

sitting held on the 12th March, 1959, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the following three Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on the 9th February, 1959:—

(1) The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

(2) The Appropriation Bill, 1959.

(3) The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

EXTERNMENT OF A MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication dated the 14th March, 1959, from the District Magistrate, Ambala:—

"I have the honour to inform you that Shri A. K. Gopalan, Member, Lok Sabha, was served with an order under section 7(1)(c) of the Punjab Security of State Act, XII of 1953, issued by the Governor of Punjab with a direction that he should remove himself from the precincts of Punjab State and that he should not return to it for a period of one year from the date of the said order. The said order was served on Shri A. K. Gopalan at 12-55 P.M. on the 13th March, 1959, along with the grounds for this order. He acknowledged the order in writing as under:—

'I cannot leave before 12-45 train and I have booked a seat.'

The Government conceded his request and gave him the option

asked for to leave by the 12-45 midnight train on the night between 13/14th March, 1959.

Subsequently, he changed his mind and deliberately refused to obey the direction given in the above-mentioned order. In spite of the repeated requests of a senior police officer he adopted an attitude of deliberately defying the order. Police had to interpose to prevent him from committing a cognizable offence under section 7-A of the Punjab Security of State Act within the precincts of Punjab State and removed him to Delhi with due courtesy and keeping in view his convenience."

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER

OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

WINDING UP OF REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT

Shri Nanhsir Bharucha (East Khandesh): Under Rule 197, 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:—

"Reported winding up of the Rehabilitation Department".

Mr. Speaker: Is it a long statement?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): It runs to four pages.

Mr. Speaker: It may be laid on the Table; I will circulate it to all hon. Members.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Whenever there is a long statement, the Minister should prepare a short summary and give to the House and lay the rest on the Table.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure hon. Ministers will say a few lines by way of a summary whenever they have a long statement to be laid on the Table hereafter.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table.

[Shri Mehr Chand Khanna]

Statement

Over 11 years have elapsed since the partition of India. During this period over 9 million displaced persons from Pakistan have come to this country. About 5 million of these were from West Pakistan. Whilst the exodus from West Pakistan was in one big movement, that from East Pakistan has been continuous, sometimes in increased spurts, depending on the political and economic climate in East Pakistan. There was also the factor that whilst in the West there was an exodus to Pakistan also, thereby providing a vacuum for the absorption of the displaced persons from West Pakistan. In the East, there has been no such vacuum.

Since in the West the problem of rehabilitation of displaced persons became well defined soon after the partition, it was possible to plan the rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan and to proceed with the task of rehabilitation in a planned manner. During the 11 years that have elapsed, we moved from relief to rehabilitation and from that to the last stage namely payment of compensation to the displaced persons for the immoveable properties left by them in West Pakistan. This last phase was started towards the end of 1955 and is now practically coming to an end. Out of the 460,000 persons to whom compensation has to be paid, the cases of 3.6 lakh persons involving payment of compensation amounting to over Rs 100 crores have already been disposed of. The remaining work at an average disposal of 10,000 cases per month is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

Up till the 31st March, 1959, a sum of Rs 181.92 crores would have been spent on the relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan. In addition 24.49 lakh standard acres of land and about 4 lakh rural houses have been allotted in the Punjab to 4.77 lakh displaced agriculturists. Land allotments have also been made to non-Punjabi claimants covering 38,536 standard acres, 2,45,451 ordinary acres and groves worth

Rs 36,50,844. Permanent rights in lands in the Punjab have already been given to over 2,60,000 persons.

In the field of housing, construction programmes were taken in hand direct by the Centre as well as through the State Governments. About 2 lakh houses have been constructed at a cost of about 50 crores. In addition, there were about 2,80,000 urban evacuee properties most of which were occupied by displaced persons.

Large sums were also spent on medical relief, education, vocational and technical training and on setting up Homes and Infirmarys for looking after unattached women, orphans and the old and infirm. Assistance was also given to set up industries of all types to create employment facilities for displaced persons in the D P townships and colonies.

With the end of the work of rehabilitation in the West in sight the Ministry of Rehabilitation has for some time past, been diverting its attention to the transfer of its more lasting activities to the permanent Ministries of the Government of India. This would have its advantage not only of giving more permanent shape to such activities but would also help in the speedy integration of the displaced persons with the normal population of the country. In pursuance of this policy, the work relating to Homes and Infirmarys has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs and that of Medical relief, Education, Vocational and Technical training and setting up of industries for the provision of employment to displaced persons to the Central Ministries of Health, Education, Labour and Commerce and Industry, respectively. The housing programme has also been practically completed in most State. It is proposed to transfer the residuary work to the Ministry of Works Housing and Supply.

The exodus of large number of Muslims from the Western part of India for West Pakistan left in its wake

certain problems for the members of the minority community in India. The operation of the Evacuee Property Law sometimes created difficulties for some of our Muslim nationals. A large number of applications were received from these persons for the restoration of their properties which has been taken over by the Custodian under the operation of the Evacuee Property Law. I am glad that as a result of the steps taken by us to expedite the disposal of these applications, properties worth about Rs 2.6 crores have already been restored in a little over 3,800 cases. In January, 1950, only about 100 cases remained to be disposed of. Ex gratia assistance was also given in certain hard cases in which under the rules restoration was not possible. Steps were also taken to restore the properties to a large number of Meos who had, in the early stages of partition, migrated to West Pakistan from the districts of Gurgaon, Alwar and Bharatpur and had returned. This work has also been satisfactorily completed.

In short the main work for which this Ministry was created in the Western region has practically come to an end. There may be some residuary work still left in some of the States, but the Ministry is anxious that this work also should be completed by the end of this year. For this purpose, we have been having consultations with the State Governments concerned. I have already been to Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and have discussed the problem of residuary work in regard to the rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan with the Governments of those States. I have also had discussions with the Corporation of Delhi about the residuary problems of the colonies of displaced persons constructed by the Government round-about Delhi. I propose to have similar discussions with the Governments of Rajasthan, Bihar and Bombay. It is further proposed to call a Conference of the Rehabilitation Ministers of the States of the Western region in the second half

of May, 1950, to discuss the whole matter and to finalise the programme for completing the work of rehabilitation of displaced persons from West Pakistan within the target date, namely, by the end of this year. With these steps, it is hoped that as far as practicable the work of the Ministry of Rehabilitation in the Western sector would have ended by the end of this year.

It must be realised that this Ministry is a temporary Ministry which was created to deal with a particular problem under the extraordinary conditions created by the partition of the country. It was in the nature of things that this work should end some day. It is also in the interest of the displaced persons themselves that they should take their rightful place in the country along with its normal citizens.

So far as the work in the Eastern sector is concerned, I am afraid it will have to be continued for sometime more. We have still about 2 lakh persons in camps in the Eastern sector and there is also the residuary problem of a number of partially rehabilitated families. With the abatement in the influx from East Pakistan, we have been able to take stock of the position and to formulate plans for the rehabilitation of the displaced persons from the East. It is hoped that those plans will enable us to complete the task of rehabilitation in the East also within the next two years and that we may be able to say that the task of rehabilitation of over 9 million people, a task which has been unprecedented in the annals of any country in the world, has been satisfactorily and finally completed.

STATEMENT RE DEMANDS OF
DOMESTIC WORKERS

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Regarding domestic servants, there have been some short notice questions and a calling attention notice from Shri Bhakt Darshan. The position is this