसा न होने से उन को बरसात के समय बड़ा कष्ट होगा।

बहुत से रिफ्यूजीज को बगीचों में बसाया गया है। इस का परिणाम यह हुआ है कि आसपास के गरीब किसान जोकि इन बागों से लकड़ी ले कर अपनी गुजर करते थे, उन को लकड़ी नहीं मिल पाती। गरमी के दिनों में इन बागों में जो फल लगते थे उन को आसपास के गरीब किसान खा कर अपना गुजारा करते थे। अब इन बागों में ये लोग घुस नहीं पाते। इन रिफ्यूजीज के कारण इन गरीब लोगों को कष्ट हो रहा

है। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इन रिफ्यूजीज को जल्द से जल्द दूसरी जगह सा दे।

इन रिफ्यूजीज के लिये सरकार को ठीक इन्तिजाम करना चाहिये। उन की हालत को देखने से पता चलता है कि जो हमारे बंगाल के भाई उन के लिये शोर मचाते हैं वह ठीक ही है। यह जो बजट है उस में मैं देखता हूं कि यह लिखा गया है

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Is it right to say that one is creating trouble for the sake of creating trouble?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has not said so. The hon. Member has rather misunderstood what he was saying. He is rather supporting West Bengal and he said that they have said the right thing.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं चटर्जी साहब से आग्रह करूंगा कि वह थोड़ी हिन्दी पढ़ें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक तरफ तो हमारी सरकार कहती है कि उस के पास पैसा नहीं है। लेकिन आप बजट के १२२ पेज पर देख सकते हैं कि स्पेशल सेक्रेटरी की तनस्वाह ५,००० रुपया और अंडर सेक्रेटरी की तनस्वाह ८०० से ११०० तक दी हुई है। सरकार के पास इन रिफ्यूजीज को बसाने के लिये रुपया नहीं है लेकिन वह सेक्रेटरी पर चार हजार रुपया खर्च करती है। मैं नहीं समझ सकता कि यह कौनसा गांधीवादी तरीका है। गांधी जी किस तरह से रहते थे। उन्होंने ने हम को क्या बतलाया था।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाऊंगा कि आज सेक्रेटरी की तनस्वाह को घटाने बढ़ाने का सवाल नहीं है।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : वह तो इसी में है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो है। लेकिन अब बाकी सेक्रेटरी एक तनख्वाह ले रहे हैं तो एक सेक्रेटरी कैसे कम ले सकता है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : यह डिमांड नम्बर ६२ और ६३ में दिया हुआ है। कहते हैं कि सरकार के पास पैसा नहीं है। लेकिन आप सेक्रेटरियों को इतनी तनख्वाह कहां से देते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन की तनख्वाह कम होनी चाहिये। जो रिफ्यूजीज का काम करने वाले हों वे नानभ्राफिशियल होने चाहियें जोकि कम पैसा लें।

दूसरी बात मुझे यह कहनी है कि यह सुनने में आ रहा है कि बेतिया स्टेट में जो फार्म है उस की जमीन रिफ्यूजीज को दी जायेगी। इस फार्म पर भूमिहीन मजदूर जोकि आस पास रहते हैं आ कर काम करते हैं और बरसों से काम करते हैं। अगर यह जमीन किसी को दी जानी चाहिये तो इन मजदूरों को दी जानी चाहिये। अगर यह जमीन रिफ्यूजीज को दी जायेगी तो आप इन भूमिहीन मजदूरों को रिफ्यूजी बना देंगे क्योंकि उन के पास कोई काम नहीं रहेगा। मैं नहीं समझता कि क्यों बाहर से रिफ्यूजी को बुला कर जो यहां के लोग हैं उन को रिफ्यूजी बनाया जाये।

हमारे माननीय मिनिस्टर साहब वहां गये थे। उन को चाहिये था कि जो जो उस इलाके के एम० एल० ए० और एम० पी० हैं उन को बुलाते और उन से पूछते कि यहां के रिफ्यूजी के बारे में तुम को क्या तकलीफ़ कहनी है। पर ऐसा नहीं हुआ। वह हवाई जहाज से गये और हवाई जहाज से वापस आ गये। वहां के किसी मेम्बर को बुला कर नहीं पूछा कि तुम को रिफ्यूजी के बारे में क्या कहना है। मैं आज से नहीं एक जमाने से कांग्रेस का काम करता आ रहा हूँ। छह लोगों से वहां के बारे में जरूर पूछा जाना चाहिये था।

अन्त में मुझे यही कहना है कि हमारी इन रिफ्यूजीज के साथ पूरी हमदर्दी है लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि इन को बिहार के किसी दूसरे हिस्से में बसाया जाये। उन को केवल चम्पारन में ही क्यों बसाया जा रहा है।

Shri D. C. Sharma: An hon. Member just now said that the Rehabilitation Ministry was keen on rehabilitating its own fellowmen and members of its own party and so on. I have been a great critic of the Rehabilitation Ministry but one thing I can say about it and it is this. It has taken the work of rehabilitation upon itself without any considerations for caste or creed or territorial affiliations. I believe that the charge that there is something like a prejudice in this Ministry does not hold good. But I do say that while, the Rehabilitation Ministry always comes to us for creating new posts, I do not think that the work which the Rehabilitation Ministry does justifies the creation of these posts. For instance, I find that they pay of officers is going to cost us Rs. 1,23,000, and the allowances and honoraria are going to cost us much more than that. I do not know what the proportion should be between pay and allowances, but to say that the allowances should be higher than the pay is, I think, to say something outrageous and preposterous.

Again, I find that Rs. 2,15,000 are going to be spent on the shifting of the Ministry from one place to another. I do not know why such fabulous sums are being spent on things of that kind.

What I mean to point out is that there should be some proportion between the pay of officers, the cost of establishment and the allowances and honoraria paid to officers. I find that there is no proportion like that kept up in the budget demands that have been placed before us.

Then there is another thing. It has been said that the camp population in

West Bengal alone has been kept at the level of 2.8 lakhs of persons. I would say that this sentence alone is enough to show to us the inefficiency of the Rehabilitation Ministry. You know, Sir, when the refugees came from West Pakistan they were dispersed. Of course, you may say that there is no land for these refugees and there is no place where they can go to. But my friend was just now saying that they should not be sent to Bihar.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea *cum* Santal Parganas): He did not say that.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Anyhow, what I mean to say is that the dispersal of the refugees from these camps should be taken away from the Rehabilitation Ministry and the work should be handed over to the Defence Ministry. I am sure the Defence Ministry will give a better account of itself than the Rehabilitation Ministry in dispersing these persons from the camps. I know there is a regular influx of refugees. My friend over there is laughing. Some people laugh when others cry.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But the time would not wait for anybody whether he laughs or cries.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I only want to stress that the Rehabilitation Ministry has failed to rehabilitate these refugees, to disperse them from the camps. I would again say that this work should be entrusted to the Defence Ministry, because I think the Defence Ministry is more able to cope with this kind of emergency work than the Rehabilitation Ministry.

I, therefore, think that this policy of the Rehabilitation Ministry to multiply the number of officers without getting a proportionate amount of work from them is a policy which is not going to do much good towards the relief and rehabilitation of the refugees.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs will now make a statement.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I should like to announce a slight change in the order of business as set out in the Revised List of Business for today.

I would like to suggest that after the discussion on motions relating to modification in respect of Representation of the People (Conduct of Elections and Election Petition) Rules, 1956 (item 9 in the list), expected to be concluded before the end of the day today, item 13, namely, consideration of the Kerala State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Bill be taken up. Thereafter, it is proposed to bring forward the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Amendment Bill. This will probably not be reached before tomorrow. As regards the Central Excises and Salt (Second Amendment) Bill, on account of its importance, it is proposed to put it down for consideration and passing at 2-30 P.M. tomorrow to be followed by the Territorial Councils Bill. I would like to make it clear that even if some work remains unfinished at 2-30 P.M. tomorrow, we shall interrupt that business and try to bring forward this Bill before the House at 2-30.

An Hon. Member: What is the time allotted for that?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That has not yet been decided. The Business Advisory Committee is meeting tomorrow at 12-30.

I may also take this opportunity of announcing that discussion on Shri Kamath's motion on the floor and ceiling prices of Indian Cotton will be put down tomorrow at 6-30 P.M.

It is proposed, Sir, to issue a Revised List of Business for tomorrow accordingly.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): What about my motion regarding the